

LII > U.S. Code > Title 20 > CHAPTER 28 > SUBCHAPTER I > Part A > **§ 1001**

20 U.S. Code § 1001 - General definition of institution of higher education

U.S. Code Notes

(a) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

For purposes of this chapter, other than subchapter IV, the term “institution of higher education” means an educational institution in any State that—

- (1)** admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate, or persons who meet the requirements of section 1091(d) of this title;
- (2)** is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education;
- (3)** provides an educational program for which the institution awards a bachelor’s degree or provides not less than a 2-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree, or awards a degree that is acceptable for admission to a graduate or professional degree program, subject to review and approval by the Secretary;
- (4)** is a public or other nonprofit institution; and
- (5)** is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association, or if not so accredited, is an institution that has been granted preaccreditation status by such an agency or association that has been recognized by the Secretary for the granting of

preaccreditation status, and the Secretary has determined that there is satisfactory assurance that the institution will meet the accreditation standards of such an agency or association within a reasonable time.

(b) ADDITIONAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDED

For purposes of this chapter, other than subchapter IV, the term "institution of higher education" also includes—

(1) any school that provides not less than a 1-year program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation and that meets the provision of paragraphs (1), (2), (4), and (5) of subsection (a); and

(2) a public or nonprofit private educational institution in any State that, in lieu of the requirement in subsection (a)(1), admits as regular students individuals—

(A) who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located; or

(B) who will be dually or concurrently enrolled in the institution and a secondary school.

(c) LIST OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES

For purposes of this section and section 1002 of this title, the Secretary shall publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies or associations that the Secretary determines, pursuant to subpart 2 of part H of subchapter IV, to be reliable authority as to the quality of the education or training offered.

(Pub. L. 89-329, title I, § 101, as added Pub. L. 105-244, title I, § 101(a), Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1585; amended Pub. L. 110-315, title I, § 101(a), Aug. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 3083; Pub. L. 112-74, div. F, title III, § 309(c)(3), Dec. 23, 2011, 125 Stat. 1101.)

U.S. Code Toolbox

[Law about... Articles from Wex](#)

[Table of Popular Names](#)

[Parallel Table of Authorities](#)

[How current is this?](#)

ACCESSIBILITY

ABOUT LII

CONTACT US

ADVERTISE HERE

HELP

TERMS OF USE

PRIVACY

[LII]