

Overview of ICAC Programs

ICAC Process and Criteria Guidelines

Application Requirements

- First step - Submission of a Letter of Notification signed by the chief academic officer submitted to (ADHE) prior to submitting a formal application
 - Includes documentation that the institution has accreditation and state approval. If the institution does not have this information, it is ineligible to receive Arkansas certification
 - Listed on the AHECB agenda in Letters of Intent
- Second step -Submission of a formal application that must include a minimum bond for student protection
 - Initial certification for two years
 - Recertification up to five years

Program Review Criteria

Accreditation – Recognized by the United States Department of Education or CHEA

- National
- Regional
- Specialized

State approval

Licensure and Agency Review

- Arkansas State Board of Nursing
 - Home State Board of Nursing licensure
- Arkansas Department of Education
- Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling

Site Visits, if Arkansas campus

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General Institution Information

- Name, address and web address of institution
- Name of course/degree program (s) for which certification is sought
- Proposed effective date
- Contact Person - Name, address, and e-mail
- General description and history of the institution
 - Incorporation documents with all amendments authorizing operation as a postsecondary education institution
 - Classification (i.e., public, private)
 - History of ownership and control
 - Courses and degree levels offered by institution
- Site and description of proposed facility, if new Arkansas campus

Curricular Criteria

College-level course/degree programs should follow standard acceptable higher education curriculum

- Ability to Benefit
 - Method, tests used
 - Entrance guidelines
- Arkansas General Education requirements
- Courses required for the degree program with course numbers, course titles, course descriptions, and credit given for each course
- Total number of semester/quarter credit hours required
- Length of semester or quarter and number of class/contact hours
- Laboratory work, Internship, practicum, work experience, or outcome-based learning
- Articulation and/or transfer of credit arrangements with other Institutions

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Curricular Criteria

Administrator Credentials

- Credentials comparable to what is required of Arkansas Administrators

Faculty Credentials and Development

- Credentials comparable to what is required of Arkansas faculty
 - Educational and professional backgrounds
- Orientation and training required of faculty and support staff Faculty's function in providing evaluation and modification of the course/degree program
- Faculty workload

Evaluation and Assessment

- Process used to evaluate student achievement of stated objectives and outcomes
- Survey form used by students to evaluate online courses, and faculty
- Copy of the instructor's evaluation of the course(s)

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Resources

Library

- Available library resources and qualified library personnel
- Signed memorandum of understanding with other institutions, community libraries or e-libraries
- Budget for future additions of library resources

Instructional Support and Technology

- Equipment used for instructional support

Student Services

- Academic Advising, Orientation
- Registration
- Financial Aid
- Orientation
- Tutoring
- Career Counseling and Placement

Additional Reviewed Information

Target population to be served

- Expected enrollment
- Expected job availability, positions and salaries for students upon completion of study

Demographics—Composition of Students

- Number and percentage of students currently enrolled

Financial Information

- Copy of the most recent audit covering all funds or accounts
- Three-year budget for the course/degree program including revenues, expenditures, and sources of funding shown by categories

External Advisory Groups

Consumer Disclosure

- Required statements for consumer disclosure and transfer of credit are to be included in catalogs and enrollment agreements
- Form signed by the chief academic officer of the Institution

Student Grievances

- Institution's procedure for receiving and resolving grievances from students

ICAC Oversight

- Church-Related Training
- Institutions on Military Installations
- Non-public Arkansas Institutions established before 1975
- Non-public Postsecondary Institutions
- Out-of State Postsecondary Institutions and For-profit Institutions requiring program certification

Church-Related Training Letter of Exemption from Certification

- 34 Institutions
- Institutions operated solely to provide programs of study in church-related training
- Programs specifically prepare students to assume leadership positions in a church and/or religious organization
- Application for renewal of Letter of Exemption from Certification every two years
- Letters of Exemption from Certification are listed in Letters of Notification

Institutions on Military Installations Letter of Exemption from Certification

- 3 Institutions
- Majority (51% of total annual enrollment) of students enrolled at the institution located on the military installation must be active or retired military personnel and their dependents
- Institutions must apply for renewal every two years
- Letters of Exemption from Certification are listed in Letters of Notification

Non-Public Arkansas Institutions Established Before 1975

- Arkansas Baptist College
- Central Baptist College
- Crowley's Ridge College
- Harding University
- Hendrix College
- Shorter College
- John Brown University
- Lyon College
- Ouachita Baptist University
- Philander Smith University
- University of the Ozarks
- Williams Baptist College

Institutions of Higher Education incorporated in the state of Arkansas on or prior to April 7, 1975, and offering degrees customarily granted by colleges or universities with accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education are exempt from certification *unless* the institution fails to maintain accreditation.

If an independent institution fails to maintain accreditation by an accrediting agency, it must obtain AHECB certification.

Independent institutions must contact ADHE prior to any change in the institution's charter or level of degree program.

Any Arkansas non-public Institution that has been established after 1975 or want to submit a proposal as a new institution must follow the ICAC Rules and Regulations for certification.

New regulations/Legislation

ACT 205 Effective July 27, 23011

Section 1

False Academic Credential – Means a document that provides evidence or demonstrates completion of an academic or professional course of study at the post-secondary level that results in awarding of a certificate, degree, or rank by an individual or institution that is not:

- Certified under Arkansas Code §6-61-31
- Exempt from certification under Arkansas Code §6-61-31

A person who violates this section may be convicted of a Class B misdemeanor and fined up to \$1,000

Section 2

Establishment of an Accrediting Agency – An individual shall not establish or operate an accrediting agency in this state without recognition by the United States Department of Education ¹⁵

New Federal Legislation Final Rules on Title IV Program Integrity

- 3 Areas included:
 - State Authorization
 - Credit Hour
 - Gainful Employment

**New Federal Legislation
Final Rules on Title IV Program Integrity
34 CFR Part 600.9 (c)**

If an institution is offering postsecondary education through distance or correspondence education to students in a state in which it is not physically located or in which it is otherwise subject to State jurisdiction as determined by the State, the institution must meet any State requirements for it to be legally offering postsecondary distance or correspondence education in that state

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CFR 600.9

- October 29, 2010 U. S. Department of Education published the final regulations on program integrity
- Institutions could lose Title IV funds
- Institutions had until July 31, 2011
- "Dear Colleague Letter" issued allowed for an extension until July 1, 2013
- U.S. Department of Education will not initiate any action undertaken before July 1, 2014
- Must make good faith efforts
- Law is being challenged

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Implications

- Affects For-Profit and public institutions including Arkansas public institutions
- Major increase in request for ICAC Rules and Regulations
 - Over 425 requests to date
- Major increase in degree proposals being submitted for certification
 - 30 new institutions to date
- Acknowledgement of enrollment of Arkansas residents in uncertified programs
 - One to 300 enrollments

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**Certified Institutions
October 2011**

- 48 institutions with certified programs
 - 14 out-of-state, non-profit institutions
 - 7 Arkansas non-profit institutions
 - 6 Arkansas proprietary, for-profit institutions
 - 21 out-of-state proprietary, for-profit institutions
- 35 institutions deliver programs by distance technology
- 3 institutions have both Arkansas campuses and delivery by distance technology

Enrollment/Graduates

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

- Total Enrollment – 14,801
 - Online enrollment 9,339
 - Arkansas campus enrollment 5,462
- Total Graduates – 1,590
 - Online graduates 1,017
 - Arkansas campus graduates 573

Degrees Offered

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Degree	Number of Programs
• AAS	• 72
• AGS	• 1
• AA	• 7
• AS	• 9
• BA	• 9
• BS	• 185
• Master's	• 145
• PhD	• 20

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Graduates

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Degree	Number of Graduates
• AAS	• 244
• AGS	• 5
• AA	• 162
• AS	• 14
• BA	• 9
• BS	• 524
• Master's	• 559
• PhD	• 3

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Tuition Per Credit Hour

	JCAC Institutions	Arkansas Public Institutions	
		In State	Out of State
Undergraduate Degrees			
Lowest Tuition	\$115	\$60	\$87
Highest Tuition	\$597	\$240	\$725
Graduate Degrees			
Lowest Tuition	\$295	\$160	\$318
Highest Tuition	\$740	\$398	\$735