



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

August 30, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been asked by Mr. Michael P. Lambert, Executive Director of the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC), to write a letter explaining the recognition the U.S. Secretary of Education has granted DETC.

DETC is currently listed by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency. DETC has held that status continuously since 1959, just seven years after the then U.S. Commissioner of Education began to fulfill a statutory requirement to periodically publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies that the Commissioner/Secretary determines to be reliable authorities regarding the quality of the education or training provided by the institutions and/or programs they accredit. The current scope of the Secretary's recognition of DETC is the accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer degree programs primarily by the distance education method up to and including the professional doctoral degree.

In order to be recognized by the Secretary, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary's satisfaction that it meets the Criteria for Recognition, which are stated in Federal regulation. The Criteria do not differentiate between types of accrediting agencies, so the recognition granted to all types of accrediting agencies—regional, institutional, specialized, and programmatic—is identical. Only the specific scope of recognition varies according to the type of agency recognized.

If you wish further information about the scope of DETC's recognition by the Secretary, the accrediting agency recognition process, or the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Griffiths, Chief
Accrediting Agency Evaluation Unit
Accreditation and State Liaison

Cc: Michael P. Lambert
Executive Director, DETC