



November 30, 2016

Policy on Out-of-State Postsecondary Institutions Providing Distance Education to Virginia Residents

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) regulates post secondary institutions with demonstrable physical presence in the Commonwealth via a process called certification. An out-of-state institution providing educational offerings to Virginia residents via distance learning (i.e.: computer, other telecommunications devices or mail correspondence courses) is not eligible for certification if it does not meet physical presence in Virginia. At the minimum, the institution must maintain a physical location, facility or instructional site in Virginia in order 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 institutions that are not eligible for certification may refer to this statement as proof that they are not required to obtain certification.