



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

MAR 15 2012

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

S. Ray Bennett
Director of Accreditation Services
The Council on Chiropractic Education,
Commission on Accreditation
8049 N. 85th Way
Scottsdale, Arizona 85258-4321

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of the recognition of The Council on Chiropractic Education, Commission on Accreditation (CCE). Department of Education staff and the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) have each made recommendations to me. These recommendations were made under Sections 114 and 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, and pursuant to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

The recommendations of Department staff and of NACIQI differed. Specifically, NACIQI incorporated staff's recommendations, but added a recommendation that CCE be required to demonstrate compliance with 34 C.F.R. § 602.13, dealing with the wide acceptance of the agency's standards, policies, procedures, and decisions, and to address how the agency's standards advance quality in chiropractic education. CCE submitted written comments to me as provided under 34 CFR 602.35, opposing NACIQI's added recommendations. In making my decision, I considered these comments along with the rest of the record.

I agree with the Department staff's, and NACIQI's, recommendation that I continue CCE's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time, and require the agency to come into compliance within 12 months of the date of this letter with the criteria listed below¹, and submit a compliance report due 30 days thereafter that demonstrates the agency's compliance.

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| §602.14(a) | §602.14(b) | §602.15(a)(2) | §602.15(a)(3) |
| §602.15(a)(4) | §602.15(a)(5) | §602.15(a)(6) | §602.15(b) |
| §602.16(a)(1)(vi) | §602.16(a)(1)(vii) | §602.16(a)(1)(ix) | §602.19(b) |
| §602.19(c) | §602.20(a) | §602.20(b) | §602.22(a)(1) |
| §602.22(a)(2)(i-vii) | §602.22(a)(2)(viii) | §602.22(a)(3) | §602.22(b) |

¹ The entire text of the criteria may be found in 34 C.F.R. Part 602, which is available on the Department's website http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg11.html#Part602-Secretary'sRecognition and also in the Department staff analysis you received prior to the NACIQI meeting.

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§602.22(c)	§602.22(c)(1)	§602.22(c)(2)	§602.22(c)(3)
§602.23(a)	§602.23(c)	§602.24(b)	§602.24(c)(1)
§602.24(c)(2)	§602.24(c)(3)	§602.24(c)(5)	§602.24(d)
§602.24(e)	§602.24(f)(2)	§602.24(f)(3)	§602.24(f)(4)
§602.25(f)	§602.26(d)	§602.27(a)(6-7),(b)	§602.28(b)
§602.28(c)	§602.28(d)	§602.28(e)	

I disagree with NACIQI's concern about lack of wide acceptance of the agency's standards in the field. The dissenting voices in my judgment are a small minority within the profession. Generally, I agree with the arguments presented by the agency in this regard. Accordingly, I am not requiring that CCE address 34 C.F.R. § 602.13, or how the agency's standards advance quality in chiropractic education, in its compliance report.

I am satisfied that accreditation by CCE is a required element in enabling the institutions the agency accredits to establish eligibility to participate in programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education under the HEA. Accordingly, I continue the Department's recognition of CCE as a nationally recognized accrediting agency with the scope of recognition as detailed below, for the time necessary to permit CCE 12 months from the date of this letter to achieve compliance, and to submit a compliance report within 30 days thereafter documenting compliance, and to permit the Department to review and make a final recognition decision in light of the compliance report under the procedures set forth in 34 C.F.R. Part 602, Subpart C.

Scope of recognition: The accreditation of programs leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree and single-purpose institutions offering the Doctor of Chiropractic program.

You should submit your compliance report using the Department's electronic submission system. The system can be accessed at:

<http://opeweb.ed.gov/aslweb/>

Material that cannot be submitted electronically may be forwarded in hard copy. Please submit four copies of any hard copy material to the Accreditation Group, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW, #8065, Washington, DC 20006-8509.

I am confident that CCE will be able to come into full compliance with all the criteria cited above by the March 15, 2013, deadline, and document compliance in its compliance report within 30 days thereafter. However, I wish to remind you that if CCE does not, the Department may be compelled to deny renewal of CCE's recognition. Such action would be required because of the provision in the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 that requires the withdrawal of recognition of any agency found to be either in noncompliance with the criteria for recognition or ineffective in its performance with respect to those criteria. Alternatively, the law allows the agency to be given up to 12 months to come into compliance. If the agency fails to come into compliance within the specified time frame, the law requires that the agency's recognition not be renewed, unless it is

determined that the time frame for coming into compliance should be extended for good cause. Senate Report, No. 105-181 (May 4, 1998), on the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1998, 105th Congress, 2d Session indicates there is an expectation on the part of Congress that extensions will be granted only rarely and only upon a showing of good cause by the agency. The period the Department is providing in this letter for achieving compliance with the criteria cited above constitutes the maximum time frame (12 months) the law allows you to correct the deficiencies noted in the Department staff analysis.

Please convey my appreciation to the members of CCE for their continuing efforts to improve the quality of postsecondary education in the United States. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. M. Ochoa", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eduardo M. Ochoa