

**May, Kathy**

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**From:** Rancourt, Donna <Donna.Rancourt@maine.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 11:50 AM  
**To:** May, Kathy  
**Subject:** FW: Out of state distance education regulations

Dear Ms. May,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your recent inquiry regarding the need for licensure or program approval to offer on-line instruction to citizens in the State of Maine. If your institution currently provides, or plans to provide, online instructional services with no physical presence within the boundaries of this State, please link to, respond to and return the following online survey. The survey introductory clarifications, along with your responses, will serve to demonstrate your institution's compliance with recent federal regulations concerning the delivery of online services in the State of Maine.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ospnf>

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**From:** May, Kathy [mailto:KMay@tcsg.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 3:33 PM  
**To:** Valliere, Georgette  
**Subject:** Out of state distance education regulations

Dear Ms. Georgette Valliere

I am sure you are aware that in October 2010, the U.S. Department of Education released regulations requiring out of state institutions offering distance education to students within another state to determine if authorization is needed by each state in which the institution is offering distance education.

In my role as Academic Affairs Coordinator (Georgia Virtual Technical Connection) for the Technical College System of Georgia, I am asking what the public 25 Technical Colleges within the State of Georgia need to do to obtain approval to teach distance education courses in the state of Maine?

As background, the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) consists of **25 public technical colleges** offering technical certificates of credit to two year degrees. Each technical college has a president and all technical college presidents' report to the TCSG Commissioner. The Commissioner reports to the Governor of Georgia and to the Technical College System of Georgia State Board. The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia is responsible for establishing standards, regulations and policies for the operation of the Technical College System of Georgia. The 25

public technical colleges within the Technical College System of Georgia are supported by taxation from local and state funds from the state of Georgia.

All 25 technical colleges within the state of Georgia are accredited by accrediting agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education. The 25 public technical colleges in Georgia are accredited by either one or two or by both of the accrediting bodies listed below:

- 1) the regional accrediting body the **Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools**
- 2) the national accrediting body the **Council on Occupational Education**.

Please provide me with direction as to the steps necessary to obtain the needed authorization from the state of Maine or directions on the process to be exempt from authorization as courses/programs are distance education delivery. Please include all associated costs.

I am very interested in the possibility of TCSG obtaining permission from your state on behalf of all of our 25 technical colleges as opposed to each technical college seeking individual approval.

For our colleges with no physical presence in Maine, what is needed?

Your help and guidance is most appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely

*Kathy T. May*

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