

Dear Ms. Eshleman:

As I am sure you are well aware, in October 2010, the U.S. Department of Education released regulations requiring institutions offering distance or correspondence education in other states to meet any State requirements for it to be legally offering postsecondary distance or correspondence education in that State. Educational institutions that offer distance education programs have a July, 2011 deadline to determine which states they need to seek approval/licensure and to apply for approval in each of those states. Because you have been identified as a state with existing regulations for distance education, I am contacting you.

In my role as Associate Vice-Chancellor for Faculty Affairs at the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, I am reaching out to you for information on what our public institutions need to do to obtain this approval from your state.

As background, the University System of Georgia (USG) consists of 35 institutions ranging from two-year schools to research institutions and all institutions report to a Chancellor. The Chancellor reports to a Board of Regents which oversees the 35 colleges and universities that comprise the University System of Georgia, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography and The Georgia Public Library System. These institutions collectively enrolled approximately 31,500 out-of-state students for the Fall of 2010, and about 10% of those were enrolled in distance education offerings.

If you could provide me with direction as to the steps which are necessary to obtain approval from your state that would be most helpful. Also, I would like to discuss with you or the appropriate person in your area, the possibility of the USG obtaining approval from your state on behalf of all our 35 institutions as opposed to each institution seeking individual approval.