

Angela Thomas

From: Ryan, Cassandra [Cassandra.Ryan@vermont.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 9:07 AM
To: Dan Howell
Subject: RE: Follow Up Email to Request for Authorization to Offer Online Education in Vermont

Good morning,

Vermont uses physical presence as the trigger to require state authorization for postsecondary operation. Vermont defines physical presence as any of the following occurring within Vermont borders: classrooms, in-person seminars, administrative offices, delivery of direct services to students, or any physical gathering of students required as part of a course of study. Physical presence does not include an in-state practicum, internship, clinicals, mentorship or teaching experience as long as it is not compensated by the institution. If the institution compensates individuals or organizations to provide these services to students within Vermont boundaries it would trigger physical presence. A professor based in VT would not alone trigger physical presence as long as all delivery is done solely via an online format - regardless of the location of the students.

As long as the actions of the Northpoint Bible College do not trigger physical presence as defined above, it would not require authorization in the state of Vermont.

If you believe the activities of Northpoint Bible College do trigger a physical presence in Vermont, the College will need to apply for and receive approval from the Vermont Agency of Education. Approval would require accreditation and approval by your home state.

This exemption does not preclude any individual institutions from the requirements of the Office of Professional Regulation at the Vermont Secretary of State's Office.

Please contact me with any questions.

Best Regards,

Cassandra Ryan
Fiscal and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator VT Agency of Education
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cassandra.ryan@vermont.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Howell [<mailto:dhowell@northpoint.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 8:37 AM
To: Ryan, Cassandra <Cassandra.Ryan@vermont.gov>
Subject: Follow Up Email to Request for Authorization to Offer Online Education in Vermont

Ms. Ryan,

I emailed you on Feb. 20 and I believe we talked one time since then. I called on June 9 but you were on vacation and then I call on June 30 and left a voice mail message.

I want to follow up about approval to offer online education in the state of Vermont. As you know, MA is not a part of SARA so we must seek authorization from individual states.

Our online program does not contain any type of internship so there is no physical presence instruction.

Below is the text of the email I sent in February:

Northpoint Bible College is a ministerial training school. Every student at Northpoint Bible College double majors. All students major in biblical studies and then choose a second vocational major. We offer vocational majors in: pastoral ministry, intercultural ministry, worship arts and media ministry, student ministry, children and family ministry, and church leadership.

Our accreditation is with The Association for Higher Biblical Education which is a recognized accrediting body by the Department of Education. Northpoint recently went through a re-affirmation self-study. In February of 2016 we were granted a ten-year re-affirmation accreditation term. We are also recognized by the State of Massachusetts to offer the Associate of Arts, Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Practical Theology degrees. In December of 2016 we submitted our Eligibility Report to NEASC.

We are inquiring about the requirements for offering online education in the state of Vermont. We are seeking to offer our Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degrees. As you are aware, MA is not affiliated with NC-SARA, so we are seeking permission from individual states. Specifically does Vermont have a religious exemption clause?

If you could respond to my inquiry as to what forms we may need to file or if a follow up phone conversation is warranted, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Howell
Chief Academic Officer
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