

# LICENSING ALERT

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Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure  
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●●UPDATES LICENSING ALERT 3-98●●

## **STAFFING REGULATIONS QUALIFICATIONS/DEGREE FROM A FOREIGN NON-ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE**

Since implementation of the Chapter 704 Staffing Requirements for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activities on March 4, 1996, it has become apparent that a number of drug and alcohol counselors have degrees from foreign universities/colleges lacking accreditation. The staffing regulations require that counselors have degrees from an accredited university or college. The United States is the only country that has an accreditation system, therefore, universities/colleges in other countries cannot be accredited unless they have a satellite site in the United States.

Accordingly, the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure (Division) will allow for a variance provided that specific criteria are followed:

- (1) This variance is permitted only for those individuals with a degree from a foreign non-accredited university/college.
- (2) The drug and alcohol treatment facility must obtain an evaluation of the individual's degree from one of the agencies accepted by the Division in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Division will recognize only those evaluations completed by a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES®). For a listing of these members, see either the NACES® website [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org) under the heading "Current Members," or the Department of Education's website [www.pde.psu.edu/CERTIFICATION/tcforedap.html](http://www.pde.psu.edu/CERTIFICATION/tcforedap.html). Please note that this evaluation must include a "statement of comparability" to the specific qualifications published in the staffing regulations.

- (3) A request for an exception from the regulations in these instances is not required. Rather, this evaluation must become part of the individual's personnel file and presented for review by the Division at any time.

If the facility is uncertain about the acceptability of the evaluation, the facility may forward a copy of the evaluation to the Division, prior to hiring an individual.

Questions regarding this alert should be directed to the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure at (717) 783-8675.