

**Higher Education Institutions (colleges and universities)**  
**Approved by Northern Lights Career Development Center**

*Updated 3-30-2017*

College transcripts, certificates or diplomas that are issued from a higher education institution must be from a recognized, accredited institution. Northern Lights Career Development Center follows the same policy as the Community College of Vermont (CCV) in approving credit, certificates and degrees from higher education institutions.

**BACKGROUND:**

The criteria for approval are two fold. First, the higher education institution (colleges and universities) should be accredited. Those that are, are listed in the US Department of Education (USDE) database of higher education institutions. Second, the accrediting agency must be recognized. The Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) maintains a database of accrediting agencies. When the institution's accreditation is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) *and* the agency that accredits the educational institution is recognized by the Council of Higher Education (CHEA), then Northern Lights Career Development Center also recognizes it. This criteria is used a) to enter diplomas, degrees, credentials or transcripts into a person's BFIS Quality and Credential Account and/or b) to award a certificate or credential from Northern Lights Career Development Center.

**THE PROCESS THAT IS FOLLOWED:**

Individuals wanting to check if the credits or degrees from a college or university will be accepted, can do what Northern Lights staff does.

1- Go to the website of the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA): [HERE](#) to determine what *agency accredits* the institution (accept the terms of service and then input the institution in a the search page)

2- Go [HERE](#) "CHEA- and USDE-Recognized Accrediting Organizations" (this page is also on the link in step 1 above) to determine if the *accrediting agency* of the college or university, is recognized by both CHEA and the US Dept of Education. If so, the credits, degrees and certificates from this institution will be accepted by Northern Lights Career Development.

If there are any questions, Northern Lights refers to the CCV registrar.