



TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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MEMORANDUM

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To: The Individual Addressed
From: MacGregor M. Stephenson
Date: February 20, 2013
Subject: Semi-annual Review of Institutions Offering Fraudulent or Substandard Degrees

This letter is being sent to each institution or training establishment listed on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's website as an institution whose degrees are illegal to use in Texas. Texas state law (Texas Penal Code Section 32.52) requires colleges and universities operating in Texas to be approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Board) or accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Board. <http://www.thehb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=106B5AA9-A772-2898-95ACD06B3A967717>

Your institution is ineligible to operate in Texas because it is neither approved by the Board nor is it accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Board. As a result, your institution is considered to offer fraudulent or substandard degrees.

Texas Education Code Chapter 61, Section 61.302 defines a fraudulent or substandard degree as follows:

- (11) "Fraudulent or substandard degree" means:
- (A) a degree conferred by a private postsecondary educational institution or other person that, at the time the degree was conferred, was operating in this state in violation of this subchapter;
 - (B) if the degree is not approved through the review process described by Section 61.3021, a degree conferred by a private educational institution or other person that, at the time the degree was conferred, was not eligible to receive a certificate of authority under this subchapter and was operating in another state:
 - (i) in violation of a law regulating the conferral of degrees in that state or in the state in which the degree recipient was residing;
 - or
 - (ii) without accreditation by a recognized accrediting agency; or

(C)if conferred by a private educational institution or other person not described by Paragraph (A) or (B) including a private educational institution or other person that, at the time the degree was conferred, was not eligible to receive a certificate of authority under this subchapter and was operating outside the United States, a degree that the board through the review process described by Section 61.3021, determines is not the equivalent of an accredited or authorized degree as described by that section."

The institutions listed on the Coordinating Board's website whose degrees are considered fraudulent or substandard are reviewed and contacted twice a year.

Each institution is given an opportunity to apply for a Certificate of Authority or submit evidence of accreditation recognized by the Board in order to have its name removed from the list.

If you wish to apply for a Certificate of Authority (CoA), please review the information on our website at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/chapter7> for Coordinating Board Rules (Chapter 7), the CoA application, the policies and procedures applicable to a CoA, and the list of recognized accreditors. If your institution is accredited by an agency recognized by the Coordinating Board, send a copy of your current accreditation documentation to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Attention: Herbert Mokarzel, P.O. Box 12788, Austin, Texas 78711 or contact him via email at Herbert.Mokarzel@thecb.state.tx.us.