

U.S. Department of Education Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official on Recognition Compliance Issues

Recommendation Page

1. **Agency:** Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (1978 / 2013)
(The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)
2. **Action Item:** Petition for Continued Recognition
3. **Current Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation throughout the United States of institutions of higher education that offer continuing education and vocational programs that confer certificates or occupational associate degrees, including those programs offered via distance education.
4. **Requested Scope of Recognition:** Same as above
5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** 07/30/2019
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
7. **Issues or Problems:** None

Executive Summary

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Accrediting Council on Continuing Education and Training (ACCET) is a national institutional accreditor. ACCET accredits institutions of higher education that provide continuing education and training programs, including those institutions that are authorized to award certificates and occupational associate degrees. The agency classifies educational programs as either continuing education "vocational" programs or continuing education "avocational" programs.

ACCET accredits 216 accredited institutions that operate 602 main and branch campuses. Of the accredited institutions, 78 vocational institutions (162 campuses) are eligible to participate in Title IV programs. The agency classifies the remaining 138 institutions as vocational/non-Title IV or avocational. Among the avocational institutions, ACCET accredits 85 institutions that are required to be accredited to participate in the Student Visitor Exchange Program (SVEP) and enroll foreign non-immigrant students.

Recognition History

ACCET officially began accrediting agency operations in 1974 and first appeared on the list of agencies recognized by the Secretary in 1978. The agency's recognition has been periodically reviewed and continued recognition has been granted after each review. In December 2001, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI or the Committee) recommended, and the Secretary concurred, that the agency's scope of recognition be expanded to include the accreditation of institutions offering occupational associate degree programs including those programs offered via distance education. The last full review of the agency was conducted at the December 2013 NACIQI meeting. Department staff and the Committee both recommended, and the Secretary concurred, that the agency's recognition to be renewed for five years. There have been two complaints submitted to the Department during this review cycle. The review of this petition was delayed due to workload and staff retirements at the Department for one cycle.

PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The agency meets the requirements of the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition.

PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS

The Department did not receive any written third - party comments regarding this agency.