

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

96-9604

DATE: March 15, 1996

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

FROM: Ruben L. Ingram, Ed.D., Executive Director

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

Amendments to the sub-sections (a), (b), and (d) of §80457, pertaining to institutions of higher education, became effective on July 1, 1995. At that time, the Office of Administrative Law agreed with the concept of accepting evaluations of foreign transcripts from Commission-approved agencies, as stated in sub-section (c), but felt it would be more appropriate to include the approval standards in the regulations. These standards have now been placed in regulation. The Commission will establish a period when agencies may seek approval later this year. The following is the entire text of §80457.

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) Course work, programs, or degrees completed in an institution of higher education outside of the United States are acceptable toward certification when the Commission or an evaluating agency approved by the Commission, based on the standards contained in *The Criteria for Agencies Seeking Approval to Review Foreign Academic Programs for Equivalency to United States Standards*, January 1, 1996 edition, has determined that such institution's course work, programs, or degrees are equivalent to those offered by a regionally accredited institution in the United States. The Commission reserves the right to accept or reject an approved evaluating agency's determination.

(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.