

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **DETC Announces Intent to Expand Scope**

The Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council announced recently that it intends to petition the U.S. Secretary of Education for an expansion of scope to include certificate and diploma programs of study for institutions accredited for Title IV purposes. The specific change to the USDE-recognized scope requested by DETC is shown in bold, italicized font:

*The accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer **non-degree and** degree programs primarily by distance education up through professional doctoral degrees, and are specifically certified by the agency as accredited for Title IV purposes; and for the accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States not participating in Title IV that offer programs primarily by distance education or correspondence education up through professional doctoral degrees.*

The Commission decided to request the expansion for several reasons. A new policy being implemented by the Department of Defense will require institutions participating in service member tuition assistance (TA) programs to have Title IV certification. An expansion of scope would enable DETC-accredited institutions offering non-degree programs to continue enrolling service members wishing to utilize their TA benefit.

Additionally, DETC has significant experience accrediting non-degree programs but does not have the authority within its scope of recognition to accredit those programs for Title IV purposes. An expanded scope would allow the Commission to apply its expertise in evaluating non-degree programs to institutions interested in offering non-degree programs to students making use of their Title IV Federal Financial Aid

The Commission intends to submit the petition in June 2014 for consideration by the National Advisory Committee for Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) at its December 2014 meeting.

#### **ABOUT DETC**

The Distance Education and Training Council (DETC) Accrediting Commission is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1926 that operates as a national accreditor of distance education institutions. DETC's goal is to ensure a high standard of educational quality in the distance education institutions it accredits and a quality education for the more than two million students who annually study at its accredited institutions.

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