

# SHEEO State Authorization Inventory

## California

**Please note:** For purposes of this survey, the terms “authorize” and “authorization” are used generically to include approve, certify, license, regulate, recognize, empower, or similar actions relative to the operation, provision, or availability of postsecondary education in your state.

**The following agency did not respond to the survey. This information was provided courtesy of the law firm Dow Lohnes PLLC and was current as of September 2011.**

### 1. Agency and Contact Information

a. Agency Name: **Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education**

o Description:

The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education regulates all private (for-profit/non-profit) postsecondary education institutions with a physical presence in California. Accreditation is not required, but approval to operate is.

A person shall not open, conduct, or do business as a private postsecondary educational institution in this state without obtaining an approval to operate under this chapter. A private postsecondary educational institution is defined as a private entity with a physical presence in this state that offers postsecondary education to the public for an institutional charge.

o Contact Information:

Joanne Wenzel  
Deputy Bureau Chief  
Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
916-431-6905  
[joanne.wenzel@dca.ca.gov](mailto:joanne.wenzel@dca.ca.gov)

o Please state who institutions should contact if they have questions about your agency’s authority, policies, or application process?

Same as above.

b. Links:

Link to website: <http://www.bppe.ca.gov/>

Link to regulations: <http://www.bppe.ca.gov/lawsregs/index.shtml>

For forms: <http://www.bppe.ca.gov/applications/index.shtml>

Link to complaint process: [http://www.bppe.ca.gov/forms\\_pubs/complaint.pdf](http://www.bppe.ca.gov/forms_pubs/complaint.pdf)

- c. The following agencies also have responsibility for authorization in the state.  
None.
- d. If the division of responsibility among these agencies is not clear, please explain.

**For Complaint Process Information:**

California Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education  
P.O. Box 980818  
W. Sacramento, CA 95798-0818  
[bppe@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bppe@dca.ca.gov)

**Staff Guidance and Comment from Dow Lohnes:**

Staff guidance advises that out-of-state institutions that enroll California students in online programs do not need to seek approval to operate in California. Absent a physical place in California at which instruction takes place, approval is not required. A clinical or externship requirement may be sufficient to require approval, but it is a case-by-case determination. Even with a physical presence, regionally accredited institutions are exempt from BPPE approval, except that they must contribute to the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF). There is a significant application backlog, so the process will be severely delayed if full approval is required (i.e. nationally accredited institutions).

**Licensure Process Overview:**

The institution, if not regionally accredited, should complete and submit the required form along with all attachments (including financial statements) and the required fee (\$5,000). If the institution is regionally accredited, it may be approved by means of accreditation by submitting proof of accreditation and a brief application along with a fee of \$750. All institutions with a physical presence, including those that are regionally accredited, must comply with the STRF requirement.

**Average Approval Period:**

More than one year for full approval.

**Legislative & Regulatory Developments:**

None.