

505-2-.31 GaPSC-ACCEPTED ACCREDITATION; VALIDATION OF NON-ACCREDITED DEGREES

Nature of Amendment(s):

Substantive
 Clarification
 Further Definition

Discussion:

It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.22 PSC-ACCEPTED ACCREDITATION AND VALIDATION OF NON-ACCREDITED DEGREES, dated March 15, 2004, be RESCINDED and that a new rule with the same name and new number be INITIATED. The new rule reflects changes and new Certification Rule numbering due to tiered certification, as well as consistency of language.

(1) Background. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) recognizes only those colleges and universities that have attained accreditation from specific, GaPSC-accepted accreditation agencies as a minimum qualitative standard. The GaPSC will not issue a certificate to any graduate of an institution not accredited by a GaPSC-accepted agency unless the degree has been validated by graduate study at a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution.

(2) Acceptable Accrediting Organizations.

(a) The GaPSC accepts accrediting organizations that are recognized by either The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). These accrediting organizations, which include a wide range of national, regional, specialized and professional accrediting bodies, have completed an evaluation process to verify acceptable levels of quality and performance. The GaPSC uses the American Council on Education (ACE) directory entitled "Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education" as its primary reference for establishing which institutions have GaPSC-accepted accreditation.

(b) Georgia educators seeking advanced degrees for a certificate level upgrade must complete degrees that meet additional requirements found in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.33 CERTIFICATE UPGRADE.

(c) Electronic links to the approved accrediting agencies are as follows:

1. Council for Higher Education Accreditation: www.chea.org:

(i) National Organizations:

(I) [Faith-Related](#);

(II) [Career-Related](#); and

(III) [Programmatic](#);

(ii) [Regional Organizations](#); and

(iii) [Database of Accredited Institutions and Programs](#);

2. USDOE: www.ed.gov:

(i) [Regional and National Institutions](#);

3. NCATE/TEAC/CAEP: <http://caepnet.org/>; and
4. Carnegie Classifications: <http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/>:
 - (i) [Research University/Very High](#); and
 - (ii) [Research University/High](#).

(3) Accreditation Requirements. In order to be accepted for certification purposes in Georgia, degrees and educator preparation programs must be completed at a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution at a time that the institution held acceptable accreditation.

(a) Out-of-state approved programs (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.22 CERTIFICATION BY STATE-APPROVED PROGRAM) completed at the bachelor's degree level at an institution that is not GaPSC-approved as accredited will not be subject to the validation requirement.

(4) Validation of Non-Accredited Degrees. Validation of a bachelor's degree from non GaPSC-accepted institutions must be accomplished by completing course work at a GaPSC-accepted accredited graduate school. Also, a degree from a currently accepted accredited institution must be validated if it was earned at a time when that institution was not accredited.

(a) To validate a bachelor's degree from a college with accreditation not accepted by GaPSC, the applicant must have earned nine (9) semester hours of acceptable graduate credit at a GaPSC-accepted accredited graduate school. All course work for validation must be earned with a grade of "B" or better in each course. The course work must be earned in the field in which certification is sought or toward a planned master's or higher degree program.

(b) If a master's or higher-level degree was earned at an institution with accreditation not accepted by the GaPSC, the degree will not be accepted for certification purposes under any conditions. These degrees cannot be validated.

Authority O.C.G.A. 20-2-200