



# TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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## Statement of Exemption Based on Offering Religious Disciplines

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Chapter 7.9 of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rules outlines exemption provisions for religious institutions offering degrees, whether in person or via distance education, in religious disciplines.

In *H.E.B. Ministries v. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*, 235 S.W.3d 627 (2007), the Texas Supreme Court held that sections 61.304 and 61.313(a) of the Texas Education Code, which regulate the activities of degree-granting institutions, may not constitutionally be "applied to a religious institution's program of religious instruction."

Provided an institution's activities are entirely religious in nature, they are outside the purview of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and no approval is required.

If a religious institution would like to offer a degree program or courses leading to a degree in a non-religious discipline, the institution must follow the requirements in Coordinating Board Rules Chapter 7.7 relating to institutions accredited by Board recognized accreditors or Chapter 7.8 relating to institutions not accredited by a Board recognized accreditor.