

# SHEEO State Authorization Inventory

## U.S. Virgin Islands

**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.

### § 201. Accreditation required, prohibition

- a) A private, degree granting post-secondary education institution may not operate in the Virgin Islands, unless it has been accredited by an accrediting association recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- b) Agents of any degree granting post-secondary education institution that has not been accredited by an accrediting association recognized by the United States Department of Education may not solicit resident students.
- c) Unless a private, degree granting post-secondary education institution is accredited as provided in subsection (a), no official or employee of the Virgin Islands Department of Education or the University of the Virgin Islands or any school district of the territory may:
  - 1. permit the institution, or proprietor or agent of the institution, to solicit business in or from any public school within the Virgin Islands; or
  - 2. provide any list of students or list of prospective students to the institution, or proprietor, or agent of the institution.

### § 202. Penalties

- a) Any person violating this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both, such fine and imprisonment.
- b) Each violation of this chapter constitutes a separate offense.
- c) Any person violating this chapter may also be enjoined from the continuation of the violation by proceedings brought by the Attorney General, any school official or any aggrieved citizen, regardless of whether criminal proceedings have been instituted.

—Added Dec. 22, 2007, No. 6979, § 1, Sess. L. 2007, p. 216.

### For more information, please contact:

Wynant Watty-Benjamin  
Chief of Staff, Office of the Commissioner  
[wwbenjamin@doe.vi](mailto:wwbenjamin@doe.vi)