

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

1812 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814-7000
(916) 445-0184
FAX (916) 327-3166



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

95-9513

DATE: June 30, 1995

TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

FROM: *Philip A. Fitch*
Philip A. Fitch, Ed.D., Executive Director

SUBJECT: Amendment of Section 80457 of Title 5, California Code of
Regulations, Pertaining to Institutions of Higher Education

Section 80457 of Title 5, California Code of Regulations, pertaining to institutions of higher education, becomes effect on July 1, 1995. The text of the regulations is included at the end of this correspondence and results in the following changes.

- Individuals will no longer be able to use degrees from non-regionally accredited institutions towards certification, even if a regionally accredited institution has given the individual graduate standing, except in the following three circumstances.
 1. Degrees from non-regionally accredited institutions that were already accepted toward certification under the prior regulations will be accepted toward future certification.
 2. An individual holding a degree taken at a non-regionally accredited institution but who is given unconditional graduate standing by a regionally accredited institution and is admitted to a Commission-approved credential program by July 1, 1995, may use the degree toward certification only if the individual qualifies and applies for the credential by July 1, 1997.
 3. Coursework and degrees from non-regionally accredited institutions may be used toward specific credential requirements if it is allowed by the statutes or regulations governing that credential. An example would be the coursework option for the Designated Subjects Vocational Education Teaching Credential.
- Individuals may use coursework taken at a non-regionally accredited institution, but only if a regionally accredited institution will accept the coursework as applicable toward a degree.

The Commission also wished to amend the section pertaining to the evaluation of foreign transcripts. The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) agreed with the concept of accepting evaluations from Commission-approved agencies, but felt it would be appropriate to include the approval standards in the regulations. The Commission will be working with OAL regarding this.

80457. Acceptance of College or University Work for Purposes of Certification in California.

(a) For the purposes of certification, a degree must be completed in a regionally accredited institution of higher education, unless otherwise stated in statutes or regulations. Course work taken at an institution of higher education that is not regionally accredited, may be used towards certification if it is accepted by a regionally accredited institution of higher education for degree granting purposes, unless otherwise stated in statutes or regulations. A degree taken at an institution of higher education that is not regionally accredited but that was accepted towards certification under prior regulations, may be used towards future certification. An individual holding a degree taken at an institution of higher education that is not regionally accredited but who is given unconditional graduate standing by a regionally accredited institution and is admitted to a Commission-approved credential program by July 1, 1995, may use the degree toward certification only if the individual qualifies and applies for the credential by July 1, 1997.

(b) Course work requirements completed through the California campus or center of an out-of-state institution of higher education will meet credential requirements only if a satisfactory evaluation of the program by the regional accrediting agency of the out-of-state institution, and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, has been submitted to the Commission, and the Commission has approved the program.

(c) Credit earned in an institution of higher learning outside of the United States is acceptable toward a credential when the Commission has determined that such institution's programs are comparable to regionally accredited institutions and their programs in the United States.

(d) For certification purposes, an accredited institution, accredited college, or accredited university is defined as a regionally accredited institution of higher education, unless otherwise defined in statutes or regulations.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 44225(q), Education Code.
Reference: Sections 44227 and 44252, Education Code.