

BUREAU FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

CAPPS Legislative Conference, April 4, 2025



Presentation Overview

- Regulatory Work
- Website Redesign
- Data System Conversion
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Discussion

Date of Closure Selection

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

Advisory Committee

In Development

Public Comment

Office of Admin. Law

Final

Overview

SB 1433 (2022) authorized the Bureau to choose a closure date for institutions that the Bureau believes have closed without noticing the Bureau. New regulations effective January 1, 2025, outline the process through which it would do so.

Key Components

- If the Bureau believes an institution has closed without providing notice, the Bureau may select a date of closure.
- The Bureau will inform the institution in writing of the proposed closure date and request a written response.
- If a written response is received, the Bureau will proceed accordingly. If no response is received, the Bureau will record the institution as closed and the license will be terminated.
- Other changes include minor clarifications related to reporting requirements.

For more information, see the regulatory package posted online at <https://www.bppe.ca.gov/lawsregs/index.shtml>.



Expired Approvals



Overview

Institutions are approved to operate after a defined time period, and the approval expires unless a timely renewal application is received. Current regulations create unnecessary complexity and ambiguity in this process, by allowing an institution to submit a renewal application long after it is able to operate.

Key Components

- The Bureau must receive a renewal application on or before the 30th day after its approval term has expired.
- If a renewal application is received, the institution may continue to operate while the application is adjudicated.
- If a renewal application is not received, the institution's approval to operate will terminate by operation of law on the 31st day after the expiration of approval.
- *Note: Proposal does not impact application processing timelines in any way.*

For more information, see the regulatory package posted online at <https://www.bppe.ca.gov/lawsregs/index.shtml>.

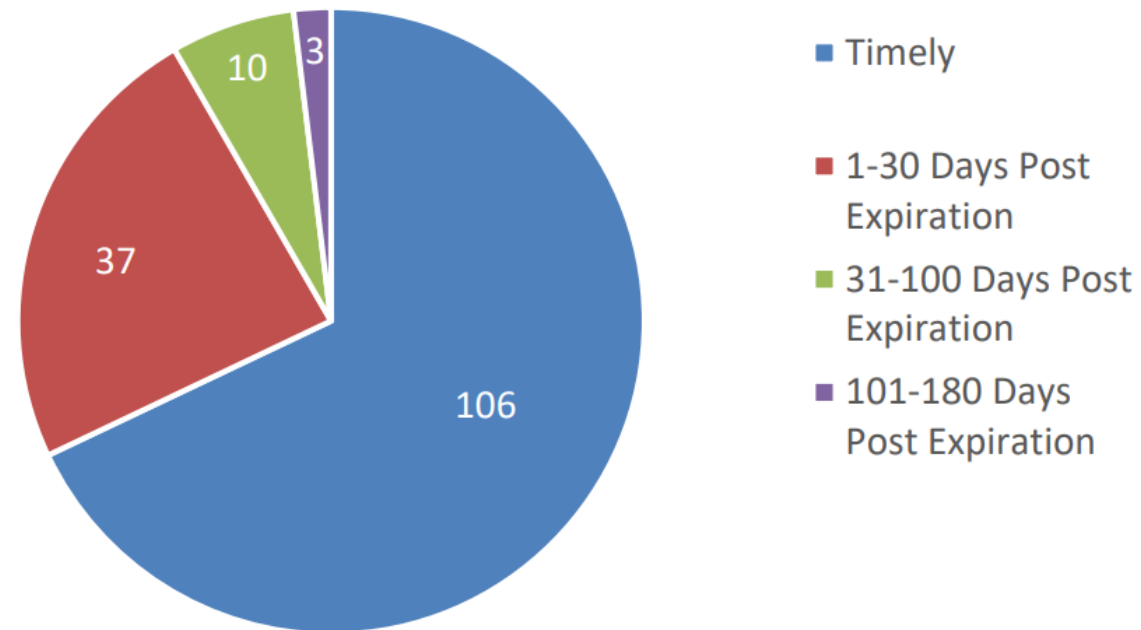


Expired Approval Analysis

11/8/23 Advisory
Committee Meeting

Bureau staff analyzed available information to understand the prevalence of renewal applications being submitted after expiry. Bureau records show 156 institutional approvals scheduled to expire in 2022 for which a renewal application was received.

Timing of Renewal Application Receipt for
Approvals to Operate Expiring in 2022



Refund Policies

Advisory Committee

In Development

Public Comment

Office of Admin. Law

Final

Overview

Current refund-related regulations do not differentiate between the concepts of cancellation and withdrawal. Revised regulations will separate out these concepts, limit the amounts that institutions can charge students to amounts specified in the catalog and enrollment agreement, and require receipts to be provided.

Key Components

- Defines "cancellation," "cancellation period," and "withdrawal."
- Clarifies that institutions must have written policies outlining the conditions that may lead to withdrawal, and to provide written notice to students being withdrawn.
- Requires institutions to provide refunds within a specified timeframe and to maintain clear policies regarding the refund process.
- Limits the amounts that institutions can charge students to no more than the amounts specified in the signed enrollment agreement, and requires that receipts be provided for payments made.

For more information, see the regulatory package posted online at <https://www.bppe.ca.gov/lawsregs/index.shtml>.



Financial Resources, Statements, Reports

Advisory Committee

In Development

Public Comment

Office of Admin. Law

Final

Overview

The Bureau is proposing to amend various regulations related to financial resources, statements, and reports to address known areas of confusion, inefficiency, and issues.

Key Components

- Delineate separate requirements for Title IV and non-Title IV institutions.
- Require financial statements submitted as part of an Annual Report to comply with established financial-statement standards and allow them to be submitted electronically.
- Require that CPAs preparing financial statements hold active licenses in good standing.
- Simplify the definition of “current” with respect to financial standards.

For more information, see the November 8, 2023, meeting materials posted online at https://www.bppe.ca.gov/about_us/meetings/materials/20231108_acm.pdf.



Unapproved Activity

Advisory Committee

In Development

Public Comment

Office of Admin. Law

Final

Overview

Statute authorizes the Bureau to issue fines for unapproved activity of up to \$100,000, without parameters for how fines would be established within this authority. Recent law changes specified that the value of refunds ordered is not included in the \$100,000 fine limit.

Key Components

- Establishes a \$10,000 minimum fine for unapproved activity citations.
- Outlines mitigating (e.g., corrective actions) and aggravating (e.g., established prior knowledge) factors the Bureau will use to set fine amounts within authorized thresholds.
- Specifies that the \$100,000 limit does not include the value of any student refunds ordered in the citation.

For more information, see the February 26, 2025, meeting materials posted online at https://www.bppe.ca.gov/about_us/meetings/materials/20250226_acm.pdf.



Catalog Requirements

Advisory Committee

In Development

Public Comment

Office of Admin. Law

Final

Overview

The Bureau is considering amending catalog requirements to ensure they remain useful to students, institutions, and the public. Catalog requirements have remained largely unchanged since the Bureau's inception.

Key Considerations

- Examining where additional specificity is necessary to ensure students' have access to needed records and services.
- Considering opportunities to reorganize or restructure for additional clarity and alignment.
- Ensuring continued utility of all required disclosure items and streamlining as necessary.

For more information, see the February 26, 2025, meeting materials posted online at https://www.bppe.ca.gov/about_us/meetings/materials/20250226_acm.pdf.



Student Records

Advisory Committee

In Development

Public Comment

Office of Admin. Law

Final

Overview

Institutions are required to outline record maintenance plans at licensure, but these plans frequently fail when the institution shuts down, an owner passes away, or other circumstances at the institution occur. This leaves students without access to essential documentation for employment, licensing, or further education.

Key Considerations

- What can be done in advance of a closure to ensure post-closure plans will pan out?
- Should the Bureau further define the role and obligations of a custodian of records?
- Should the Bureau require that the institution's custodian of records be someone other than the institution's owner, or that records be maintained in a separate location?
- Should the Bureau consider ways to assume a more routine record-collection or recordkeeping role for closed schools?

For more information, see the November 13, 2024, meeting materials posted online at https://www.bppe.ca.gov/about_us/meetings/materials/20241113_acm.pdf.



Web Redesign: Student Tab (Underway)



**Bureau for Private
Postsecondary Education**
Department of Consumer Affairs



- Eliminating duplication between the “Students” tab and Office of Student Assistance and Relief (OSAR) website.
- The BPPE Student tab will continue to link to essential functions:
 - Find an Approved School
 - File a Complaint
 - Apply for Student Tuition Recovery Fund
 - Request a Transcript
 - View School Performance Fact Sheets
- For additional resources and support, visitors will be encouraged to visit OSAR (osar.bppe.ca.gov).



Web Redesign: Schools Tab (In Development)



**Bureau for Private
Postsecondary Education**
Department of Consumer Affairs



About Us



Students



Schools



Enforcement



Annual Reports



Careers



Search

Overall Structure (Proposed):

- Find Approved Schools
- Open a New School/Obtain New Approval
- Resources for Approved Schools
 - Change/Renewal Applications
 - Application “Toolbox” Resources
 - Overview of General Approval Requirements
 - Workshop Information and Registration Links
 - Annual Report Links and Instructions
 - What to Expect Regarding Enforcement
- Information for Closing a School

*What are we missing?
Send feedback to
Jennifer.Kunkle@dca.ca.gov*



Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education



OFFICE OF STUDENT ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF

Data System Transition

- Transition anticipated Spring 2025
- Institutions will receive emailed instructions to the institutional contact on record.
 - Between December-February, Bureau staff successfully confirmed or updated contact information for 92% of approved and registered institutions.
- Immediately post-transition, institutions will be able to:
 - View and pay annual fee invoices
 - Submit quarterly STRF Assessment Reports
 - Review institutional details to ensure Bureau records are up to date
- Additional applications will come online over the coming year.

Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the latest with licensing timelines?
- What is happening with the Bureau's financial situation?
- What is the Bureau doing given changes at the U.S. Department of Education?

Discussion



BUREAU FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION