

Frequently Asked Questions

Degree-Granting Colleges and Institutions Other Than Texas Public Institutions

A

Abbreviations

1. What are the common agency abbreviations used within these FAQs?
 - THECB: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
 - THECB Rules: Texas Administrative Rules that apply to degree-granting institutions offering programs or courses in Texas. The Rules may be found on the THECB website [here](#).
 - TWC: Texas Workforce Commission

Academic Programs

1. Does the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board authorize specific academic programs or only institutions themselves?

THECB authorizes degree-granting institutions to offer programs or courses. An institution may only offer those degree programs, and courses leading to degrees, and degree levels for which THECB or the institution's recognized accrediting agency has granted authorization to the institution. Programs may not be authorized separate from an institution.

Accrediting Agencies

1. What accrediting agencies does the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognize?

THECB recognizes all regional accrediting agencies and several national or programmatic accrediting agencies. A complete list of recognized accreditors may be found on the THECB website [here](#).

Agency Information

1. Which agency has oversight over degree-granting private and public (non-Texas) postsecondary institutions?

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board authorizes all private and public (non-Texas) postsecondary institutions offering or seeking to offer degree programs

and courses leading to degrees in the state. THECB does not have oversight over [Religious Institutions](#) only offering degrees in religious disciplines.

2. Do any other agencies have oversight over degree-granting private and public (non-Texas) postsecondary institutions?

[The Texas Workforce Commission](#) may give an exemption or [Certificate of Approval](#) to an institution before the institution may operate or advertise in Texas. See the [TWC website](#) for specific exemption criteria.

Other state agencies may license or approve specific occupations or professions. You may search the www.texas.gov website for further information.

3. What types of occupations or professions may require oversight by other Texas agencies?

The following is a non-exhaustive list of state agencies and boards which have oversight over specific occupations or professions in Texas:

- State Bar of Texas (attorney continuing legal education) - www.texasbar.com
- Texas Board of Nursing (RNs, LVNs) - www.bon.texas.gov
- Texas Commission on Fire Protection (fire protection personnel) - www.tcfp.texas.gov
- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (law enforcement personnel) - www.tcleose.state.tx.us
- Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (many occupations, including cosmetology) - www.license.state.tx.us
- Texas Department of State Health Services (social workers, professional counselors, EMS, health and wellness occupations) - www.dshs.state.tx.us
- Texas Education Agency, State Board for Educator Certification (teacher certifications) - www.tea.state.tx.us
- Texas Medical Board (physicians, PAs, acupuncturists) - www.tmb.state.tx.us
- Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (dentists, hygienists, assistants) - www.tsbde.state.tx.us
- Texas State Board of Pharmacy (pharmacists, technicians) - www.tsbp.state.tx.us
- Texas State Board of Public Accountancy (CPAs) - www.tsbpa.state.tx.us

Address

1. What is the mailing address for the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#)?

P.O. Box 12788, Austin, TX 78711-2788

2. What is the physical address for the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#)?

1200 E. Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752

Alternative Certificate of Authority

1. What is an Alternative Certificate of Authority?

An Alternative Certificate of Authority is issued by THECB. The Alternative Certificate of Authority is a temporary [Certificate of Authority](#) granting approval of postsecondary institutions (other than THECB-exempt institutions), with operations in the state of Texas, to confer degrees or courses applicable to degrees, or to solicit students for enrollment in institutions that confer degrees or courses applicable to degrees, with the understanding that the institution is working toward application for a [Certificate of Authority](#).

2. Does the Alternative Certificate of Authority expire?

The Alternative Certificate of Authority is valid for twelve (12) months, after which a regular [Certificate of Authority](#) shall be required. Application for the [Certificate of Authority](#) must be made and approved by THECB within the twelve month period that the Alternative Certificate of Authority is valid.

3. How can an institution apply for an Alternative Certificate of Authority?

THECB [Rule 7.8\(14\)](#) lists the requirements and timeline for an Alternative Certificate of Authority.

Annual Reports

1. What annual reports must be filed with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board?

Information regarding data reporting may be found [here](#).

B

C

Certificate of Approval

1. What is a Certificate of Approval?

A Certificate of Approval is issued by the [Texas Workforce Commission](#). TWC grants approval of career schools or colleges with operations in Texas to maintain, advertise, solicit for, or conduct any program of instruction in this state.

Certificate of Authority

1. What is a Certificate of Authority?

A Certificate of Authority is issued by [THECB](#). THECB grants approval of postsecondary institutions (other than THECB-exempt institutions), with operations in the state of Texas, to confer degrees or courses applicable to degrees, or to solicit students for enrollment in institutions that confer degrees or courses applicable to degrees.

2. Who may receive a Certificate of Authority?

A postsecondary institution, (other than a THECB-[Exempt Institution](#)) with operations in the state of Texas that has been approved by THECB to confer degrees or courses applicable to degrees, or to solicit students for enrollment in institutions that confer degrees or courses applicable to degrees.

3. Is an application for a Certificate of Authority subject to public comment?

Yes. Applications for Certificates of Authority are listed on the Coordinating Board's quarterly meeting [agendas](#). The agendas are publicly available. A person or entity may appear and publicly comment regarding a Certificate of Authority application during the quarterly Coordinating Board meeting at which the application is under discussion.

4. What is the application process for a Certificate of Authority?

Instructions for institutions needing a Certificate of Authority may be found [here](#).

5. How long does it take to obtain a Certificate of Authority?

Six to nine months from time of application for a Certificate of Authority. Coordinating Board approval is required before a Certificate of Authority may be issued.

6. When does a Certificate of Authority expire?

A Certificate of Authority is valid for two years from date of issuance. An institution may be granted consecutive Certificates of Authority for no more than eight years.

7. What must an institution do to maintain a Certificate of Authority?

Continue to meet the standards outlined in THECB [Rule 7.4](#).

8. Can an institution lose their Certificate of Authority?

Yes, if an institution begins to offer degree programs at a level for which it is not authorized or violates the standards outlined in THECB [Rule 7.4](#).

Certificate of Authorization

1. What is a Certificate of Authorization?

A Certificate of Authorization is issued by THECB. The Certificate of Authorization is THECB's acknowledgment that an institution is qualified for an [Exemption](#) from the regulations in this subchapter due to accreditation through a THECB-recognized [Accrediting Agency](#).

2. Who may receive a Certificate of Authorization?

An institution that is accredited by a Board-recognized [Accrediting Agency](#) and that wishes to have a [Physical Presence](#) in Texas may receive a Certificate of Authorization.

3. Is an application for a Certificate of Authorization subject to public comment?

No

4. What is the application process for a Certificate of Authorization?

Instructions for institutions needing a Certificate of Authorization may be found [here](#).

5. How long does it take to obtain a Certificate of Authorization?

Approximately 30 days.

6. When does a Certificate of Authorization expire?

The Certificate of Authorization does not expire. However, institutions may be required to obtain an updated Certificate of Authorization if their degree-level offerings change. Institutions are also required to update information regarding their clinical/internship locations on a yearly basis.

7. What must an institution do to maintain a Certificate of Authorization?

Maintain accreditation by a THECB-recognized [Accrediting Agency](#) at the institution's approved [Degree Level](#).

8. Can an institution lose their Certificate of Authorization?

Yes. An institution's Certificate of Authorization may be revoked for the following reasons

- a) Institution no longer holds a [Certificate of Approval](#) or Letter of Exemption issued by TWC.
- b) Institution loses accreditation from a THECB-recognized [Accrediting Agency](#).
- c) Institution's accreditor is removed from the [U.S. Department of Education](#) or THECB's list of [Approved Accreditors](#).
- d) Institution fails to comply with data reporting or substantive change notification requirements.
- e) Institution offers degrees for which it does not have accreditor approval.

Institutions may also lose their Certificate of Authorization if the authorization is solely based on active clinical or internships sites which are no longer active.

9. I want to offer a new program under my institution's current Certificate of Authorization. What do I need to do?

In order for the new program to be added to the THECB [database of programs approved](#) under your institution's Certificate of Authorization, you must first receive proof of your accreditor's approval for the program. Once the accrediting agency's approval is received, the institution should forward proof of accreditation/approval to THECB. Your institution's table of programs will be updated with the new program.

Closed Schools

1. My school is closing. What are my options?

TWC maintains information for students regarding [school closures](#).

2. I need to obtain a transcript, but my school closed. What should I do?

If your school closed prior to 1972, there are no provisions in place for maintaining those records. Since 1972, TWC has been required to monitor where student records are maintained and what entity controls them. TWC maintains a [closed school list](#) with contact information for all closed schools. The list also includes information you should supply when requesting a transcript.

Conditional Certificate of Authorization

1. What is a Conditional Certificate of Authorization?

A Conditional Certificate of Authorization is issued by THECB. The Conditional Certificate of Authorization is THECB's acknowledgement that an institution is qualified for an [Exemption](#), once certain specified conditions have been satisfied.

2. Does the Conditional Certificate of Authorization expire?

The Conditional Certificate of Authorization will have a specific effective and expiration date determined by the nature of the conditions that must be satisfied. These conditions will be outlined in the letter that accompanies the Conditional Certificate of Authorization.

Consumer Protection

1. Does the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board have a process for handling consumer or student complaints about postsecondary degree-granting institutions or programs?

Yes. The process is currently under review. THECB expects to adopt final rules in the future.

2. Does the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board have a complaint form?

No complaint form currently exists. Complaints should be made in writing and sent to the address or email listed in the next answer regarding the complaint process.

The only general form currently available on the THECB website is at: <https://www1.thecb.state.tx.us/WWW/comments/> - (please select "Complaint Against a College or University" from the pull-down menu).

3. What is the complaint process?

The first step is to follow the complaint procedures in the institution's catalog, student handbook, and/or those listed on the institution's website.

If the issue is not resolved, contact either the Texas Workforce Commission's Career School section at 512.936.3100 (certificate /diploma program issues) or the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Office of General Counsel (degree-granting program issues). See [Contact Information](#) or email to: studentcomplaints@thecb.state.tx.us.

4. Does this complaint process extend to institutions legally operating in Texas, but not authorized by THECB, that may enroll residents of the state (such as distance education programs with no physical presence or exempt institutions)?

No, but the answer to this question is under review.

5. What is the complaint process regarding institutions which are allegedly operating illegally in Texas?

See [Substandard Degrees](#).

Contact Information

1. How do I contact the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding degree-granting colleges and institutions other than Texas public institutions?

See [Address](#) for THECB mailing and physical address.

Main THECB telephone number: 512-427-6101

The Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research Division staff can also answer questions regarding specific institutions. Division contact information:

Telephone: 512-427-6200

Fax number: 512-427-6168

Email address: Chapter7@THECB.state.tx.us

D

Degree Level

1. What is an approved degree level?

THECB will issue a [Certificate of Authority](#) or [Certificate of Authorization](#) to an institution to offer programs and grant degrees at specified levels. Institutions may not offer degree levels that have not been approved by THECB.

Diploma Mill

1. What is a diploma mill?

A detailed discussion of diploma mills can be found [here](#). Also, see [Substandard Degrees](#).

Distance Education

1. Does the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board require purely (100%) distance education programs, including online or correspondence study programs that enroll residents of Texas, to be authorized without regard to physical presence?

No, if the institution offering 100% distance education programs fulfills the following criteria: 1) Institution is recognized by an [Accrediting Agency](#) that THECB recognizes; and 2) Institution does not meet the THECB definition of [Physical](#)

[Presence](#). The institution would be considered [Exempt](#) from THECB regulation based on distance education.

2. “What if an institution is offering 100% distance education programs to Texas residents, does not have a physical presence in Texas, is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Department of Education, but the accrediting agency is not recognized by the THECB?”

The rule governing this scenario is under review. Please [contact](#) THECB if your institution falls into this category.

3. What if an institution is offering 100% distance education programs, but meets the THECB definition of [Physical Presence](#)?

The institution would not be considered exempt from THECB regulation based on distance education. The institution would need to follow THECB requirements for either a [Certificate of Authority](#) or a [Certificate of Authorization](#), depending on the institution’s accreditation status.

4. Is THECB the only Texas state agency which must be contacted regarding distance education?

No. An institution offering distance education programs must also consult with the [TWC](#). See [Agency Information](#) for additional agencies which may regulate an institution’s distance education. Some agencies may limit the amount of instruction offered via distance education.

E

Enforcement

1. If the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board finds that a degree-granting institution is operating in Texas without authorization, what is the resulting warning or enforcement action?

The matter may be handled internally and if efforts are unavailing, then referred to the Office of the Attorney General.

2. Can a degree-granting institution appeal a warning or enforcement action?

If any injunction is obtained against a degree-granting institution, such action would be appealable through the court system in accordance with applicable law.

Exempt Institutions

1. What are the categories of THECB exemption?

The following categories of institutions are generally exempt from THECB regulation:

- [Religious Institutions](#) that offer only degree programs or courses in religious disciplines
- Institutions that offer [Distance Education](#) with no [Physical Presence](#) in Texas
- Institutions whose state higher education agency or system has entered into a [Reciprocal State Exemption Agreement](#) with THECB.
- Institutions who qualify for a [Certificate of Authorization](#).

2. What process should an institution follow to receive an exemption from THECB?

An institution that qualifies as an [Exempt Institution](#) based on [Religious Disciplines](#) or [Distance Education](#) only is not required to submit additional information to THECB.

An institution that qualifies as an exempt institution based on a [Reciprocal State Exemption Agreement](#) recognized by the Commissioner of Higher Education is exempt as long as the Commissioner acknowledges the applicability of the agreement.

An institution that qualifies as an [Exempt Institution](#) based on a [Certificate of Authorization](#) must follow the application process in order to receive the Certificate.

3. My institution is [Exempt](#). Does my institution need to comply with any other THECB [Rules](#)?

The answer depends on the type of [Exemption](#). Institutions exempt based on [Religious Disciplines](#) and [Distance Education](#) only need not take any other actions. Institutions exempt under a [Certificate of Authority](#) or [Certificate of Authorization](#) need to file [Annual Reports](#) with THECB.

4. Do exempt institutions receive any written confirmation of exemption?

The [Flowchart of Approval Processes for Degree-Granting Colleges and Universities Other than Texas Public Institutions](#) contains links to written statements of exemption.

Institutions offering only [Religious Disciplines](#) do not need a letter. However, they may print an exemption statement from the [Flowchart](#).

Institutions offering [Distance Education](#) with no [Physical Presence](#) in Texas, including those under a [Reciprocal State Exemption Agreement](#), do not need a letter. However, they may print an exemption statement from the [Flowchart](#).

Institutions who qualify as exempt based on a [Certificate of Authorization](#) will receive a Certificate once their application is approved.

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Federal Land

1. Are there any THECB [Rules or Requirements](#) regarding degree-granting programs on federal lands located in Texas?

According to [THECB Rule 7.5](#), an institution that is operating on land in Texas over which the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction shall limit the recruitment of students and advertising of the institution or its programs or courses to the confines of the federal land and to the military or civilian employees and their dependents who work or live on that land. The institution shall not enlist any agent, representative, or institution to recruit or to advertise by any medium, the institution or its programs or courses except on the federal land.

See, [Military Installations](#) for more information.

Fees

1. What are the fees associated with institutional authorization?

The following fees are current as of June 1, 2012:

- [Certificate of Authority](#) application fee: \$5,000
- Amendment to a [Certificate of Authority](#): \$500
- Registration of an agent for a non-exempt institution: \$100
- [Certificate of Authorization](#): currently no fees
- External consultants: Costs incurred in connection with necessary site visits

Fraudulent Degree – see [Substandard Degree](#)

Fraudulent Institution – see [Substandard Degree](#)

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Illegal Degree – see [Substandard Degree](#)

In-state Degree Programs

1. My institution wishes to offer have a [Physical Presence](#) in Texas. How do I determine for which Certificate I apply?

Institutions with no accreditation or not accredited by an [Accrediting Agency](#) recognized by the state of Texas must apply for and receive a [Certificate of Authority](#).

Institutions accredited by an [Accrediting Agency](#) recognized by the State of Texas must receive a [Certificate of Authorization](#).

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Military Installations

1. Does the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board have oversight over degree-granting institutions or programs on military installations located in Texas?

No. The U.S. Department of Defense oversees postsecondary education on military installations. For information on this oversight, see the DoD Memorandum of Understanding at <http://www.dodmou.com/> .

2. Does the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board have oversight over degree programs or courses offered to military personnel at locations within Texas other than on military installations?

Yes. THECB regulations apply to all degree-granting institutions or programs being offered to students in Texas, regardless of military status, whenever the programs are offered off military installations or [Federal Lands](#). An institution should consult [THECB Rules](#) for coverage of their particular programs.

Multi-campus Institutions

1. Can an institution apply for multi-campus or multi-location authorization?

No. Each campus or location must seek authorization to offer degree programs at their location.

2. My institution offers different programs at locations within Texas. Is this OK?

It is OK to offer different degree programs at different locations within Texas as long as each location has separate THECB authorization to offer the specific degree programs or courses at its campus and within the scope of their accreditation.

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P

Physical Presence

1. What does THECB consider to be physical presence?

Physical presence is defined as either:

(A) “while in Texas, a representative of the school or a person being paid by the school, who conducts an activity related to postsecondary education, including for the purposes of recruiting students (excluding the occasional participation in a college/career fair involving multiple institutions or other event similarly limited in scope in the state of Texas), teaching or proctoring courses including internships, clinicals, externships, practicums, and other similarly constructed educational activities (excluding those individuals that are involved in teaching courses in which there is no physical contact with Texas students), or grants certificates or degrees; and/or

(B) the institution has any location within the state of Texas which would include any address, physical site, telephone number, or facsimile number within or originating from within the boundaries of the state of Texas.

2. My institution is engaged in _____. Does this activity alone constitute physical presence?

- Advertising in Texas – either locally or via national media sources: No
- Employing teachers or instructors who reside in Texas: No
- Employing proctors for courses or exams in Texas: Yes
- Employing mentors, tutors or preceptors in Texas to aid students who are residents of Texas on an individual basis: Yes
- Requiring students to take a proctored exam at:
 - A location or with an entity in Texas prescribed by the institution: Yes
 - A location or with an entity in Texas chosen by the student but approved by the institution: Yes
- Placing students at clinical or internship sites in Texas when:
 - The institution has organized the clinical/internship: Yes
 - The student found the clinical/internship site independent of the institution: Yes. An agency relationship between the site and the

institution is created when a clinical/internship site allows a student to complete his/her clinical/internship at the site.

- The student is considered a visiting student at an in-state institution: No.
- Having a doctoral student who is conducting clinical research in a lab in Texas: No
- Recruiting students in Texas:
 - Yes if recruiter is stationed in or collecting money in Texas
 - No if recruitment occurs as part of a multi-institution school fair or event
- Using a server located in Texas: No
- Using a telephone or facsimile number originating from Texas: Yes
- An agreement with an in-state institution/entity to offer services to students (i.e. library, gym, computer centers, etc.): No
- Hosting short-term, face-to-face seminars or conferences in Texas where students meet in person: Yes

Program Approval

1. Can a program be authorized by THECB separate from the institution offering the program?

No. Only institutions are authorized by THECB. Programs approved to be offered in Texas fall under the institution's authorization.

2. Does my institution need program approval from our accreditor before we may offer the program in Texas?

Yes. If the institution is operating under a [Certificate of Authorization](#), the institution's accreditor must have approved the institution to offer the specific program. Programs not approved by an institution's accreditor may not be offered in Texas under a [Certificate of Authorization](#).

Protected Terms

1. What are protected terms?

THECB [Rule 7.3\(33\)](#) defines protected terms as "college," "university," "school of medicine," "medical school," "health science center," "school of law," "law school," or "law center," its abbreviation, foreign cognate or equivalents.

2. What are the restrictions on using these protected terms?

Under THECB [Rule 7.5\(4\)](#), an institution or person may not use a protected term in the official name or title of a nonexempt private postsecondary institution, an educational or

training establishment, or describe an institution using any of these terms or a term having a similar meaning, except as authorized by the Board, or solicit another person to seek a degree or to earn a credit that is offered by an institution or establishment that is using a term in violation of this section.

3. How can my institution or organization obtain authorization to use a protected term?

Requests to use protected terms should be sent to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research Division. See, [Contact Information](#) or [Address](#). Your request should include the organization's proposed name, address, telephone number and contact information.

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Reciprocal State Exemption Agreement

1. What is a reciprocal state exemption agreement?

An agreement entered into between THECB and an out-of-state higher education agency or higher education system creating a reciprocal agreement whereby that entity's institutions are [exempted](#) from THECB oversight for the purposes of [Distance Education](#). In exchange, participating Texas public or private institutions of higher education as defined in [Section 61.003](#) of the [Texas Education Code](#) would be exempted from that state's oversight for the purposes of [Distance Education](#).

2. Which states have entered into a reciprocal state exemption agreement with THECB?

As of June 1, 2012, no state higher education agency or system has entered into a reciprocal state exemption agreement with THECB.

3. Is THECB willing to enter into reciprocal state exemption agreements?

Yes. Please [contact](#) THECB to discuss specific agreement terms.

Reciprocity – see [Reciprocal State Exemption Agreement](#)

Religious Institutions

1. Are religious institutions regulated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board?

Religious institutions that only offer degrees in religious disciplines are not under THECB oversight. They may print out a letter of exemption [here](#). Religious institutions also need to contact [TWC](#) for a letter of exemption.

2. What if my religious institution also offers degree programs in non-religious disciplines, such as English or Business?

The institution would not qualify for a religious exemption. THECB would have oversight over the institution if it had a physical presence in Texas. If the religious institution only offered distance education to students in Texas, the institution might qualify for the [Distance Education](#) exemption.

Rules

1. Which THECB rules explain the requirements for degree-granting private and public (non-Texas) postsecondary institutions?

THECB [Chapter 7](#) specifically addresses requirements placed upon degree-granting private and public (non-Texas) postsecondary institutions.

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State Reciprocity – see [Reciprocal State Exemption Agreement](#)

Student Complaints – see [Consumer Protection](#)

Substandard Degree

1. What is a substandard degree?

This may also be called a [Fraudulent Degree](#) or an [Illegal Degree](#). A substandard degree is conferred by a person or entity that, at the time the degree was conferred, was not eligible to confer degrees in the state of Texas or to Texas residents. This ineligibility may occur in several ways. First, at the time the degree was conferred, the person or entity was operating in Texas in violation of [THECB Rules Chapter 7](#). Second, at the time the degree was conferred, the person or entity may not have been eligible to receive a [Certificate of Authority](#) and was either (a) operating in another state in violation of a law regulating the conferral of degrees in that state or in the state in which the degree recipient was residing or (b) without accreditation by a recognized [Accrediting Agency](#) if the degree was not approved through the review process described in [Chapter 7](#) for [Certificates of Authority](#). Third, at the time the degree was conferred, the person or entity was not eligible to receive a [Certificate of Authority](#) under [Chapter 7](#), was operating outside the United States, and whose degree THECB determines is not the equivalent of an accredited or authorized degree.

For more information regarding substandard, fraudulent or illegal degrees, click [here](#).

2. What is the process for notifying THECB of an institution that may be offering substandard or illegal degrees in Texas?

Questions regarding persons or entities who may be offering substandard, fraudulent or illegal degrees in Texas may be directed to the Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research division of THECB. See, [Contact Information](#).

The general comment form may also be used at:

<https://www1.thecb.state.tx.us/WWW/comments/> - (please select "Complaint Against a College or University" from the pull-down menu).

3. How is an institution added to the [Institutions Whose Degrees are Illegal to Use in Texas](#) list on the THECB website?

THECB may be notified of or may independently discover a potentially substandard degree-granting entity. Once an investigation has been conducted by THECB staff, if the entity's degrees are found to meet the definition of a substandard degree, the entity will be placed on the list of [Institutions Whose Degrees are Illegal to Use in Texas](#).

4. How is an institution removed from the [Institutions Whose Degrees are Illegal to Use in Texas](#) list on the THECB website?

An institution may be removed from the list of [Institutions Whose Degrees are Illegal to Use in Texas](#) by one of the following ways:

- a) Submit proof of accreditation by one of the [Accrediting Agencies](#) recognized by THECB. Institutions which have a [Physical Presence](#) in Texas and are accredited by a recognized accreditor may receive a [Certificate of Authorization](#).
 - b) Apply for and meet all requirements to be eligible for a [Certificate of Authority](#). Institutions which have a [Physical Presence](#) in Texas and meet the requirements may be issued a [Certificate of Authority](#).
 - c) Institutions who assert they do not have a [Physical Presence](#) in Texas, claim to be accredited or approved by a non-recognized accreditor or a foreign government and desire to be removed from the list, must submit sufficient proof that the institution's accreditor or foreign government has standards as rigorous as THECB's standards applied to meet the requirements for a [Certificate of Authority](#).
5. My institution is recognized by another state's higher education agency. Does THECB automatically recognize approval by an out-of-state higher education agency?

No.

6. My institution is recognized by another country's higher education agency. Does THECB automatically recognize approval by another country's higher education agency?

No.

7. My institution is accredited by an accreditor that is not recognized by THECB. Why doesn't THECB automatically recognize approval by all accrediting agencies, including international accreditors?

Texas law governs which accrediting agencies are recognized by THECB. [Rule 7.6](#) outlines the criteria used in recognizing an accrediting agency.

8. Does the THECB list of [Institutions Whose Degrees are Illegal to Use in Texas](#) indicate my degree is considered substandard everywhere?

You should always check with a particular state or country regarding their regulation of entities offering postsecondary degrees. Texas law focuses on protecting Texas residents and employers.

Texas law requires colleges and universities operating in Texas are approved by THECB or accredited by an [Accrediting Agency](#) recognized by THECB. Texas law also protects Texas residents who may earn online substandard degrees from institutions offering degrees to Texas residents and Texas employers who might otherwise hire persons who hold degrees from institutions offering substandard degrees.

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Texas-based Degree Programs – see [In-state degree programs](#)

Transcripts – see [Closed Schools](#)

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Yearly Reporting – see [Annual Reports](#)

Z