



Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
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ORDER SUSPENDING APPROVAL TO OPERATE DEGREE GRANTING PROGRAMS

To: San Diego University for Integrative Studies, Inc., Owner
San Diego University for Integrative Studies
2725 Congress Street, Suite 2M
San Diego, CA 92110

INSTITUTION CODE: 37111111

ORDER NUMBER: BPPE21-656

ORDER MAILING DATE: December 2, 2021

ORDER EFFECTIVE DATE: December 7, 2021

DUE DATE TO REQUEST INFORMAL OFFICE CONFERENCE: January 6, 2022

Jason Alley, as the designee of the Bureau Chief of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau), hereby issues an Order Suspending Approval to Operate Degree Granting Programs (Order) of the above institution.

This Order is hereby issued to San Diego University for Integrative Studies, Inc., Owner of San Diego University for Integrative Studies (Institution) located at 2725 Congress Street, Suite 2M, San Diego, CA 92110, pursuant to California Education Code (CEC) section 94885.1(b)(2) and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) section 71410 for the violations described below.

Factual Basis

Bureau records indicate that you obtained an approval to operate from the Bureau on or before January 1, 2015, and that you are operating an approved, unaccredited institution that offers one or more degree programs. Pursuant to CEC section 94885.1(b)(2), your institution was required to submit evidence of having achieved accreditation candidacy or pre-accreditation¹ by July 1, 2017 and full accreditation by July 1, 2020.

On July 1, 2015, the Bureau received an accreditation plan from the Institution to achieve accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) accrediting agency.

On September 27, 2016, a Visiting Committee Report was crafted assessing the Institution's progress toward achieving accreditation with ACICS by the July 1, 2020 deadline. The Institution was deemed by the Committee likely to become accredited by ACICS; however, the Institution was also directed to develop and provide to the Bureau a contingency plan to be acted upon in the event that ACICS ceased to be a Department of Education recognized accreditor.

¹ As defined by 5 CCR section 70000(s), for this purpose, "pre-accreditation" or "candidacy" means that an institution has submitted a completed application for initial accreditation with the required fee, which was accepted by the accreditor.

On March 13, 2017, the Bureau mailed a letter to the Institution acknowledging they had achieved pre-accreditation status with ACICS on February 5, 2016, but as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education denied re-recognition of ACICS, the Bureau requested the Institution select a new accrediting agency and provide an accreditation plan.

On April 13, 2017, the Bureau received an accreditation plan from the Institution for the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). The plan indicated the institution would be pre-accredited before August 2017 and fully accredited by January 2019.

On January 30, 2019, the Bureau mailed to the Institution a letter requesting an update on the accreditation progress, outlining the procedure to follow if accreditation is no longer pursued, and informing the Institution of the opportunity to request an extension by June 1, 2020 in order to meet the accreditation requirements.

On February 21, 2019, the Bureau received documentation of having achieved pre-accreditation with DEAC on August 3, 2018.

On January 22, 2020, the Bureau mailed to the Institution a letter requesting an update on the accreditation progress, outlining the procedure to follow if accreditation is no longer pursued, and informing the Institution of the opportunity to request an extension by June 1, 2020 in order to meet the accreditation requirements.

On April 15, 2020, the Bureau received documentation that showed since February 2019 the Institution had not made any accreditation progress with DEAC.

On May 31, 2020, the Bureau received an extension request from the Institution to achieve accreditation with DEAC.

On June 22, 2020, the Bureau informed the Institution that a 6-month extension to achieve accreditation with DEAC on or before January 1, 2021 was granted.

On December 14, 2020, the Bureau received an extension request from the Institution to achieve accreditation with DEAC.

On December 28, 2020, the Bureau informed the Institution that a 6-month extension to achieve accreditation with DEAC on or before July 1, 2021 was granted.

On May 28, 2021, the Bureau received an extension request from the Institution to achieve accreditation with DEAC.

On July 9, 2021, the Bureau received documentation in support of the May 28, 2021 request for extension. The Institution provided a revised timeline showing a final initial application to DEAC would be submitted on July 20, 2021. In addition, the Institution provided documentation from DEAC stating that the proposed aggressive timeline to achieve accreditation might be achieved.

On July 13, 2021, the Bureau informed the Institution that a 4-month extension to provide documentation confirming that Institution's July 2021 application to DEAC and fee have been accepted on or before November 1, 2021.

Between November 1, 2021 and November 3, 2021, the Bureau received a two-part extension request from the Institution to achieve accreditation with DEAC.

On November 17, 2021, the Bureau notified the Institution that their request for extension was denied, as the request did not provide the following: an amended accreditation plan adequately identifying why accreditation outlined in the original plan was not achieved, evidence to demonstrate that the institution had made strong progress toward achieving accreditation and documentation from an accrediting agency demonstrating that the Institution's likely ability to meet the requirements of CEC section 94885.1.

The Institution, therefore, did not achieve accreditation by November 1, 2021, following the 4-month extension that had been granted.

ORDER

In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94885.1(b)(2) and 5 CCR sections 71410 and 74250, the Bureau hereby orders the following:

The approval to operate, issued to San Diego University for Integrative Studies, is automatically suspended as to all of the institution's degree programs. The Bureau will not lift the suspension until the Institution complies with the requirements of CEC section 94885.1(b)(2) by submitting evidence to the Bureau of having achieved accreditation.

1. You must immediately **cease enrolling new students** in all of your degree programs.
2. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, you must submit a **degree program closure plan** to the Bureau with all of the following:
 - a. The date the institution stopped enrolling new students in the degree program(s).
 - b. A list of contact information for all students currently enrolled in each degree program.
 - c. A **teach-out plan** with information on the arrangements you have made for students to complete their educational programs at another institution. **The institution shall not teach-out its own students.** The teach-out plan must: (1) provide the name and location of the institution(s) providing the teach-out; (2) include a plan for the disposition of student records per CEC section 94927.5; (3) be compliant with the refund provisions of CEC section 94927; and (4) include a copy of the notification to be provided to students identified in item # 4 below.
3. The institution must notify, in writing, all currently enrolled students within five (5) business days of the effective date of this Order of the following:
 - a. That the institution has received a notice of suspension from the Bureau and may no longer offer degree programs.
 - b. The teach-out plan, which shall provide, at minimum, the following information: (1) the name and location of the institution(s) that is providing the teach-out, (2) the date upon which instruction at the teach-out institution(s) will begin, (3) how and when payments

will be made to the new institution and any relevant financial information, and (4) a contact person at the new institution(s).

- c. That the student has a right to choose not to participate in the teach-out, and instead seek a refund for any classes the student is currently enrolled in or has not yet completed.
4. Any student may seek a refund from the institution rather than participate in a proposed teach-out program. The school must provide refunds within 45 days of the request by a student.
5. Failure of any institution to comply with the requirements of this section will be considered a violation and subject to action by the Bureau.

APPEAL OF ORDER

You may request an appeal of this Order before the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs, or his or her designee. (5 CCR section 71410.)

Because this suspension is automatic per CEC section 94885.1(e), the institution shall not operate its degree programs during any appeal.

If you wish to appeal this Order, you must do so within 30 days from the effective date of the Order. *Unless you sign a written request for an appeal and deliver it to the Bureau within 30 days from the effective date of the Order, you will be deemed to have waived your right to appeal this matter to the Department of Consumer Affairs.*

Upon timely receipt of your request for an appeal, an informal office conference will be arranged within 30 days, or as extended at your request or by the Bureau for good cause. Upon request and approval, the person approved to operate the institution or representative may participate in the office conference by telephone.

Please submit your request to:

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
Attn: Cheryl Lardizabal, Discipline Analyst
1747 N. Market Blvd., Ste. 225
Sacramento, CA 95834

Failure by an institution to comply with the Order above may result in further enforcement action.
The Bureau will promptly take all appropriate action to enforce this Order.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this Order or can verify that you submitted evidence to the Bureau of accreditation candidacy or pre-accreditation, please contact Cheryl Lardizabal, Discipline Analyst, at (916) 574-7427 or at Cheryl.Lardizabal@dca.ca.gov.

“Original Signature on File”

“12/1/2021”

Jason Alley
Enforcement Chief

Date

Enclosures

- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail