

# Approving Agencies, Authorization Agencies – State & Federal Implications



# Moderator & Presenters



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# Agenda

- *Setting the Stage*
- *Role of the State Higher Education Agency*
- *Role of the State Approving Agency for Veterans Benefits*
- *U.S. Department of Education Requirements for Participation in Title IV Federal Financial Aid*
- *Panel Discussion*

# Setting the Stage

## Approvals, Registrations & Responsibilities for Institutions



**State Institutional Approval:** State Higher Education Agency

**Program Approval for licensed professions:** State Professional Boards

**Employment Law related state requirements:** Secretary of State, Revenue, or Treasury, Department of Taxation, & Department of Labor

**Program Approval for Veterans Benefits:** State Approving Agency (SAA)

**Compliance to Provide Title IV Federal Aid:** Higher Education Act (HEA) and U.S. Department of Education Federal regulations

# Role of the State Higher Education Agency

## Cathie “Cam” Maeyaert

Director, Postsecondary Institutions, Academic Affairs and Workforce Education; Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



# Role of THECB/HE Agency

- The Texas Higher Coordinating Board coordinates postsecondary education in Texas
  - All public institutions of higher education (certificates through graduate education)
  - All private institutions of higher education (mostly exempt)
  - All degree-granting private postsecondary institutions
- We often partner with the Texas Workforce Commission which oversees private non-degree programs.
- Your state may have a split between agencies, or it may have one higher education agency.
- We also work with other state agencies on licensure or authorization issues.

# Focus on private postsecondary institutions

- Institutional Accreditation status is key.
  - If accredited, streamlined process to operate in Texas.
  - If unaccredited, THECB takes greater oversight while the institution seeks accreditation.
- THECB also licenses agents working for degree-granting institutions to recruit or assist students within Texas.
- We approve degrees upon receipt of proper documentation from the institutional accreditor.

# Four Exemptions in Texas

- Private institutions of higher education which meet certain criteria (specific accreditors; non-profit; organized in TX; tax-exempt) are authorized without the certification process and largely exempt from oversight unless a statute specifically requires some oversight.
- Out-of-state accredited institutions offering 100% distance education.
- Religious institutions only providing religious instruction (can't lead to secular jobs).
- Institutions on federal land, such as military bases.

# Military Base Exemption

THECB Rule 7.5(b):

Institutions Located on Federal Land in Texas--An (b) Institutions Located on Federal Land in Texas--An institution that is operating on land in Texas over which the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction:

(1) shall limit to the confines of the federal land and to the military or civilian employees and their dependents who work or live on that land:

(A) the recruitment of students;

(B) advertising of the postsecondary educational institution or its programs or courses; and

(C) providing degree programs or courses leading to degrees.

(2) shall be subject to compliance with all rules under this chapter when recruiting students, advertising the postsecondary institution or its programs or courses, or providing degree programs or courses leading to degrees on land over which the federal government does not have exclusive jurisdiction.

# Texas College Credit for Heroes

**Mission:** Maximize college credit awarded to veterans and service members for their military experience in order to expedite their transition to the Texas workforce.

**Goals:**

- Build network of participating schools; and development of acceleration curricula.

College Credit for Heroes seeks proposals from eligible institutions to develop, modify, or replicate streamlined programs that translate military experience, education, and training into civilian credentials to accelerate degree, certificate, and licensing programs allowing veterans and servicemembers to more easily re-enter the workforce. Programs developed under this proposal must:

- Result in academic credit that leads to an associate degree or higher, which may include continuing education units or other similar workforce training certifications or credentials; and
- Provide a pathway toward one or more high-demand occupations, other than occupations predominately found in the public sector, as confirmed by the Local Workforce Development Board (Board) in the region the program will be implemented.

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/college-credit-heroes>

# Role of the State Approving Agency

Torrence Joseph

Education Program Consultant;  
State Approving Agency;  
Louisiana Department of  
Veterans Affairs



# Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs State Approving Agency (SAA) GI Bill®



Provide	Provide opportunities for veterans and eligible beneficiaries to pursue educational and vocational goals.
Approve	Approve programs of training and education for GI Bill®.
Partner	Partner with federal and state agencies.
Outreach	Outreach to potential employers and training establishments.



# GI Bill (Title 38) New Approval Process

## SAA Review

- Program Review
- Communications
- Site Visit

## VA Notification

- Confirming Notification
- Permission to enroll/certify

## SAA Approval

- Submit to VA
- VA issues facility code
- VA updates WEAMS

# GI Bill (Title 38) Re-Approval Process

## SAA Review

- Program Review
- Communications

## VA Notification

- Re-Approval  
Notification

## SAA Approval

- Submit to VA
- VA updates WEAMS

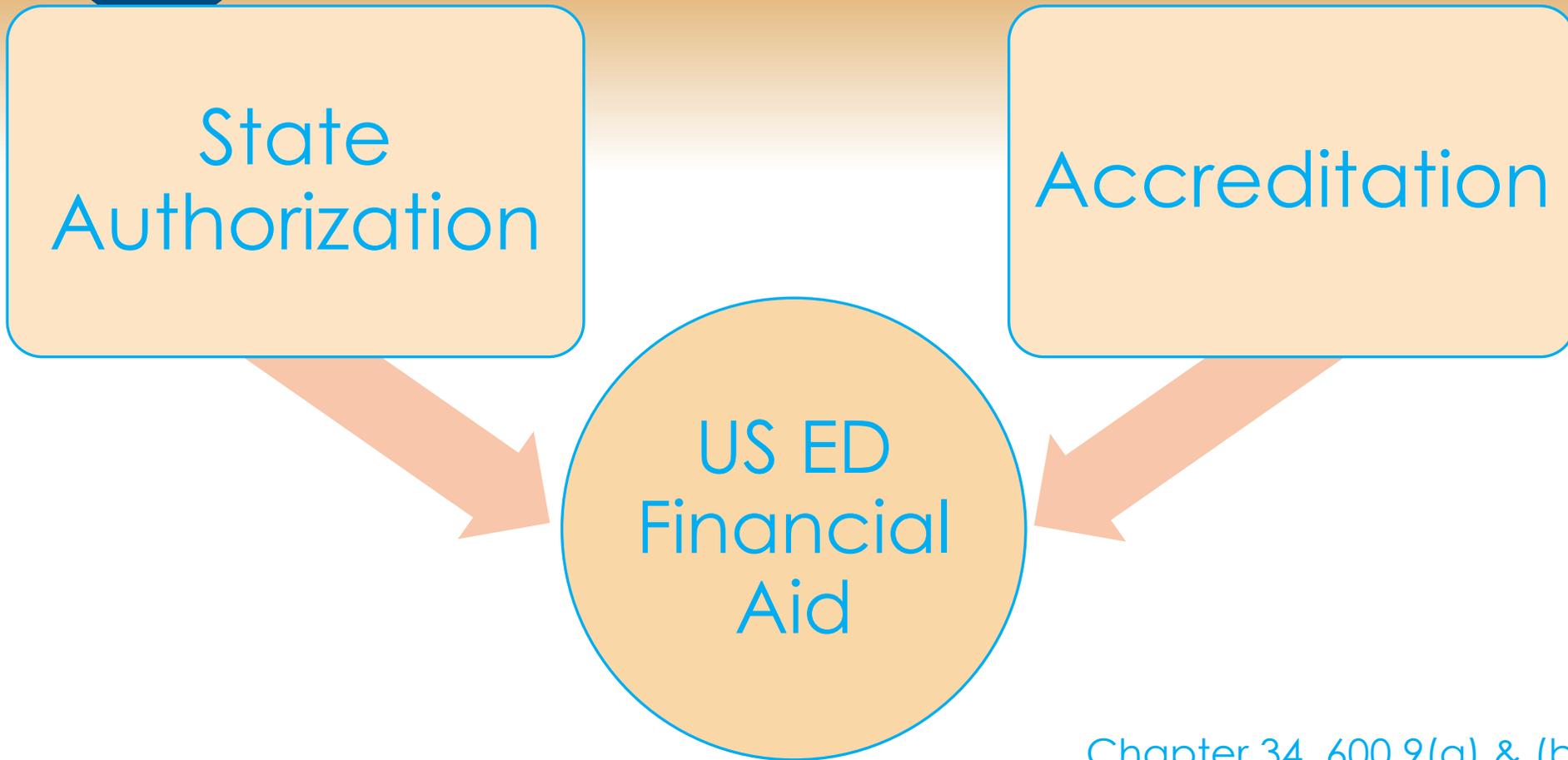
# U.S. Department of Education Requirements for Participation in Title IV Federal Financial Aid

Russ Poulin

Executive Director; WICHE  
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# U.S. Department of Education Financial Aid “Triad”



Chapter 34, 600.9(a) & (b)  
<https://bit.ly/3Gq1coK>

# For Distance Education... ...Need Authorization in Each State w/Students



Obtained:  
-Directly from the state  
or  
-Reciprocity agreement

Based on student  
**location.**

Chapter 34, 600.9(c)  
<https://bit.ly/3Gq1coK>

# Let's Not Forget, Authorization for... Professional Licensure Programs



# Let's Talk!



# Thank you!

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