

State of Montana Approval and Licensure Requirements

The State of Montana has the following applicable approval and licensure requirements:

- **Montana Code Annotated § 20-25-107**

Regulation of award of degrees – penalty. (1) No person, corporation, association, or institution shall issue any degree or such similar literary honors as are usually granted by universities or colleges without the prior approval of the regents of the adequacy of the course of study.*

(2) This section does not apply to any educational institution accredited by an educational accrediting association whose accrediting is found by the regents to be generally recognized by state and other universities in the United States.

(3) Violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

For purposes of MCA §20-25-107, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System recognizes the following accrediting agencies:

1. New England Association of Schools and Colleges
2. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
3. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
4. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
6. Western Association of Schools and Colleges OR
7. Any accrediting agency approved and accepted by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation at <http://www.chea.org> (Approved by the Board of Regents' - March 2011)

(See Montana University System Board of Regents 320.1 at: <http://mus.edu/borpol/bor300/320-1.pdf>)

*The Board of Regents does not have an independent review process for schools not accredited by one of the above listed agencies. Accreditation by one of the above listed agencies is the exclusive method of recognition by the Board of Regents for purposes of §20-25-107 MCA.

- **Montana Code Annotated Title 35 (Corporations, Partnerships, and Associations)**

Pursuant to the laws set forth in Title 35 of the Montana Code Annotated, out-of-state businesses may not transact business in Montana without meeting the registration requirements of the Montana Secretary of State's Office. Additional information can be found at: <http://sos.mt.gov/Business/Forms/index.asp>

Dr. Thomas Gibson (tgibson@montana.edu) in our office has been designated as the official contact point to receive information on behalf of the Montana Commissioner on Higher Education, from those out-of-State institutions that desire to offer online academic programs in Montana.