



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Summary of Certification Process: Institutions of Higher Education

All prospective school owners seeking certification to operate an institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia must follow the process outlined below.

Institutional Certification is a two-phase process. Applicants must complete the first part of the process and wait to receive a response from SCHEV before proceeding. All parts of the application must be complete and in compliance with SCHEV's minimum standards before approval to operate an institute of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia is granted.

Processing Timeline: A school submitting its complete certification application package will have 180 days to complete the process, after which time its application will be withdrawn by SCHEV and it will receive a refund of the application fee minus a nonrefundable administrative fee of \$2,000.

Phase 1

1. Attend SCHEV online New School Orientation.
2. Submit an "Intent to Operate a Postsecondary School in the Commonwealth of Virginia" and Coversheet. Wait to receive notification of approval or disapproval from SCHEV. Staff will respond within 45 business days.
3. Submit a "Name Acknowledgement Form" and "Background Check Profile Form," along with the required fee. SCHEV staff will respond within 45 business days. You must use the approved name in completing the certification application forms.

Phase 2

1. Submit a complete Certification Application Package and required fee.
2. SCHEV will acknowledge receipt of your application and obtain additional information from you as needed. Please note that the length of time it takes to complete this process is dependent on the completeness of the application and the processing timeline above. Applications are reviewed in the order in which they are received.
3. Once the certification application is processed by staff with all requirements met, SCHEV will conduct a site visit.
4. SCHEV senior staff will complete a final review of the application. After verification that all stipulations have been met, the application will be presented before Council for approval.
5. Once the school is granted approval, SCHEV will issue a Certificate to Operate (CTO) by email.