



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Academic Affairs, Office of State Authorization

1122 Lady Street, Suite 300, Columbia, SC 29201

Telephone (803) 737-2260; FAX (803) 737-2297

Web site: www.che.sc.gov

Institutions that may be operating illegally in South Carolina Or operating illegally elsewhere and enrolling residents of South Carolina (updated 03/04/2014)

[ABC Bartending School/Bartenders4Work/Charleston School of Bartending](#)

[Academy of Health Sciences](#)

[Agapé Health Services](#)

[American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians](#)

[Attentive Hands Health Care Training](#)

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[Film Connection Film Institute](#)

[Harbor Christian Academy \(diplomanow.org\)](#)

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[Recording Connection Audio Institute](#)

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[SC Academy of NATP](#)

[Thomas Healthcare Institute](#)

[University of Alternative Studies](#)

[WARP University](#)

[West Coast High School](#)

[Woodfield High School/Woodfield University](#)

ABC Bartending School/Bartenders4Work/ABC Bartending Class/ Charleston School of Bartending

Dana Privett, Owner
Chris Nelson, Owner

1812 Savannah Hwy., Charleston, SC 29470,
843.277.0162

2487 Ashley River Rd., Charleston SC 29414
843-277-1416

4340 Big Barn Rd. Room 103, Little River, SC,
29568, 843.855.5393

Additional locations in North Carolina and Virginia

<http://www.abcbartendingschool.com/> or
<http://www.abcbartendingclass.com/> or
<http://bartenders4work.com/> or
www.carolinabartendingschool.com or
<http://ncbartendingschool.com>
<http://charlestonbartendingschool.com/>

Not affiliated with www.abcbartending.com

Cease and desist ordered May 17, 2007; April 21, 2008; March 16, 2012; August 24, 2012; April 4, 2013

Does NOT provide bartender certification or license.

Original license date 7/12/94; licensed **revoked** 1/5/07; surety bond cancelled; continues to operate illegally (4/21/08), offering “certification,” CHE received complaints of overcharges.

Update 2/2010 additional complaints about the school not making refunds.

3/15/2012 Story on wistv.com reports that ABC Bartending intends to open new school site in Myrtle Beach; unlicensed school sites in Charleston and Greenville are also listed on school’s website. Ordered to cease and desist operating all sites in SC.

8/24/2012 Commission received copies of advertisements run in Charleston’s Post and Courier newspaper, offering “certification” in one ad and a four hour course in another. Institution’s website still lists Charleston and Greenville sites, plus a new site in the Myrtle Beach area.

Chris Nelson and Dana Privett jointly owned ABC Bartending School in Greenville; it appears Chris is sole owner of Greenville campus and Dana has opened other campuses in the state.

<http://www.bbb.org/myrtle-beach/business-reviews/schools-business-and-vocational/abc-bartending-school-in-fayetteville-nc-90003843>

Academy of Health Sciences

Helen Maxwell/Anita Kelly, Owners
3614 Ashley Phosphate Rd.
N. Charleston, SC
843-767-2467

Initially contacted the Commission Feb. 8, 2012, to obtain an application for licensure as a nonpublic postsecondary institution. Followed up with questions periodically until June of 2012 but did not apply for licensure. On Nov. 30, 2012, the Commission learned the institution had been operating illegally by offering unlicensed vocational training programs. Students alerted the Commission that the school closed its doors Nov. 15, 2012, after accepting payments from students for upcoming courses. Students contacted the WCSC Channel 5 TV station. They ran a story on Saturday 12/1/2012. The school may have been affiliated with former school owners (Ralph and Helen Maxwell) of American Society of Phlebotomy Training (ASPT). Students who attended Academy of Health Sciences are asked to provide to the Commission evidence of enrollment such as proof of payments to the school (receipts or cancelled checks), enrollment contracts, or course material to Lane Goodwin at lgoodwin@che.sc.gov

Agapé Health Services

(this is not the same entity as Agape' Senior
www.acapesenior.com)

7232 Broad River Rd., Columbia, SC 29063. Alonzo
Johnson, Owner

www.agapehealthservice.com/academy/

Cease and Desist issued 2/5/2010

8/24/09 Requested initial licensure packet

9/15/09 Requested initial licensure packet

2/5/2010 CHE received complaint from DHHS concerning self-pay student enrolled at Agape who had paid for national certification exam in December but had not received test date and was having difficulty receiving answers from staff about her test date. CHE mailed **cease and desist** and initial licensure packet.

2/5/2010 Received notification from Dr. Johnson that Agape will no longer enroll self-pay students.

American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians (ASPT)

North Charleston, SC 29418 Phone (843)767-2464
Fax (843)767-2465

E-Mail: asptcharleston@knology.net

Website:

http://96.36.117.186/registration_form.pdf

Cease and Desist issued 3/25/2010

In 1996 the Commission on Higher Education communicated with Ralph Maxwell about the training and certification services offered at ASPT from Greenville. The contention of Maxwell was that the training was distance learning and not within the jurisdiction of CHE because it was continuing education offered only to individuals who were already employed in the medical field and who were members of ASPT. ASPT filed a suit against CHE and asked the court to determine it exempt from the Commission's oversight. The suit was dismissed by agreement of the attorneys for Maxwells and AG with CHE retaining the authority to proceed with injunction from ASPT with additional evidence that the organization offered vocational training without enforcing its requirements for employment in the field.

In May 2009 Helen Maxwell contacted CHE about licensure to offer EKG and other training programs; however, she did not apply for a license. March 25, 2010, a student enrolled in EKG and Patient Care Technician submitted a complaint about the school. It made a full refund to the student. CHE issued a letter to **cease and desist**; also, provided another packet for initial licensure. 4/6/2010 Cathy Williamson, director at the Charleston location, called and said they are preparing the application materials.

Updated 4/7/10. CHE received an application for initial license on April 13, 2010, and provided initial feedback on April 22, 2010. April 28, 2010, discussion with attorney for Maxwell about licensing requirements. Review of application suspended until information from AG that the character requirements for eligibility would exclude eligibility for licensure. 5/24/10 CHE executive staff reviewing the options.

8/5/2010 CHE received AG's opinion confirming that CHE has authority to deny licensure based on the Maxwells having owned a school for which SC Department of Education revoked the license.

8/12/2010 CHE notified attorney for Maxwells of denial of licensure for Helen and/or Ralph Maxwell as owners based on failure to meet the "good reputation" criteria in CHE regulation 62-6.

9/13/2010 Richard Sisco, landlord of ASPT, called and asked for documentation that CHE would not license the school. They are using it as a reason to break the lease on the facilities.

10/12/2010 Roman Hammes, attorney, notified CHE that he no

	longer represents the Maxwells and it is his understanding that they will not contest the decision of CHE to deny licensure.
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<p>Attentive Hands Health Care Training Damel Cunningham, Owner 105-C Miller Rd. Mauldin, SC 29662 www.attentivehandsoncnatraining.com</p> <p>Cease and Desist issued 6/20/2013</p>	<p>1/16/2013 Ms. Cunningham contacted the Commission to discuss the training she intended to offer and confirmed that she would only enroll sponsored students into her nurse aide training program. E-mail from Commission to Ms. Cunningham provides for exemption of program from CHE oversight as long as institution does not enroll private-pay students.</p> <p>6/19/2013 Commission was contacted by several students who stated that they paid for training out of pocket (private-pay) and did not receive items for which they paid, such as textbooks, workbooks, and CPR training. Formal complaint with evidence submitted 7/19/2013</p>
<p>Aviation and Electronic Schools of America James P. Doyle, Owner 111 South Railroad Street, Colfax, CA 95713; 804 Pier View Way, Suite 100, Oceanside, CA 92054 www.aesa.com</p> <p>Cease and Desist issued 3/11/2010</p>	<p>2008 education service officer at MCAS, Beaufort, contacted CHE about the school; determined at that time that the school enrolled sponsored students and did not enroll self-pay students. Therefore, it was exempt from the oversight of the SC Commission on Higher Education.</p> <p>3/11/2010, contact from MCAS with evidence that school may be charging fees to the students and direct pay. Issued cease and desist e-mail with initial licensing packet.</p> <p>3/24/2010 Jim Doyle contacted the Commission and said AESA is not taking payments from students enrolled in South Carolina and continues to be exempt from the oversight of the Commission.</p> <p>4/26/2010 CHE received an application for initial license missing several of the required exhibits.</p>
<p>Beaufort Dog 1307 Boundary St., Beaufort, SC Kelley Blackston, Owner</p> <p>Cease and Desist issued 4/7/2009, 8/24/2009</p>	<p>Originally licensed 12/1/08 to offer dog groomer training; discontinued training program after split with co-owner and signed non-compete agreement with co-owner. Enrolled students prior to licensure and has not provided refunds.</p> <p>4/7/09 Received notification of Beaufort Dog offering dog grooming course in Ridgeland; sent cease and desist.</p> <p>8/24/09 Received notification and advertisement of Beaufort Dog offering course in Ridgeland; sent cease and desist.</p>
<p>Canyon College of Idaho, Inc. 111 Poplar Street Caldwell, ID 83605-5736 www.canyoncollege.edu</p>	<p>7/3/2013 Canyon College is not located in SC but operates online out of Idaho. The Executive Director of the Idaho State Board of Education issued a Cease & Desist Order to Canyon College on June 25, 2013, effective immediately, for issuing false, bogus and illegitimate college degrees.</p> <p>Students who may have a complaint against Canyon College regarding bogus degrees or transcripts or about lack of response from the college on same subject should immediately pass detailed info to the Idaho State Board of Education / 650 West State Street, Suite 307 (POB 83720) / Boise, Idaho 83720-0037</p> <p>Direct Phone 208.332.1587</p>

Carolina International University, N. Charleston, SC

www.carolinaiiu.com

THIS IS A DIPLOMA MILL – DO NOT SEND MONEY – SCAM OPERATING ILLEGALLY

1995 communications between the SC Commission on Higher Education and Larry Thompson, founder, at which time he informed CHE that he was not operating or recruiting, had no students, and had not awarded any credentials. He had requested a packet for initial licensing in February 1995. Informed him in letter dated May 19, 1995, of the restrictions on use of “university” and of the penalties for operating illegally. The web site shows it offers life experience degrees only.

August 2011, in response to an inquiry from Accredibase, discovered that the entity is operating and soliciting. E-mailed inquiry to CIU for follow-up. SC Secretary of State shows incorporation in 1994 as a nonprofit, status in good standing. Response to inquiry from Carolina stated it is a degree-granting corporation (not an institution) operating from Panama; would not disclose corporate officials. However, according to EducationUSA Advising Center, Panama, it is not authorized in Panama or registered with the MinEduc or any other regulatory body in Panama. This is typical of the growing number of vapor mill institutions or diploma mills that are multiplying at a disquieting rate.

Cornerstone Christian Correspondence School

15938 Hwy. 17
Townsend, GA 31331
912.832.3834

<http://cornerstonechristianministry.org/index.html>

No evidence that institution operates in South Carolina; however, several SC residents have contacted the Commission regarding this school. Claims accreditation by the Accrediting Commission International, which is not a recognized accrediting agency. High school diplomas earned through this correspondence school are not valid for college admissions or for employment requiring a recognized high school diploma.

Film Connection Film Institute

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
Recording Connection Audio Institute
1201 West 5th Street
Suite M130
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(323) 329-9610
www.filmconnection.com

Cease and desist issued 10/31/2012

10/31/2012 CHE made aware that Institute is advertising several locations in South Carolina for “apprenticeships” in directing, screen writing, producing, editing, and general production for a tuition fee of \$7,750 to \$13,500 plus \$650 for books. Institute is not licensed by CHE to offer programs at any level. Claims accreditation by United States Bureau of Accredited Schools and the National Private Schools Accreditation Alliance, neither of which is a recognized accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education.

Harbor Christian Academy

26 2nd St. (Woodside), Greenville, SC Julie Ferrell
864.242.3096
www.diplomanow.org

Probably diploma mill

4/15/2013 Resident of Mississippi called the Commission to ask about the credibility of the diploma. He paid \$279 for high school diploma and now wonders at its worth. It is unlikely a college or university would accept it as a prerequisite for enrollment. It is unlikely the military will accept it for enlistment.

The Upstate (South Carolina) Better Business Bureau 864.242.5052 routed to the online database that reported the school as BBB accredited. That term confuses people who seek

information about an education provider. They think accredited means accredited by an agency that is recognized by the US Department of Education.

It appears that Harbor is a diploma mill. Red flags: low cost; misuse of terminology (says it is “fully accredited”); vague references to acceptance of the credential for military enlistment and says it is listed as a “Tier 1” school by the US Military; rhetoric about earning a high school diploma online fast, without admission tests, without hassle of attending classes or studying and worrying over tests.

Kepler Space University Online

<http://keplerspaceuniversity.com/>

**Cease and Desist issued 12/31/2010;
11/13/2013**

12/30/2010 Robert L. (Bob) Frantz, President, requested of the SC Commission on Higher Education a packet for initial licensure for Kepler Space University, 198 Okatie Village Dr., Ste 103, PMB#301, Bluffton, SC 29909, phone 703.728.6482. Robert M. Krone is the Provost. The unaccredited school was operating without a license; the Commission issued a **cease and desist** letter on 12/31/2010. Several indicators: SC site without licensure; inappropriate name of the school because the programs listed on the web site are not 'space' related, but are psychology, policy, education (not for certification), science and technology, business, and high school; material shows "since 1621" a misrepresentation; courses link to Ashburn University; FaceBook page also includes similar information.

1/12/2011 the web site has been revised to remove the South Carolina address but Bob Frantz has not been able to amend the FaceBook page. He plans to submit a letter of intent and subsequently apply for licensure.

11/1/2013 Inquiry from Sarita Chourey, Morris News Service, concerning licensure of Kepler. Reviewed web site of Kepler; lists same USPS mail in Bluffton and 2012-13 information; 11/13/13 sent second cease and desist.

2/2014 telephone contact from Jo Sobolowski of Tallahassee FL that he has disassociated from Bob Frantz and established a separate Kepler initiative "by the book" for which he is seeking state approval in Florida.

Leugenia University

www.leugenia.org

**Operating illegally, claiming SC Commission
on Higher Education licensure, other
misleading information on the web site**

Cease and Desist issued 3/29/2012

June 2005 communications (including a cease and desist) with Carrie Leugenia Ham concerning operation of Leugenia University. At that time she assured the Commission the courses were free and that the students did not pay for the courses. The licensing function under the Commission is primarily consumer protection; the Commission does not have jurisdiction where a school does not charge tuition or fees to students.

March 2012 reviewed the web site in response to a telephone call from the Texas Higher Education Commission. Dr. Ham objected to listing Leugenia as a diploma mill; the Texas official called CHE for more information. The catalog posted on the web site of the institution says that the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education licenses the institution; it does not. Issued follow-up inquiry 3/29/2012 to Dr. Ham with the **cease and desist** language. She responded that she did not see that it was a problem because the school was not enrolling students or taking money.

6/25/2012 website has been removed from the Internet.

Medical2

PO Box 692513, Orlando, FL 32869-2513
<http://www.medical2.com/index.aspx>

10/17/2011 CHE made aware Medical2 advertised in Florence Morning News one-day phlebotomy/EKG seminar in Columbia, SC for \$400; seminar scheduled for 10/23/2011; sent **cease and desist, returned undeliverable**

<p>Pole University www.poleuniversity.com</p> <p>Cease and Desist issued 11/27/2012</p>	<p>Sent cease and desist 11/27/2012 for use of protected term “university.” Discovered through a living social internet offer for buy-one-get-one.</p>
<p>Recording Connection Audio Institute</p> <p>CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS Recording Connection Audio Institute 1201 West 5th Street Suite M130 Los Angeles, CA 90017 (323) 329-9610 http://www.recordingconnection.com/</p> <p>Cease and desist issued 10/31/2012</p>	<p>10/31/2012 CHE made aware that Institute is advertising several locations in South Carolina for “apprenticeships” in audio engineering, music producing, live sound engineering, and music production for a tuition fee of \$7,750 to \$9,000 plus \$650 for books. Institute is not licensed by CHE to offer programs at any level. Claims accreditation by United States Bureau of Accredited Schools and the National Private Schools Accreditation Alliance, neither of which is a recognized accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education.</p>
<p>Stratford Career Institute</p> <p>Web site shows: Stratford Career Institute, 12 Champlain Commons, P.O. Box 1560, St. Albans VT 05478-5560 Toll-free: 1-800-363-0058 and Canada 8675 Darnley Rd, Town of Mount Royal, QC H4T 1X2 Toll-free: 1-800-363-0058</p> <p>Confirmation of illegal operations</p>	<p>1/4/2011 Stratford Career Institute, Inc. (“SCI”), a correspondence school located in Mount Royal, Quebec, has entered into a <u>settlement</u> with the Vermont Attorney General’s Office to resolve claims that the school misrepresented its geographic location as being in Vermont. The school will pay civil penalties and costs in the amount of \$10,000 to the State.</p> <p>2/16/10 inquiry from a graduate of a high school diploma program through Stratford Career Institute (www.scitraining.com). Postsecondary institutions will not accept the diploma as a prerequisite for enrollment. Research revealed that the school is operating illegally in New York Champlain, NY address in advertising, but it’s only a post office box. Graduates of programs that require a clinical (nurse aide and cosmetology) will not be eligible for licensing.</p> <p>Preliminary to a hearing scheduled in Pennsylvania for May 2009 the school signed an agreement to cease advertising in PA.</p> <p>One address in St Albans, Vermont, is a storefront for mail only. The Montreal office warned VT licensing personnel to beware of slander. It has been turned over to the Attorney General’s Office per Vermont statute.</p> <p>One address is Montréal, Québec, Canada. It is definitely not a recognized high school diploma granting institution. The provincial authorities have been advised. Trade programs have not been quality assured by the Ministry of Education of the province of Québec.</p>
<p>SC Academy of N.A.T.P.</p> <p>Phyllis Olson, Owner SC Academy of N.A.T.P. 1517 Coolbrook Dr.</p>	<p>The SC Department of Health and Human Services Commission alerted the Commission on December 7, 2012, that the institution was offering nurse aide training programs to self-pay students. SC DHHS pulled approval of the institution for failure to respond to student complaint or SC DHHS inquiries. Students who attend</p>

Columbia, SC 29172

School location:
2430 Atlas Rd.
Columbia, SC 29209

Cease and Desist issued 12/10/2012

this institution will not be able to take state exam for nurse aide certification. **Cease and desist** sent 12/10/2012.

<p>Thomas Healthcare Institute Greenville, SC www.thcinstitute.com</p> <p>Cease and Desist issued 5/11/2011</p>	<p>1/2010 school officials submitted an incomplete application for licensure</p> <p>2/2010 school officials stated school was not operating in Greenville</p> <p>5/9/2011 CHE received complaint from student who enrolled in medical assisting course at THCI in Greenville, SC in May 2010</p> <p>5/11/2011 CHE sent cease and desist to THCI</p>
<p>University of Alternative Studies</p> <p>online institution operating without an identifiable presence.</p> <p>http://qpsychics.com/university/</p>	<p>6/6/2012 As an on-line institution where the location of the administration of the institution is not identifiable, there is no governmental oversight. The institution is not licensed and not accredited by a recognized accrediting agency.</p>
<p>WARP University</p> <p>2132 Carolina Place Drive, Fort Mill, SC 29708 Patrick LaRive, CEO/President; Lynn LaRive</p> <p>www.warpuniversity.org</p> <p>Cease and Desist issued 4/29/2010</p>	<p>Sent e-mail inquiry April 28</p> <p>Cease and desist sent April 29, 2010, RRR acknowledged delivery May 3, 2010.</p> <p>May 24, 2010, reviewed web site; detected no changes in information. The terms “college” and “university” are protected under SC Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, Section 59-58-60, so that use of “university” must be approved by the Commission and used by institutions awarding graduate degrees and “college” is reserved to degree-granting institutions.</p> <p>7/27/2010 UPDATE. Inquiry from Workforce Investment One Stop. They have a complaint from a former student; this confirms Warp enrolls self-pay students. She will get permission from student to send the complaint to CHE for follow-up.</p> <p>8/30/2010 Publication of press release in <i>Midlands Biz</i> about Warp, which they immediately removed upon notification of CHE that the school is operating illegally.</p> <p>9/17/2010 Patrick LaRive informed CHE that he will move his businesses to NC.</p> <p>10/4/2010 Photos show clearly still operating Warp University sign on window.</p> <p>11/2010 Received complaints from several students requesting refunds because the school was operating illegally and mislead students about jobs. Sent to LaRive for response.</p> <p>1/12/2011 Patrick LaRive notified CHE they are preparing to file for bankruptcy. Students reported that the LaRives closed their businesses and moved out of the state.</p>

	<p>5/2011 two additional complaints from former students filed with the Commission. Both students asked for refunds of tuition they paid. Forwarded complaints to Patrick LaRive and he responded that he has a meeting with an attorney on Monday, May 23, and will respond to the complaints. He asked that CHE remove the WARP information from the illegally operating list.</p>
<p>West Coast High School http://www.westcoasthighschool.com/</p>	<p>June 13, 2012 CHE contacted by Upstate Better Business Bureau (http://upstataesc.bbb.org/), which has received numerous complaints about West Coast High School, which claims to be based in Greenwood, SC. Not accredited by a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agency. Claims accreditation from Distance and Online Universities Accreditation Council, likely accreditation mill. Postsecondary institutions will not accept the high school diploma as a prerequisite for enrollment.</p>
<p>Woodfield High School/ Woodfield University (on-line)</p> <p>http://www.woodfieldhighschool.com/ www.woodfielduniversity.com</p> <p>THIS IS A DIPLOMA MILL – DO NOT SEND MONEY – SCAM OPERATING ILLEGALLY</p>	<p>January 2011 According to several callers the school claims to be based in Greenwood, SC. Not accredited by a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agency. Claims accreditation from Universal Accreditation Agency for Online Education, likely accreditation mill. Postsecondary institutions will not accept the high school diploma as a prerequisite for enrollment.</p> <p>January 12, 2011, a chat recruiter confirmed the school is in Greenwood, SC, and its president is Dr. Eric Lindquist. Commission staff posted an inquiry, but did not receive a reply. It included ‘cease and desist’ language.</p> <p>April 6, 2011, Renea Eshleman received a follow-up recruiting message from care@woodfielduniversity.com to which she replied with illegally operating information.</p> <p>June 7, 2011, call from a resident in England who paid \$1,600 to the school two months ago and has been trying to get a refund. Chat informed her that the bank account was closed and there is no way for a refund at this time. She will provide documentation to CHE.</p> <p>September 7, 2011, telephone message from “Mark” to the Commission on Higher Education to remove the school from this posting because it is not in SC or in the US; some students may live in the US or SC, but the school is in a foreign country. He left the 877-368-6633 toll-free number that is on the “school” web site. But the number would not access.</p> <p>September 7, 2011, initiated a chat on school web site where the representative confirmed the Greenwood, SC, location.</p> <p>May 3, 2013, CHE received a report from a student who received a Woodfield diploma that the school is soliciting money to validate or “legalize” the diploma. DO NOT SEND MONEY.</p>