

Thank you for contacting our office. To ensure quality education, the North Carolina General Assembly has delegated the authority to license post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina (creditable to an associate, bachelor, master's, or doctoral degree) to the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. Institutions offering diploma and/or certificate programs are licensed separately by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges. The UNC Board of Governors has adopted Rules and Standards which define post-secondary degree activity to include conduct with respect to either a complete post-secondary degree program, or any study or experience or testing represented as creditable toward a post-secondary degree.

Section III of the Rules and Standards specifically provide that an institution undertakes post-secondary degree activity in this State when it commences the activity by:

- a. Use of employees or agents within North Carolina; or
- b. Transmission, presentation, or dissemination of information over or through electronic equipment that is located in North Carolina and owned, leased, rented, licensed, or otherwise reserved for use by the institution; or
- c. Use of real property or facilities that are located in North Carolina and owned, leased, rented, licensed, or otherwise reserved for use by the institution; or
- d. Agreement with a third party to transmit, present, or disseminate information on behalf of the institution through any of the means described in a, b, or c, above.

Exemptions from licensure for certain religious education and post-secondary degree activity within the military are addressed in Section X of the Rules and Standards.

For illustration purposes, the Board of Governors has made the following determinations in the past regarding online post-secondary degree activity:

- Activities which require licensure: practicums, clinical experiences, and student teaching.
- Activities which do not require licensure: proctored exams, attendance at college fairs, adjunct faculty residing in North Carolina and teaching an online course.

These determinations are subject to change depending upon specific factual circumstances or changes in the law or interpretations of the law.

In determining whether to seek licensure, the following resources are available online:

UNC Board of Governors Rules and Standards,
http://www.northcarolina.edu/aa_planning/licensure/Rules__Standards__Master_Updated_1-081.pdf

UNC General Administration Licensure Web site,
http://www.northcarolina.edu/aa_planning/licensure/index.htm