



Peter Blake  
Director

*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA*  
*James Monroe Building, 101 North Fourteenth Street, Richmond, VA 23219*

(804) 225-2600  
FAX (804) 225-2604  
www.schev.edu

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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. SCHEV will no longer issue letters to individual institutions seeking to confirm this information.

According to current regulation, the information provided in this statement is correct as of this date. Any changes will be posted as updates on this website.