

Licensing of Nonpublic Postsecondary Institutions

State law requires that the SC Commission on Higher Education license nonpublic educational institutions that operate or solicit in South Carolina. Licensed institutions are required to meet minimum standards & provide accurate and useful information to prospective & current students.



What is a nonpublic educational institution?

- Any educational entity operating or soliciting in SC offering resident or correspondence courses beyond the secondary school level to students upon the payment of tuition or fees.

What is the importance of licensing?

- Ensures legal operations, ethical practices & minimum educational standards to develop an educated, skilled & well-trained workforce.
- Protects residents from educational fraud & provides a process for CHE to investigate complaints against educational institutions under its jurisdiction.
- Promotes accountability & aides in maintaining accurate student records of institutions which close & have no other repository.

Who needs a license?

- Institutions or training providers operating or soliciting in South Carolina that offer programs that prepare students for a predetermined occupation or credit bearing courses for a fee.
- Operating or soliciting includes:
 - Instructional or administrative site within South Carolina
 - Instruction whether theory or clinical
 - Agents, recruiters, businesses that solicit students for enrollment
 - Advertising, promotional material or public solicitation that target residents.

Which programs are exempt from licensing?

- Some programs are exempt from licensure as they are required to seek approval from other state agencies (i.e. cosmetology, barbering, truck driving & real estate).
- Public technical colleges & state colleges/universities are exempt from licensure.

Also exempt from CHE's oversight:

Degree-granting institutions chartered in SC before 1953

Instruction only offered at K-12

Institutions whose sole purpose is religious or theological

Recreation & personal development training

Noncredit intensive review test preparation courses

Noncredit employer-sponsored employee training-programs

Need help in determining if licensure is required, just ask...

For more information please visit our website at www.che.sc.gov

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Academic Affairs, Postsecondary Institution Licensing

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