



SHEEO STATE AUTHORIZATION SURVEY AND REPORTS

[Return to State Authorization of Postsecondary Education](#)

Announcing: New Web-Based Surveys!

SHEEO is excited to announce that our State Authorization Surveys are now offered through a fully online, web-based platform! Check out the new site of the [SHEEO State Authorization Surveys](#) today.

Since 2011, SHEEO has provided a directory of agencies and individuals responsible for implementing state postsecondary quality assurance laws in the 50 U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as a compendium of state laws and regulations. The completed compendium (which includes contact information for each agency) can now be found on our new [web-based platform](#) (developed in collaboration with [Pearson](#)); surveys can now be updated continuously by agency personnel. Revisions, with dates, are available by agency.

SHEEO will provide a quarterly update to the field of the latest revisions, which will also serve as a formal request for updates from each of the listed agencies. An annually updated directory of state regulatory agencies and contact personnel can be found in the "Reports from Survey Data" section, below.

Reports from Survey Data

- [Directory of State Authorization Agencies and Lead Contacts \(April 2014\)](#)
- [Student Complaint Process by State \(December 2012\)](#)
- [Fees Summary, by State \(December 2012\)](#)
- [Physical Presence Triggers, by Agency \(December 2012\)](#)
- [Summative Analysis of Survey Data, 2011-2012 \(October 2012\)](#)

Background

In the fall of 2010, the U.S. Department of Education announced [PROGRAM INTEGRITY RULES](#), requiring all institutions of higher education participating in Title IV programs to be able to document compliance with state laws in all states where they offer distance or correspondence education.

While the federal state authorization rule pertaining to distance education was vacated on a technicality on July 12, 2011, it is likely to be reinstated. More important, the Department has rightly indicated that compliance with existing state laws has always been a condition of Title IV eligibility,

Quicklinks

[State Higher Education Finance \(SHEF\)](#)

[State Authorization of Distance Education](#)

[MSC: A Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Learning Outcomes Assessment](#)

[Moving the Needle](#)

Related Content

[STRONG FOUNDATIONS: THE STATE OF STATE POSTSECONDARY DATA SYSTEMS](#)

[SHEF — STATE HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE](#)

[SHEF — STATE HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE FY11](#)

and the announced regulation simply calls attention to the need for institutions to assure they have legal authority to operate in all the states where they are providing instruction.

To help address this need, SHEEO has developed a directory of agencies and individuals responsible for implementing state quality assurance laws, as well as a compendium of state laws and regulations. These resources were developed in close cooperation with [NCHEMS](#), the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, whose Vice President Peter Ewell has led previous surveys of both state regulatory practices for postsecondary instruction, and of the cooperative relationships of states with accrediting associations. In 2014, SHEEO further collaborated with [Pearson](#) to create a web-based delivery mechanism both for the survey data to the consumer, and for data updates from the agencies.

The completed compendium of state laws and regulatory practices (which includes contact information for each agency) can now be found on our new [web-based platform](#); surveys can be updated continuously by agency personnel. Revisions, with dates, are available by agency. SHEEO plans to provide a quarterly update to the field of the latest revisions, which also serves as a formal request for updates from each of the listed agencies. An annually updated directory of state regulatory agencies and contact personnel can be found on the main [SHEEO State Authorization Survey and Reports](#) page.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of our colleagues in the state agencies who have provided this information, our colleagues at [Pearson](#) who have allowed us to move to the new web-based platform, our colleagues at [NCHEMS](#) who helped develop and administer our original survey in 2011, and the members and organizations represented on the SHEEO State Authorization Advisory Board who have contributed generously to the development of this project.

For more information please contact Sharmila Mann at 303-541-1602 (sbmann@sheeo.org).

Survey Development

- [State Authorization Advisory Board](#)
- [SHEEO State Authorization Survey \(October 2011\)](#)
- [SHEEO State Authorization Survey – Revised \(March 2013\)](#)

Prior Survey Results

Below are links to PDFs providing the compiled results of all agency responses to the SHEEO State Authorization Survey in 2011, 2012, and 2013. Current survey data for each agency can be found [here](#).

[All Agency Responses \(single pdf\)—May 2013](#)

[All Agency Responses \(single pdf\)—June 2012](#)

[All Agency Responses \(single pdf\)—October 2011](#)

For more information please contact Sharmila Mann at 303-541-1602 (sbmann@sheeo.org).

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**SHEEO State Authorization Survey:
Student Complaint Information by State and Agency**

Please note: Whenever possible this report used language provided by the state agency through the SHEEO Survey. In some cases email correspondence and web site reviews were also incorporated.

| State | Agency Name | Link to and/or Information about Complaint Process |
|----------|--|---|
| Alabama | Alabama Commission on Higher Education - Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning | Complaints for out-of-state institutions are referred to the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education (ADPE) for response. Please see the ADPE link below. For in-state institutions, contacts are posted to the ACHE website at http://www.ache.state.al.us/ |
| | Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education - Office of Private School Licensing Division | http://www.accs.cc/complaintform.aspx |
| Alaska | Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education | The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) processes complaints alleging violations of state institutional authorization law relative to postsecondary institutions or programs in Alaska. The complaint investigation process is described in AS 14.48.130 and 20 AAC 17.130-145 . Students are encouraged to pursue the complaint process at their institutions prior to contacting ACPE. To request a complaint form please send an email to: EED.ACPE-IA@alaska.gov. For questions or assistance relative to complaints please contact: Jo Anne Hayden, Program Coordinator for Institutional Authorization (907-465-6741) or at EED.ACPE-IA@alaska.gov. Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education; P.O. Box 110505; Juneau, AK 99811-0505. |
| Arizona | Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education | http://azppse.state.az.us/student_info/compliance.asp |
| Arkansas | Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board | ADHE requires the certified institution to make a decision on the student grievance following the institution's public policy. Inquiries into student grievances must be limited to AHECB certified (under Arkansas Code §6-61-301) courses/degree programs and institutions and to matters related to the criteria for certification. Within 20 days of completing the institution's grievance procedures, the student may file the complaint in writing with the ICAC Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, 114 East Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. The grievant must provide a statement from the institution verifying that the institution's appeal process has been followed. ADHE will notify the institution of the grievance within 15 days of the filing. Within 10 days after ADHE notification, the institution must submit a written response to ADHE. Other action may be taken by ADHE as needed. |

| State | Agency Name | Link to and/or Information about Complaint Process |
|----------------------|--|--|
| | Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education | If students believe that their rights have been violated, we always suggest they first seek to resolve the problem by following the school's complaint process. Next, meet with the School Administrator and discuss their concerns with him/her. If the problem is not solved at the school level, the student may then contact us at (501) 683-8000. |
| California | California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education | http://www.bppe.ca.gov/enforcement/complaint.shtml |
| Colorado | Colorado Department of Higher Education | http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Complaints/default.html |
| | Colorado Department of Higher Education, Division of Private Occupational Schools | http://highered.colorado.gov/DPOS/Students/complaint.html |
| Connecticut | Connecticut Office of Higher Education | For degree granting institutions, students should contact the Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education at 860-947-1822 for specific instructions. For Post-Secondary Occupational Schools, a complaint form is available at the web site: http://www.ctdhe.org/POSA/pdf/CP2ComplaintForm.pdf |
| Delaware | Delaware Department of Education | The Delaware Department of Education will investigate complaints. Such complaints must be in writing and verified by the signature of the person making the complaint. Oral, anonymous or unsigned complaints will not be investigated. Until the web site is functional, please write or call for more information. The Delaware Department of Education; Teacher and Administrator Quality; John W. Collette Resource Center; 35 Commerce Way; Dover, DE 19904. The Delaware Department of Education phone number is 302-857-3388. |
| District of Columbia | District of Columbia Education Licensure Commission | http://osse.dc.gov/service/public-complaints |
| Florida | Florida Department of Education, Commission for Independent Education | http://www.fldoe.org/cie/complaint.asp |
| Georgia | Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission | http://www.gnpec.org/MainMenu.asp |
| Hawaii | none listed | none listed |
| Idaho | Idaho State Board of Education | Complaint process described in Admin Rule (July 1, 2011) section 500. Forms and instructions available upon request from the State Coordinator for Private Colleges & Proprietary Schools. For more information, please contact the Office of the Idaho State Board of Education (Main Office: 208-334-2270). |

| State | Agency Name | Link to and/or Information about Complaint Process |
|---------------|---|---|
| Illinois | Illinois Board of Higher Education | Institutional Complaint Hotline: (217) 557-7359. The Board receives general information email at info@ibhe.org. Students seeking to register a complaint about an institution are required to submit the complaint in writing. Complaint processing as relates to maintenance of institutional approvals is described in 23 Illinois Administrative Rules Sections 1030.70 and 1030.80. |
| Indiana | Indiana Commission on Proprietary Education | http://www.in.gov/cpe/2329.htm |
| Iowa | Iowa College Student Aid Commission | http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/forms.html |
| Kansas | Kansas Board of Regents | http://www.kansasregents.org/private_postsecondary_complaint_process |
| Kentucky | Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education | http://cpe.ky.gov/policies/academicpolicies/licensure.htm |
| | Kentucky State Board for Proprietary Education | http://www.bpe.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx |
| Louisiana | Louisiana Board of Regents | For proprietary schools, the complaint procedure appears on the Board of Regents website: http://www.regents.doa.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=21&pnid=0&nid=7 Cursor down to Procedures and click on "student complaint procedures". For the academic degree-granting institutions, Louisiana relies on the Consumer Affairs Division of the Attorney General's Office at 225-326-6200. |
| Maine | Maine Department of Education, Office of Higher Education Services | Complaints shall be addressed in writing to the Maine Department of Education, Office of Higher Education, Augusta, Maine, 04333, with specific facts and allegations and signed by the complainant. The school shall be notified of any complaints which are to be investigated. |
| Maryland | Maryland Higher Education Commission | Individuals who wish to submit a complaint may use the following contact information: Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202. Please see PDF at: http://www.mhec.state.md.us/higherEd/acadAff/MHECStudentComplaintProcess.pdf |
| Massachusetts | Massachusetts Department of Higher Education | http://www.mass.edu/forstudents/complaints/complaintprocess.asp |
| Michigan | Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs | The Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs addresses complaints involving <u>proprietary schools</u> in Michigan – Please see web site at: http://www.michiganps.net/complaint.aspx Complaints involving <u>public university</u> consumer protection violations may be directed to: Office of the Attorney General of the State of Michigan; Consumer Protection Division; P.O. Box 30213; Lansing, MI 48909-7713. Please see web site at: http://michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-1773-42077--,00.html |

| State | Agency Name | Link to and/or Information about Complaint Process |
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| Minnesota | Minnesota Office of Higher Education | http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=1078 |
| Mississippi | Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation | http://www.mississippi.edu/mcca/ |
| | Mississippi Commission on Proprietary School and College Registration | http://www.sbcjc.cc.ms.us/program/psDefault.aspx |
| Missouri | Missouri Department of Higher Education | http://dhe.mo.gov/contactus.php |
| Montana | Montana University System, Montana Board of Regents | http://www.mus.edu/MUS-statement-of-complaint-process.asp |
| Nebraska | Nebraska Department of Education, Private Postsecondary Career Schools | http://www.education.ne.gov/PPCS/PPCS%20Forms.html |
| | Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education | The policies regarding student complaints are listed on our website with a notation that they are not final. The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) intends to have a section on the website that walks students through the process; in the meanwhile, please call our office at 402-471-0030. Please note that institutions offering courses or programs that are exclusively online are not required to seek authorization from CCPE. If students have complaints about such institutions, we refer them to the home state of the institution or the Nebraska Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at: http://www.ago.ne.gov/consumer_protection |
| Nevada | Nevada Commission on Postsecondary Education | http://www.cpe.state.nv.us/CPE%20Complaint%20Info.htm |
| New Hampshire | New Hampshire Department of Education, Division of Higher Education, Higher Education Commission | http://www.education.nh.gov/highered/compliance-allegation.htm |
| New Jersey | New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Center for Occupational Employment Information | none listed |
| | New Jersey Commission on Higher Education | none listed |
| New Mexico | New Mexico Higher Education Department | http://www.hed.state.nm.us/Complaint_3.aspx |
| New York | New York Office of College and University Evaluation | http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/spr/COMPLAINTFORMINFO.html |
| | New York Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision, New York State Education Department | http://www.acces.nysed.gov/bpss/students/disclos.htm |
| North Carolina | The University of North Carolina Board of Governors | http://www.northcarolina.edu/aa_planning/licensure/resources.htm |

| State | Agency Name | Link to and/or Information about Complaint Process |
|--------------|---|--|
| | North Carolina Community College System, Office of Proprietary School Services | http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/PROPRIETARY_SCHOOLS/complaints.htm |
| North Dakota | North Dakota State Board for Career and Technical Education | Currently complaints are filed with the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education (CTE) and are then handed to the Attorney General. That policy is currently under review and revision. Please call CTE at 701-328-2678 for more information. |
| Ohio | Ohio Board of Regents | The agency does receive student complaints. Students are encouraged to try to resolve their issue through their institution's formal grievance procedures. If the student's issue is not resolved through this process, the Ohio Board of Regents may then contact the institution on the student's behalf and request that institution work with the student to resolve the issue. If the grievance involves an issue that violates the agency's standards for authorization, the agency would contact the institution to determine the severity of the issue and what agency action would be taken. Please call the Ohio Board of Regents at 614-387-1215 for more information. |
| | Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools | http://scr.ohio.gov/ConsumerInformation/FilingaComplaint.aspx |
| Oklahoma | Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education | Current and prospective student complaints are handled through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) Academic Affairs Office by reviewing the circumstances of the complaint and providing the individual with contact information for the most appropriate campus office with the authority to resolve the complaint. If the individual has exhausted the process for review and appeal at the institution and believes the complaint is unresolved, OSRHE staff requests permission to contact the institution on the student's behalf to identify any possible resolution. OSRHE staff remains in contact with the student to determine if the issue has been resolved or adequately addressed. Please call OSRHE at 405-225-9100 for more information. |
| | Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education | none listed |
| | Oklahoma Board of Private Schools | A form is available by request to the Oklahoma Board of Private Schools (OBPVS) staff, but is not required. Unless a safety or other issue requiring an in-person investigation is alleged, a Student complaint will be accepted and sent to the institution for a response that may then be forwarded to the complainant for further input. Please call OBPVS for more information at 405-528-3370. Web page is under development. |

| State | Agency Name | Link to and/or Information about Complaint Process |
|----------------|--|--|
| Oregon | Oregon Office of Degree Authorization | All complaints about schools under our regulatory jurisdiction or an exempt status approved by this office are handled by Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) staff. Complaints about exempt schools are referred to the Attorney General's office. Please call ODA for more information at 541-687-7478. |
| | Oregon Department of Education - Private and Career Schools Office | http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=325 |
| Pennsylvania | Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Higher Education | http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/higher_education/8711/complaint_procedure/1004474 |
| Puerto Rico | Puerto Rico Council on Education | none listed |
| Rhode Island | Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education | http://www.ribghe.org/students.htm |
| South Carolina | South Carolina Commission on Higher Education | http://www.che.sc.gov/New_Web/GoingToCollege/Proprietary.htm |
| South Dakota | South Dakota Secretary of State | http://atg.sd.gov/Consumers/HandlingComplaints/ConsumerComplaintForm.aspx |
| Tennessee | Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Division of Postsecondary School Authorization | http://tn.gov/thec/ |
| Texas | Texas Workforce Commission | http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/propschools/problem-school.html |
| | Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board | To file a complaint, follow the complaint procedures in the school's catalog. If the issue is not resolved, contact either the Texas Workforce Commission's Career School or the school's accrediting agency. If the school is not accredited by a recognized accreditor but has degree granting authority, send a written complaint to the Coordinating Board at Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Academic Affairs and Research, P.O. Box 12788, Austin, Texas 78711. |
| Utah | Utah Division of Consumer Protection | http://consumerprotection.utah.gov/complaints/index.html |

| State | Agency Name | Link to and/or Information about Complaint Process |
|---------------|---|--|
| Vermont | Vermont State Board of Education, Vermont Department of Education | We encourage you to work directly with your institution to satisfy complaints. In most cases, that is the only appropriate avenue for you to pursue. If you believe you have exhausted avenues listed above and those listed in the attached PDF and have a valid complaint about a violation, you may send it to the Vermont Department of Education in writing at 120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501. All complaints should be specific in describing the nature of the complaint and relevant information: the name of the parties involved, including witnesses, dates, the policy or procedure violated (if known), the course/program, the name of the institution, and complete contact information. In addition, please include any supporting material that substantiates your complaint, including correspondence with the school about the issue. For more information please see the PDF at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_postsecondary/EDU-Complaint_Resolution_Statement_for_Postsecondary_Education_Matters.pdf |
| Virginia | Virginia State Council of Higher Education, Private & Out-of-State Postsecondary Education | http://www.schev.edu/students/studentcomplaint.asp |
| Washington | Washington Student Achievement Council | Students may submit a formal complaint to the Washington Student Achievement Council, provided it is against an institution authorized by the Washington Student Achievement Council and is within one year of the last date of attendance. For more information, please contact the Washington Student Achievement Council at 360-753-7800. |
| | Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board | http://www.wtb.wa.gov/PCS_Complaints.asp |
| West Virginia | West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission | http://wvhepcnew.wvnet.edu/ |
| | West Virginia Council for Community & Technical College Education | none listed |
| Wisconsin | Wisconsin Educational Approval Board | http://eab.state.wi.us/resources/complaint.asp |
| Wyoming | Wyoming Department of Education | If the complaint involves an issue relative to authorization, the Wyoming Department of Education contacts the institution to ensure that the institution is compliant with Wyoming State law. For complaints not related to authorization, the complainant is encouraged to try to resolve the issue through their institution's formal grievance procedures. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the complainant may also be referred to the Consumer Protection Division of the Wyoming Attorney General's Office. Please contact the Wyoming Department of Education at 307-777-6210. |

| State | Agency Name | Link to and/or Information about Complaint Process |
|--|--------------------|---|
| <p>*Based upon the SHEEO (State Higher Education Executive Officers) "Compendium of (State Authorization) Laws and Regulatory Practices," this summary was created with support from WCET's (WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies) State Authorization Network. SHEEO and WCET collaborated in directing the work of NCHEMS (National Center for Higher Education Management Systems) in gathering, updating, and compiling the information.</p> | | |