July 3, 2014

VIA EMAIL

Alice Crisp
Blue Ridge Community College

Dear Ms. Crisp:

Thank you for your recent inquiry to the Department of Higher Education regarding the need for authorization in Colorado. Under current policy, institutions of higher education must have a physical presence in the state to meet the criteria for authorization. Pursuant to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education’s policy regarding state authorization, the definition of physical presence under this policy reads:

3.16 “Physical presence”
   a. Establishing a physical location in a state for students to receive synchronous or asynchronous instruction; or
   b. Requiring students to physically meet in a location in the state for instructional purposes as required for the course; or
   c. Establishing an administrative office in the state, including:
      1. Maintaining an administrative office in the state for purposes of providing information to prospective students or the general public about the institution, enrolling students, or providing services to enrolled students;
      2. Providing office space to instructional or non-instructional staff; or
      3. Establishing an institutional address or phone number in the state.

I presume your institution will not meet our physical presence definition. Therefore, Colorado regulations permit Blue Ridge Community College to enroll Colorado residents into its online courses and programs without requiring action by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

On our website, you can find further information regarding the Degree Authorization Act at the following address: http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/DegreeAuth/

Please let me know if you have further questions or concerns. I can be reached via email, heather.delange@dhe.state.co.us or by phone, (303) 866-2723.

Sincerely,

Heather DeLange
Academic Policy Officer