



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

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To: ACCSC Accredited Institutions
From: Michale S. McComis, Ed.D., Executive Director
Date: April 17, 2024
Subject: Notice and Guidance

The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) is providing this important notice and guidance.

In October 2023, the U.S. Department of Education (“the Department”) issued a [Federal Register](#) with revisions to the following areas: Financial Responsibility, Administrative Capability, Certification Procedures, and Ability To Benefit (ATB) regulations.

The new regulations include a revision that requires schools to certify that their “gainful employment” programs are not longer than the minimum length required for licensure in a recognized occupation in either the State where the institution is located or another State if the institution establishes that certain criteria apply. Therefore, programs that exceed the minimum number of clock or credit hours required by the state may no longer be eligible for Title IV funding.

If your school has a program that needs modification of the total clock or credit hours in order to meet this new eligibility criteria, the school must complete the [Program Modification–Nonsubstantive Modification](#) for a cumulative change less than 25% or the [Application for a Substantive Modification](#) for cumulative changes of 25% or more.¹ These forms are available on ACCSC’s website under the [Forms and Reports](#) page (see also the forms for “affiliated” schools in cases where the change is for the same program at multiple affiliated schools).

ACCSC will process applications on an expedited basis if received by **June 1, 2024 so long as the application is complete and contains all requirements**. Applications received after this date or incomplete applications may not be processed before the Department’s effective date of July 1, 2024.

Please email the [ACCSC staff](#) with any questions regarding the program modification process. For questions regarding the Department’s new policies, requirements, or procedures, please contact your respective [Area Case Director at the U.S. Department of Education School Participation Division](#).

¹ Section IV (B)(2) and IV (E)(6)(a)(i), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation