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COLORADO
Colorado Commission on
Higher Education
Department of Higher Education

State of Colorado Granting of Authorization Authorization shall be granted upon presentation of adequate information by the postsecondary institution seeking authorization to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. As the first step toward authorization, representatives of a seminary or bible college or a private college or university shall consult with the designated administrator of the Degree Authorization Act (Ms. Heather DeLange) prior to submission of required documentation.

SECTION I PART J DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT: AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE AS A POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN COLORADO

<https://highered.colorado.gov/educators/administration/degree-authorization-act>

1.00 Introduction

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (Commission) has statutory responsibility for the administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, (amended 2012), which authorizes certain types of institutions to offer degrees or degree credits: (1) accredited private, degree-granting colleges and universities; (2) postsecondary seminaries and religious training institutions; and (3) out-of-state, public institutions with a Colorado presence.

The Colorado Department of Higher Education (Department) shall administer the statute by seeking information from any entity offering degrees or degree credits to determine the authority of an institution to operate in Colorado under this statute. Criteria are established for each institutional type to offer degrees or credits leading toward a degree.

3.04 "Authorization" means the authorization granted to a private college or university or seminary or religious training institution by the commission as provided in this article and the policies adopted pursuant to this article. Authorization is not an endorsement of the institution by either the commission or the department.

3.04.01 Authorization types:

d. Religious Authorization

A bona fide postsecondary seminary or religious training institution, offering only programs which are religious in nature, which is exempt from property taxation under the laws of this state and whose degrees or diplomas have no state recognition.

3.17 "Physical presence"

- a. For the purpose of state authorization, an institution has physical presence and therefore must seek authorization to operate in Colorado if the institution:
- b. **An institution does not have physical presence, and is therefore not required to seek formal authorization if the institution does not meet the requirements for physical presence if the institution's actions are limited to the following:**
 1. **Offering courses to individuals via distance learning that do not require students to gather physically in groups;**