Policy on Out-of-State, Non-Degree Schools Providing Distance Education to Virginia Residents

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) regulates postsecondary institutions with demonstrable physical presence in the Commonwealth via a process called certification.

Out-of-state, non-degree schools that provide vocational educational offerings to Virginia residents via distance learning (i.e. – via computer, other telecommunications devices or mail correspondence courses) are not eligible for certification if they do not meet physical presence requirements in Virginia. At the minimum, vocational schools must maintain a physical location, facility, or instructional site in Virginia to be eligible for certification.

Physical presence is not triggered by any of the following:

1. Virginia residents who serve as faculty.
2. Advertising in media sources that can be viewed by Virginia residents.
3. Internships or externships at Virginia locations.

Out-of-state, non-degree schools that are not eligible for certification may refer to this statement as proof that they are not required to obtain certification.

Out-of-state, degree-granting institutions that do not participate in a reciprocity agreement to which the Commonwealth belongs must comply with § 23.1-219 (F) of the Code of Virginia, effective July 1, 2022.