

Dear Student,

Back in July, the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau), which approves and licenses the school you attend, [reached out to you regarding your school's accrediting agency, the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Universities \(ACICS\)](#) At that time, ACICS was facing possible loss of recognition by the United States Department of Education (Department).

Since then, on September 22, 2016, the Department notified ACICS of their decision to deny re-recognition to ACICS. On that same day, ACICS issued a [statement](#) announcing their decision to appeal the Department's decision. During the appeal process, ACICS will retain its federal recognition. There is no set timeframe for when a decision on the appeal must be made by the Secretary.

The Bureau has no role in the Department's decision, but this decision could have an impact on your school and on you. The Department's concerns with ACICS should not be seen as a reflection on your school and the timeline for this process is uncertain.

How this Impacts Your School:

- Potential loss of accreditation.
- Potential loss of federal funding.
- Potential loss of approval by the Bureau.

How This Impacts You:

- If ACICS loses its accrediting ability, then your school will no longer be accredited unless alternative accreditation is obtained.
- Your school's lack of accreditation could keep you from being licensed if the license requires you to graduate from an accredited school.
- It may also affect your job placement and your financial aid.
- It could mean that your school is no longer authorized to operate in California.

What You Can Do:

- Talk with your school administrators and learn how they plan to help their students.
- If you are enrolled in a program that leads to licensure, call or check the website of the licensing agency and determine if graduating from an accredited institution is a requirement
- Know your rights as a student. Visit the Bureau's website (www.bppe.ca.gov) or call at (888) 370-7589.
- Subscribe for E-mail notifications from the Bureau at:
<https://www.dca.ca.gov/webapps/bppe/subscribe.php>

For more information, go to the following links.

- Full Office of Postsecondary Education staff report: <https://opeweb.ed.gov/aslweb/finalstaffreports.cfm>
- Blog: <http://blog.ed.gov/2016/06/college-accreditation-changes-mean-students/>
- FAQ: <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/faqs-accrediting-agencies.pdf>
- Infographic: <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditor-federal-recognition-process-steps.pdf>