



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

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## Proof of Graduation and the Impact of COVID-19

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ACCSC continues to monitor and assess the impact of COVID-19. As previously shared with the membership, given the fluidity of situation, the Commission is open to working with schools to find flexible and creative solutions as may be warranted. With that in mind, ACCSC has become increasingly aware that a number of schools, school districts, and colleges across the United States have ceased operations for the short term, and many may not re-open for some time.

As ACCSC-accredited institutions are aware, *Section V (A)(4)(b), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation* requires that a school “secures documentation to demonstrate that each applicant meets all admission requirements” prior to enrollment. As a technical matter, the Commission has interpreted that “prior to enrollment” in the context of *Section V (A)(4)(a-b)* to mean prior to the acceptance of the student through the full execution of the enrollment agreement (e.g., signed by the accepting school official) and before allowing a student to start classes.

In light of the impact of COVID-19 on the operating status of various secondary and post-secondary schools and school districts across the country, effective immediately, the Commission will allow a signed attestation by a student to serve as “documentation” that the student has met the school’s admissions requirement (e.g., possesses a high school credential, college degree, GED, etc.). The signed attestation must indicate that the student has earned the credential required by the schools admissions requirements but cannot provide documentation of that credential due to a school district/school closure.

This guidance contemplates that a school will support its admissions decisions with independent documentation – e.g., transcripts, proof of diplomas and GEDs, etc. – as soon as practicable after the district or school from which a student earned a credential reopens and can fulfill such requests.