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## **Public Notice: Denial of Initial Accreditation**

**July 18, 2014**

The DETC Accrediting Commission will provide written notice to the U.S. Secretary of Education, the appropriate state licensing or authorizing agencies and accrediting agencies at the same time it notifies the institution that the decision to deny accreditation is final. In addition, DETC will provide written notice to the public on its website of the decision within 24 hours of the final decision and provide a brief statement summarizing the reasons for the decision. (Procedure D.3. Notification and Information Sharing, *DETC Accreditation Handbook*)

At its June 2014 meeting, the DETC Accrediting Commission voted to deny initial accreditation to the following institution:

**Orlando University  
11325 Lake Underhill Road, Suite 102  
Orlando, FL 32825**

The Commission informed Orlando University (OU) of this decision on July 7, 2014 and afforded the institution the opportunity to provide notice of its intention to appeal the decision by July 17, 2014. OU did not elect to appeal. Therefore, the decision to deny accreditation is effective July 17, 2014.

Summarized below is the decision to deny initial accreditation.

The *DETC Accreditation Handbook*, January 2014 edition states “The burden of proof in demonstrating compliance with standards rests with the institution. The institution must prove to the Accrediting Commission that it meets or exceeds the standards. Accreditation is purely voluntary. The applicant institution voluntarily elects to apply for accreditation, and it voluntarily elects to comply with all standards and policies of the Commission.”

The substance of Orlando University’s submissions did not meet the Commission’s threshold requirements for consideration and an extensive amount of analysis and documentation was needed in order for Orlando to demonstrate that the institution meets DETC Accreditation Standards. After carefully reviewing the entire record and thoughtfully weighing Orlando University’s written responses to DETC’s requests for evidence of compliance, the Accrediting Commission determined that Orlando did not provide sufficient documentation to demonstrate that it had taken the steps necessary to come into compliance with DETC Standards of Accreditation.

## **August 1, 2014 Update**

When DETC informed Orlando University that the decision to withdraw accreditation was final as of July 18, 2014, it afforded Orlando University the opportunity to provide a written statement regarding the Accrediting Commission's decision. Orlando University did not provide a written statement.