



Tab 1

Certification of Institutional Participation in State Student Aid Programs

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
July 21, 2020

BACKGROUND

In order to maintain eligibility to participate in state student aid programs, institutions must meet the requirements outlined in section 173.1102, RSMo, which defines approved public and approved private institutions, and 6 CSR 10-2.140 Institutional Eligibility for Student Participation. These requirements specify that an approved private institution must be a non-profit educational institution operating privately under the control of an independent board and not directly controlled or administered by any public agency or political subdivision.

Two private institutions, Research College of Nursing and Saint Luke's College of Health Sciences, have had status changes that affect their participation in the state student aid programs. Under 6 CSR 10-2.140, during a period in which an institution is certified as an approved institution, if a substantial change occurs affecting the institution's compliance with 173.1102, RSMo the CBHE may consider whether to terminate the institution's approved status because of the change. The CBHE may, at its own discretion, hold one or more public hearings before terminating the institution's approved status.

The board recertified both institutions' participation in the state aid programs in June 2019, effective September 2019. The status change for Research College of Nursing requires board action, while the change for Saint Luke's College of Health Sciences is informational only.

CURRENT STATUS

The department has received information, confirmed with the U.S. Department of Education, that Research College of Nursing is now a for-profit proprietary institution. Based on that status, the institution no longer meets the requirements set forth in 173.1102(2), which requires an institution operate as a non-profit in order to be an "approved private institution." Staff does not believe a public hearing is needed as there is no dispute regarding the for-profit status of the institution. This institution was certified to participate in the following programs:

- Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program
- Competitiveness Scholarship Program (Marguerite Ross Barnett Scholarship)
- Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program (Bright Flight Scholarship)
- Kids' Chance Scholarship Program
- Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program
- Public Safety Officer or Employee's Child Survivor Grant Program

The department was also notified that Saint Luke's College of Health Sciences has merged with Rockhurst University, essentially eliminating the former as a free-standing institution. As the CBHE recertified Rockhurst University to participate in the state student aid programs in June 2019, no board action is required as a result of this change. All of the students formerly served by Saint Luke's College of Health Sciences will now be served by Rockhurst University, with access to the following programs:

- Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program
- Competitiveness Scholarship Program (Marguerite Ross Barnett Scholarship)
- Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program (Bright Flight Scholarship)
- Kids' Chance Scholarship Program
- Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program
- Public Safety Officer or Employee's Child Survivor Grant Program

Saint Luke's College of Health Sciences' students previously had access to these same programs, with the exception of the Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program.

NEXT STEPS

In follow up to action by the Coordinating Board, the department will send formal notification of the termination to Research College of Nursing.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Coordinating Board for Higher Education terminate Research College of Nursing's status as an "approved private institution" ending its participation in all state student aid programs.

NO ATTACHMENTS