

**R. Wes Hayes, Jr.**  
*Chairman*

Agenda Item 7.02.F  
CHE Meeting

**Rusty L. Monhollon, Ph.D.**  
*President & Executive Director*



December 3, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chair Wes Hayes and Members, SC Commission on Higher Education

**FROM:** Chair Charles Munns, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

### Annual Report on Licensing Activities for FY 2019-2020

#### Background

This report on licensing activities is for the Committee's information and covers the period from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

Under South Carolina law, all licenses for higher education institutions operating in the state are program and site-specific. Thus, an institution must first be approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to operate at a given site for the offering of a given program or programs. An institution that is licensed already must apply for an amendment to its license when one of more of the following occurs:

- The institution seeks to add a field or major not previously offered if that field/major constitutes more than 18 semester hours of credit for undergraduate programs or 12 semester hours for graduate programs;
- Cumulative changes equal or exceed 25% of the contact hours, credits, curriculum content, or program length following the initial program approval or last review by the CHE; or
- Cumulative changes in the course of a calendar year equal or exceed 25% of the field or major licensed.

Licensing staff in the Division of Academic Affairs evaluate requests for initial licensure of new degree-granting institutions, amendments to existing licenses to add degree programs at in-state sites, and amendments to existing licenses to add in-state sites to licensed degree-granting institutions. Staff then prepares these requests and recommendations for the consideration of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL).

Institutions also request modifications for minor changes that the licensing staff approve. Those modifications include the following:

- Course requirements in an existing program that constitute less than 25% of the program's academic requirements in a year;
- A "concentration" within a program of study that constitutes 18 credit hours or less;
- A name for an existing program of study; or
- The mode of delivery for an existing program of study.



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In addition, licensing staff evaluate and approve applications for initial licensure for nondegree-granting institutions (in-state and recruiting), amendments to existing licenses to add nondegree programs, and amendments to existing licenses for nondegree-granting institutions to add in-state sites.

### **Approval of Initial Licensure and Amendments for Degree-Granting Institutions**

During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, CAAL and the CHE approved Southeastern Institute to amend their license to offer programs leading to the A.A.S. in Business Administration, Information Technology and Network Systems, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Radiologic Technology at their North Charleston and Columbia campuses.

### **Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to Operate Sites in SC**

The following table lists all degree-granting, postsecondary institutions that were licensed to have sites in South Carolina for FY 2020.

The accompanying graphics represent licensed institutions by sector as well as enrollment trends both by total and by sector.

Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to Operate Sites in SC								
	Name	Initial Date of Licensure	Main Campus	Degree Level <sup>1</sup>	Accreditation	For-Profit/ Non-Profit/Public	Location	Enrollment Fall 2019
1.	A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine	10/5/2017	Mesa, AZ	DO	COCA	Non	Ridgeland	9
2.	American College of the Building Arts	7/7/2004	Charleston, SC	A, B	None	Non	Charleston	94
3.	Charleston School of Law	9/5/2003	Charleston, SC	JD/LLM	ABA	Profit	Charleston	612
4.	ECPI College of Technology	4/17/2000	Virginia Beach, VA	A, B	SACS	Profit	Charleston Columbia Greenville	620 407 549
5.	Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM)	1/7/2010	Blacksburg, VA	DO	COCA	Non	Spartanburg	636
6.	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	10/5/2006	Daytona Beach, FL	A, B, M	SACS	Non	N. Charleston Greenville	36 58
7.	Forrest College	3/2/1989	Anderson, SC	A	ACICS	Profit	Anderson	27
8.	Fortis College	10/1/2009	Towson, MD	A	ABHES	Profit	Columbia	497
9.	Lenoir-Rhyne University	3/1/2012	Hickory, NC	M	SACS	Non	Columbia	125
10.	Lesley University (Several sites)	5/5/1994	Cambridge, MA	M, Ed.S.	NEASC	Non	Beaufort	6
11.	Miller-Motte Technical	1/1/2001	Clarksville, TN	A	ACICS	Profit	Charleston	411

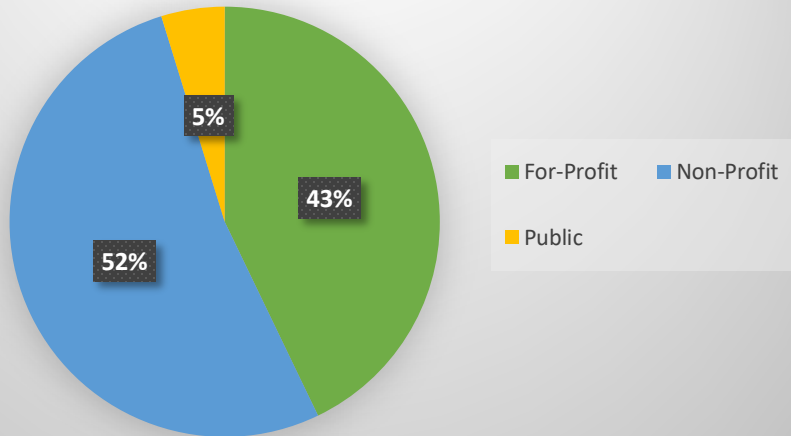
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<sup>1</sup> A Associate's  
 B Bachelor's  
 M Master's  
 Ed.S. Education Specialist  
 DO Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine  
 DC Doctor of Chiropractic  
 Pharm.D. Doctor of Pharmacy  
 DNP Doctor of Nursing Practice  
 JD Juris Doctor  
 LLM Master of Laws  
 D Doctorate

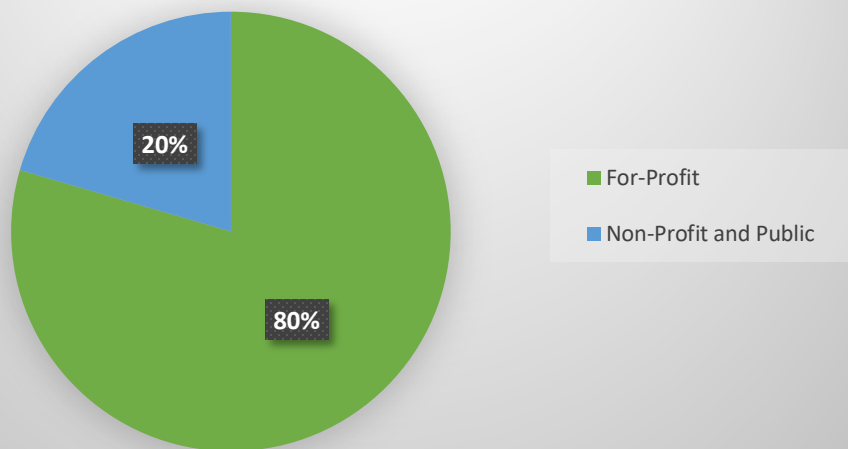
Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to Operate Sites in SC								
	Name	Initial Date of Licensure	Main Campus	Degree Level <sup>1</sup>	Accreditation	For-Profit/ Non-Profit/Public	Location	Enrollment Fall 2019
	College		(Charleston); Lynchburg, VA (Conway)				Conway	600
12.	Professional Golfers Career College	5/3/2007	Temecula, CA	A	ACICS	Profit	Bluffton	41
13.	Saint Leo University	5/4/2006	Saint Leo, FL	A, B, M	SACS	Non	Charleston Sumter	21 179
14.	Savannah College of Art & Design	1/8/2009	Savannah, GA	B	SACS	Non	Hardeeville	56
15.	Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic	6/6/1980	Spartanburg, SC	DC	SACS/CCE	Non	Spartanburg	397
16.	South University	1/1/2002	Savannah, GA	A, B, M, Pharm.D., DNP	SACS	Profit	Columbia	797
17.	Southeastern Institute	4/17/1997 (11/7/2013 as degree- granting)	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	A	ACCSC	Profit	Charleston Columbia	190 145
18.	Southeastern University	6/1/2017	Lakeland, FL	A, B	SACS	Non	Charleston Columbia	2 N/A
19.	Strayer University	3/1/2004	Washington, DC	A, B, M	MSA	Profit	Charleston Columbia Greenville	837 1,448 882
20.	Troy University <sup>2</sup>	3/31/2003	Troy, AL	B, M	SACS	Public	Sumter	0
21.	Webster University	7/12/1984	St. Louis, MO	B, M	HLC	Non	Charleston Columbia Greenville Myrtle Beach	140 191 33 95
<b>Total</b>							33	10,141

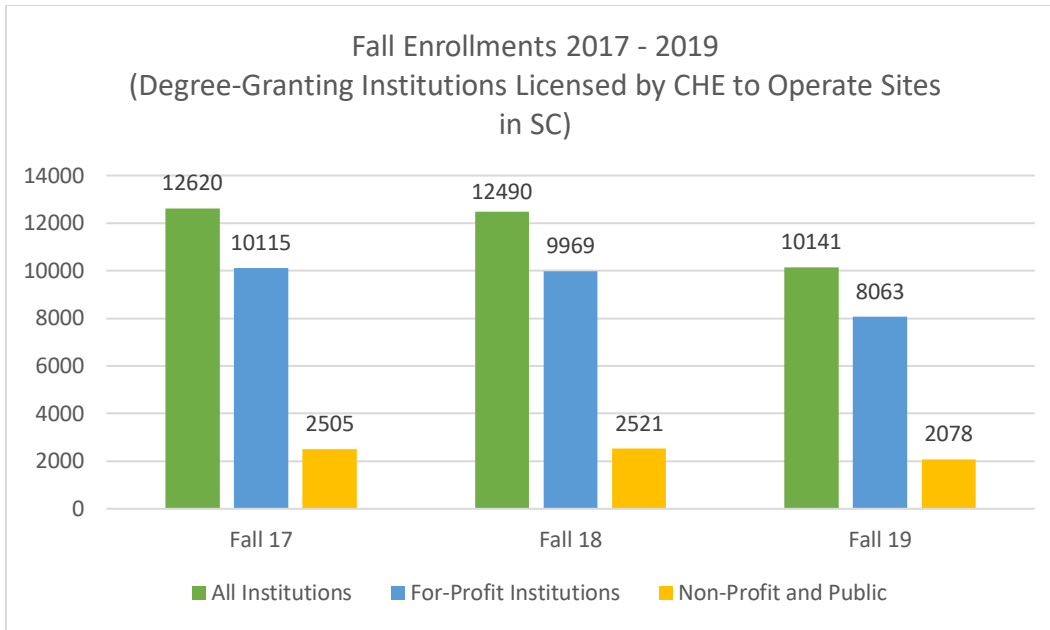
<sup>2</sup> Site provides student support services only.

**FY 2020 Institutions by Sector  
(Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to  
Operate Sites in SC)**



**Fall 2019 Enrollment by Sector  
(Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to  
Operate Sites in SC)**





In FY 2019, seven degree-granting institutions licensed by CHE to operate sites in SC closed their locations. These institutions reported a combined total enrollment of 2,022 students in the Fall of 2018 at 13 locations in SC. Due to these closures, the Fall 2019 enrollment for degree-granting institutions licensed by CHE to operate sites in SC reduced from 12,490 in FY19 to 10,141 in FY20.

**Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to Recruit in SC**

The following table lists degree-granting institutions licensed to recruit in SC in FY 2020. These institutions do not have any on-ground sites in SC. In FY 2020, two degree-granting institutions (Chamberlain College of Nursing and Northeastern University) were approved by each of their home states to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA). As a result, the two institutions each surrendered their license to recruit in SC.

Name		Degree Level	Modality of Program Delivery
1.	DeVry University Miramar, FL Orlando, FL Alpharetta, GA Decatur, GA Addison, IL Columbus, OH	A, B, M	On-ground at sites in other states and on-line
2.	Lincoln Technical Institute (formerly Nashville Auto-Diesel College (NADC)), Nashville, TN	A	On-ground at its site in TN
3.	Walden University Minneapolis, MN	B, M, Ed.D., Ed.S., D	On-line

**Nondegree-Granting Institutions**

In addition to licensing of degree-granting institutions, the CHE licenses entities that offer certificate and diploma programs that prepare students for a pre-determined vocation. The CHE has delegated to the staff the authority to review and approve nondegree programs. As of June 30, 2020, CHE licensed 61 schools offering nondegree programs at 153 sites. During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the staff approved initial licensure of the following schools that offer nondegree programs:

	<b>Institution Name</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Programs</b>
1.	Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy	Beaufort; Columbia	Dental Assisting
2.	Community Trade School	Yemassee	Phlebotomy
3.	Johnson-Thomas Medical Training Center	Florence	Nursing Assistant
4.	Mixology 101 Professional Bartending School	Myrtle Beach	Bartending
5.	Strand College of Hair Design	Myrtle Beach	Massage Therapy

During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the following nondegree schools closed or surrendered their license:

	<b>Institution Name</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Programs</b>
1.	Academy of Massage Therapy and Bodywork	Mauldin	Massage Therapy
2.	Dental Academy of South Carolina	Swansea	Dental Assisting
3.	East Coast Grooming School	Blythewood	Dog Grooming
4.	SC School of Horseshoeing	Aiken	Horseshoeing
5.	The New York Code and Design Academy	Greenville	Web Development Intensive
6.	NDE Institute	Rock Hill	Nondestructive Testing

The following table shows nondegree-granting institutions operating or soliciting in SC as of June 30, 2020:

1.	Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy
2.	Advanced Diagnostic Institute
3.	Air Conditioning Refrigeration (ACR) Training Center
4.	American Hospitality Academy
5.	Antioch Educational Center
6.	ARC Labs,LCC-ArcLabs Welding School
7.	Arrythmia Technologies
8.	At-Home Professions
9.	Capstone Career Development Center
10.	Caring Hands

11.	Carolina Career School
12.	Carolina Code School
13.	Carolina Construction School
14.	Carolina Nursing Assistant Program Academy (CNAPA)
15.	Carolina School of Massage & Wellness Center
16.	Carolina Welding Training Institute
17.	Charleston School of Interior Design (formerly Charleston School of Decorating)
18.	Charleston Woodworking School

19.	Christ Central Ministries, Inc., d/b/a/ Hope Center School
20.	Columbia Hands of Hope
21.	Community Trade School
22.	Construction Training Center
23.	Grand Strand School of Bartending
24.	H&R Block
25.	Health Tech Nurse Aide
26.	Ignite Healthcare Institute
27.	Institute for Guided Studies
28.	International Diving Institute
29.	John Casablancas Modeling
30.	Johnson-Thomas Medical Training Center
31.	JRS Coding School
32.	Lake Wylie School of Dental Assisting
33.	LaTrice D. Ferguson School of Nursing Assistants
34.	Legacy
35.	Liberty Tax Service
36.	MicroStaff IT dba WeKnowIT
37.	Millie Lewis Models and Talent
38.	Mixology 101 Professional Bartending School
39.	NASCAR Technical Institute
40.	New Horizons Computer Learning Center of

	Columbia
41.	Next Level Healthcare Institute
42.	Norris Mechanical, LLC
43.	Palmetto School of Career Development
44.	Palmetto Training, Inc. (SC Technical Institute d/b/a)
45.	PATCH Training School, Charleston
46.	Pathway Medical Training Service
47.	Pee Dee Medical Training Center
48.	Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics
49.	Plumstead Quality and Training Service, Inc.
50.	Professional Development and Training Services, LLC
51.	Professional Medical Training Center
52.	Professional Training Services
53.	Remington College
54.	SC School of Court Reporting
55.	Strand College of Hair Design
56.	The Packaging School, LLC
57.	Training Concepts LLC
58.	Tulsa Welding School
59.	Universal Technical Institute- Motorcycle Marine Mechanics Institutes
60.	Universal Technical Institute of Texas
61.	USAeroFlight, LLC

### **Student Records**

The CHE is the repository for records of schools that have closed. The CHE processed 136 requests for records in FY 2020.

### **Agent Permits**

The CHE issues permits to agents who represent and solicit enrollment into licensed institutions. The agents follow-up on leads generated by advertising and soliciting activities. In FY 2020, staff processed 27 agent permit requests.

### **Student Complaints**

The licensing regulations require that each licensed institution include a complaint procedure in its catalog. The procedure typically includes a formal process by which a student may approach institution officials and seek resolution through the institution. If the student cannot reach a satisfactory conclusion, he or she may submit a complaint to the CHE. CHE staff refer students to other resources and mediate sharing of information between students and school officials. In cases where students file formal complaints, the staff reviews the complaint, sends it to the school for response, transmits the response



to the student, and attempts to negotiate resolution of the complaint. Sometimes complaints result in readdressing policies and procedures at the schools in order to avoid similar problems.

License regulations also state that the CHE may intervene on the behalf of a person filing a complaint against an exempt institution to determine whether the institution followed and exhausted its own complaint process. Should the CHE conclude that an exempt institution has not complied with its own established policies, the extent of the CHE's authority is to encourage the institution to make reasonable efforts to resolve the complaint in a fair and equitable manner.

During FY 2020, licensing staff received 17 complaints that were processed and closed or referred to another appropriate agency. The following table shows the number of complaints by type of institution and the topics of the complaints.

<b>Student Complaints Received by CHE 2019-2020</b>			
<b>Institutional Type</b>	<b>Formal</b>	<b>Informal</b>	<b>Totals</b>
In-State Licensed Degree	0	4	4
In State Licensed Nondegree	0	2	2
Out-of-State Degree Branch	0	0	0
Out-of-State Degree Recruiting	0	0	0
SC Independent	0	1	1
SC Public or Exempt	1	8	9
Out of State	0	1	1
Illegally Operating	0	0	0
Total	1	16	17
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Formal</b>	<b>Informal</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Academic	0	5	5
Administration	0	1	1
Conduct	0	1	1
Financial	1	6	7
Miscellaneous	0	3	3
Total	1	16	17

### **Conclusion**

During FY 2020, the Commission experienced a disruption in operations due to the impact of the pandemic. To assist institutions with possible suspension of face-to-face instruction and temporary campus closures, on March 17, 2020 the Commission provided guidance to all licensed institutions on emergency protocols during COVID-19. The guidance required that all institutions provide continuous updates to the Commission regarding institutional operations to include campus operations, instruction modality and institution safety protocols.

In FY 2020, many licensed institutions stated that in order to ensure the safety of students, staff and

faculty, any on-ground instruction would be suspended until conditions improve. Therefore, in FY 2020 the licensing staff received correspondence from licensed institutions regarding changes in modality of instruction from face-to-face to online distance education.

Additionally, in FY 2020 two licensed degree-granting institutions (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Saint Leo University) and one non-degree institution (Remington College) notified the Commission of their plans to permanently close their SC campuses. These institutions stated the pandemic was a major factor in their decision to close their campuses.

The licensing staff continues to receive notifications from licensed institutions regarding their plans either to permanently close campuses or make additional changes to operations due to the pandemic. Staff members continue to monitor and correspond with all licensed institutions during the pandemic and will provide information about its impact in future reporting.