



Martin O'Malley
Governor

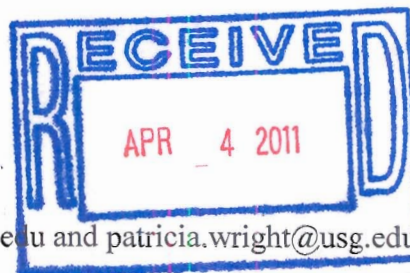
Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Anwer Hasan
Chairperson

Elisabeth A. Sachs
Interim Secretary

March 31, 2011

Dr. Linda M. Noble
Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs
Board of Regents of the
University System of Georgia
270 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-1450



VIA EMAIL: linda.noble@usg.edu and patricia.wright@usg.edu

Dear Dr. Noble:

This letter is written in response to an inquiry to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (the Commission) regarding online education offered to Maryland residents by an unapproved out-of-state institution.

At this point in time, a program which is completely online, offered by an accredited out-of-state collegiate institution, does not require a certificate of approval from the Commission. This exclusion is specific to collegiate online academic programs for which there are no credit offerings, no academic student support services, etc., for the program provided at any Maryland location.

However, online programs that involve instructor, mentor or supervisor led internships, practica, clinical or field experiences, student teaching, etc., in Maryland that lead to the awarding of credit hours and/or a degree or certificate do require a certificate of approval from the Commission.

If an out-of-state institution is not accredited, it must have a certificate of approval from the Commission for any administrative activity in Maryland that is tied to course credits, or the granting of degrees or certificates.

The guidelines for submitting an out-of-state application may be found at the following link, <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/higherEd/acadAff/AcadProgInstitApprovals/Out-of-StateInstit.asp>.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Sue A. Blanshan, Ph.D.
Director of Academic Affairs