## TOPIC: rECOMMENDation FOR renewal of full authorization for EMBRY RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

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1. **SUMMARY**

This consent item recommends the renewal of Full Authorization for the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University pursuant to the Degree Authorization Act (§23-2-101 C.R.S.).

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## BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act (DAA). The Act sets out the terms by which the Commission may authorize accredited private colleges and universities, out-of-state public colleges and universities, and seminaries and bible colleges to operate in Colorado.

The DAA outlines the Department’s jurisdiction over private education programs available to the residents of the state of Colorado. The DAA establishes standards to (1) prevent misrepresentation, fraud, and collusion in offering educational programs to the public and (2) protect, preserve, foster, and encourage the educational programs offered by private educational institutions, which meet generally recognized criteria of quality and effectiveness as determined through voluntary accreditation.

Pursuant to statute and policy, all authorized institutions under the DAA must renew authorization periodically. The renewal period varies by the type of authorization that the institution holds from the CCHE. A private college or university that has full authorization “shall apply for renewal of authorization in accordance with the schedule for institutional reaccreditation by its accrediting body or every three years, whichever is longer.”

Full Authorization is awarded to institutions which are institutionally accredited by an institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and has had a successful on-site review of its Colorado location(s). These institutions are subject to the deceptive trade practice provisions in §23-2-104, C.R.S.

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is a private, not-for-profit university based in Daytona Beach, Florida and has been operating in Colorado as an accredited institution since 1992. The University has been accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools throughout its operation in Colorado and currently offers programs ranging from the Certificate level through the Master’s level. Embry Riddle Aeronautical operates one campus in Colorado at the Fort Carson Army Base in Colorado Springs. Through its self-reporting, the University reported 218 students for Calendar Year 2022.

1. **STAFF ANALYSIS**

Pursuant to CCHE Policy Section I, Part J, the accreditation cycle triggers the renewal of authorization for institutions that are awarded Full Authorization by the CCHE. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University received a reaffirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 2022 with the next fifth year review scheduled for 2028 and the next full reaffirmation of accreditation visit scheduled for 2032. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University has held continuous accreditation from SACS since 1968. SACS accreditation assures quality by verifying that an institution meets threshold requirements and is engaged in continuous improvement. All institutions are required to submit data annually in their institution update, undergo annual monitoring of financial and non-financial indicators, and adhere to SACS policies and practices.

With the renewal of accreditation by SACS, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University applied to the Department in March 2023 for renewal of Full Authorization in accordance with the CCHE policy, Section I, Part J.

In addition to renewing and maintaining its accreditation, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University continues to meet and comply with all requirements for authorization to operate in Colorado. In a review of the Department’s student complaint database, there are no outstanding complaints against Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. The student complaint database shows one complaint submitted against the university.

Upon review of the SACS reaffirmation letter and the University’s continued compliance, Department staff recommend Embry Riddle Aeronautical University for the renewal of Full Authorization.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends the Commission approve the renewal of Full Authorization for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S §23-2-103.3(5) A private college or university that has authorization from the commission pursuant to this section and maintains its accreditation shall apply to the department for reauthorization in accordance with the schedule for reaccreditation by its accrediting body or every three years, whichever is longer. A seminary or religious training institution shall apply for reauthorization every three years. A private college or university or seminary or religious training institution that seeks reauthorization shall submit an application in accordance with the procedures and policies adopted by the commission and shall pay the reauthorization fee established by the commission pursuant to [section 23-2-104.5](http://web.lexisnexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=0440209b70196c0a450023ec95de11c7&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5bC.R.S.%2023-2-103.3%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=4&_butStat=0&_butNum=3&_butInline=1&_butinfo=COCODE%2023-2-104.5&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=1&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLzVzB-zSkAb&_md5=fccf21cdb05ad81de4864a4d217ac5a1).