



West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

Private Institutions Authorized to Operate in West Virginia

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission has statutory responsibility for authorizing private and out-of-state institutions to operate in West Virginia. This authorization is limited to an entity wishing to offer any course or degree program above the associate degree level. The procedures are outlined in Series 20, *Authorization of Degree Granting Institutions*:

https://www.wvhepc.org/resources/Series_20_5-2-13.pdf

For course or program offerings limited to the associate degree level or below, authorization is provided by the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education www.wvctcs.org.

The need for authorization is based on “physical presence” defined in Series 20 as:

“Physical Presence” means an institution employs in West Virginia any person or persons for the purpose of administering, coordinating, teaching, training, tutoring, counseling, advising, recruiting, or any other activity on behalf of the sponsoring organization. Such activity would include advertising, promotional material, or public solicitation in any form that targets West Virginia residents through distribution or advertising in the State. In addition, the institution has physical presence in West Virginia if it delivers or plans to deliver, instruction in West Virginia, and receives assistance from any other organization within the state in delivering the instruction, such as, but not limited to, a cable television company or a television broadcast station that carries instruction sponsored by the institution.

After reviewing the provisions of Series 20, representatives of an entity seeking authorization from the Commission are directed to consult with the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. No documentation should be submitted prior to this consultation.

Four-year and graduate institutions currently authorized to operate in West Virginia include:

Regionally accredited, non-profit, independent institutions:

Alderson Broaddus University
Appalachian Bible College
Bethany College
Davis and Elkins College
Ohio Valley University
University of Charleston
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Wheeling Jesuit University
Future Generations Graduate School

Regionally accredited proprietary institutions:

American Public University System
Salem International University
Strayer University

Nationally accredited institutions:

American National University (limited 4-year programs)