## TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION - rECOMMENDation FOR renewal of authorization as a Place of business of ECPI University

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1. **SUMMARY**

This consent item recommends the renewal of authorization as a Place of Business (with no instruction) for ECPI University under the Degree Authorization Act.

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## BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act (DAA). The Act sets out the terms by which the Commission may authorize accredited private colleges and universities, out-of-state public colleges and universities, and seminaries and bible colleges to operate in Colorado.

The DAA outlines the Department’s jurisdiction over private education programs available to the residents of the state of Colorado. The DAA establishes standards to (1) prevent misrepresentation, fraud, and collusion in offering educational programs to the public and (2) protect, preserve, foster, and encourage the educational programs offered by private educational institutions, which meet generally recognized criteria of quality and effectiveness as determined through voluntary accreditation.

1. **STAFF ANALYSIS**

Pursuant to statute and policy, all authorized institutions under the DAA must renew authorization periodically. The renewal period varies by the type of authorization the institution holds from the CCHE. ECPI University has applied for renewal of authorization as a Place of Business without instruction.

The Place of Business (with no instruction) authorization is defined as an accredited institution having a place of business within Colorado but may not offer instruction in the state. These institutions are subject to the deceptive trade practice provisions in §23-2-104, C.R.S.

ECPI University or East Coast Polytechnic Institute, a Virginia based institution offering undergraduate and graduate level education, is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The majority of ECPI University’s admissions and student services advisors who serve online students are located in the University’s main campus in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The Colorado location allows the University to provide expanded hours of operation to serve online students located in the Mountain and Pacific Time Zones. The University does not conduct any instructional design or delivery in or through the Colorado administrative office, nor is there a plan to do so in the future.

The support staff members in Colorado provide service to new and continuing ECPI students through various methods such as telephone, email, and Skype. There are no in-person meetings with students or prospective students in the Colorado office. Employees complete the admissions process for enrollment. Students complete their enrollment paperwork online and submit all payments online, no application fees or tuition is collected in Colorado. As of the most recent reported enrollment, there are ~20 students from Colorado enrolled in ECPI University’s online programs and 18 staff members working at the Colorado administrative office.

ECPI University continues to meet the criteria to operate as an institution with a Place of Business (with no instruction) at its Colorado location and therefore meets the renewal requirements for this authorization level.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends the Commission approve the renewal of authorization as a Place of Business (with no instruction) for ECPI University.**

1. **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S §23-2-103.3(5) A private college or university that has authorization from the commission pursuant to this section and maintains its accreditation shall apply to the department for reauthorization in accordance with the schedule for reaccreditation by its accrediting body or every three years, whichever is longer. A seminary or religious training institution shall apply for reauthorization every three years. A private college or university or seminary or religious training institution that seeks reauthorization shall submit an application in accordance with the procedures and policies adopted by the commission and shall pay the reauthorization fee established by the commission pursuant to [section 23-2-104.5](http://web.lexisnexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=0440209b70196c0a450023ec95de11c7&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5bC.R.S.%2023-2-103.3%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=4&_butStat=0&_butNum=3&_butInline=1&_butinfo=COCODE%2023-2-104.5&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=1&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLzVzB-zSkAb&_md5=fccf21cdb05ad81de4864a4d217ac5a1).