

SHEEO State Authorization Inventory

Georgia

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: **Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission**

o Description:

The Non-Public Postsecondary Education Commission (NPEC) has approval and licensing authority for consumer protection by regulating the operations of private degree-granting institutions, postsecondary vocation-technical programs, and proprietary schools. NPEC also provides authorization for certificate-granting proprietary schools.

No institution shall offer postsecondary instruction leading to a postsecondary degree or certificate to Georgia residents from a location outside the state by correspondence or any telecommunications or electronic media technology unless issued a current certificate of valid authorization.

o Contact Information:

Dr. Carl Camann
Deputy Director
Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission
2082 East Exchange Place, Suite 220
Tucker, Georgia 30084-5305
770-414-3208
ccam@npec.state.ga.us

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

- b. Links:
Link to agency: <http://www.gnpec.org/MainMenu.asp>
For regulations and forms: <http://www.gnpec.org/MainMenu.asp>
- Link to complaint process:
<http://www.gnpec.org/forms/pdf%20files/ComplaintProcess.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:

Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission
2082 E. Exchange Pl. #220
Tucker, GA 30084-5334
<http://rules.sos.state.ga.us/docs/392/5/06.pdf>

Staff Guidance and Comment from Dow Lohnes:

Agency guidance confirms that only institutions with a physical presence in the state must be licensed. An institution also cannot solicit prospective students, use the terms “college” or “university” in advertising, use agents, or have any activity on ground that would constitute presence without a certificate of authorization from the agency. NPEC has released written guidance detailing the specific physical presence triggers that will require licensure. Institutions are required to self-assess using these triggers to determine if they must be licensed. NPEC has also developed specific, separate processes for institutions who (1) must obtain licensure or (2) do not need licensure. The released guidance details these steps.

Licensure Process Overview:

Review NPEC’s General Authorization Procedures for a New Institution. Complete and submit all application forms and supporting documentation and the nonrefundable initial evaluation fee consistent with the highest degree level sought to be authorized and evidence of the required bond. Application will be reviewed by NPEC. A site visit may be required. If authorized, the institution will be required to make a nonrefundable payment to the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund and pay a nonrefundable annual authorization fee. The institution will receive a Certificate of Authorization, which shall be valid for one year.

Average Approval Period:

3 to 4 months for well-established institutions, 6 months for other institutions.

Legislative & Regulatory Developments:

<http://www.gnpec.org/Forms/PDF%20Files/OnlineRequirements.pdf>

This link directs users to guidance regarding online programs from the Commission, released in early March 2011.