

STETSON UNIVERSITY

State Authorization and Accreditation

Stetson University, Inc. is an independent, private, non-profit educational institution operating under IRS section 501(c)(3). Opened in 1883 as the DeLand Academy and then chartered as an institution of learning in 1887 by Act of the Legislature under the name DeLand University, the University was re-named John B. Stetson University by unanimous resolution of the Board of Trustees in February 1889. Stetson University is Florida's oldest university.

State Authorization

The [Florida Department of Education](#) (FDOE) serves as the single repository of education data from school districts, community colleges, universities, and independent postsecondary institutions. Within the FDOE's [Commission for Independent Education](#) have statutory responsibilities in matters relating to nonpublic, postsecondary, educational institutions, Stetson University is not under the jurisdiction or purview of the Commission except as otherwise provided in law, and is not required to obtain licensure. *See* §1005.06, Florida Statutes.

The FDOE [Office of Articulation](#) is the office available to assist students with complaints. For information on how to file a complaint with the Florida Department of Education, Office of Articulation, please call 850/245-0427 or send an email to articulation@fldoe.org.

Accreditation

Stetson University is accredited by the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges](#), 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Ga., 30033, 404-679-4500.

The College of Law is accredited by the American Bar Association Council of the [Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar](#), 321 N. Clark Street, 21st Floor, Chicago, Ill., 60654, 312-988-6738. Since 1931, Stetson University College of Law has been a member of the [Association of American Law Schools](#), 1201 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 800, Washington, D.C., 20036-2717, 202-296-8851.

The School of Business Administration is accredited by the [Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business](#), 777 South Harbour Island Boulevard, Suite 750, Tampa, Fla., 33602-5730, 813-769-6500.

The School of Music is accredited by the [National Association of Schools of Music](#), 11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21, Reston, VA 20190-5248, 703-437-0700.

Electronic (Distance) Education

Under new federal regulations published in October 2010, colleges and universities that

participate in Title IV funding and operate in multiple states via electronic (distance) learning must comply with whatever “authorization to operate” regulations are in place in those states where the institution has enrolled students or is otherwise active based on state definitions.

Currently, no consistency exists among states in terms of statutory language and enforcement, nor among colleges and universities in terms of licensing type and volume. Stetson University is in the process of examining state requirements for those states in which University students are located and, where applicable, seeking an exemption from registration. Depending on what we learn from this effort, it may be determined that the University may need to seek individual authorization from those states or advise students studying in particular states that they cannot register for electronic (distance) distance education courses. U.S. Department of Education enforcement is delayed until July 1, 2014 while the University engages in good-faith efforts to pursue any necessary exemptions or approvals.

Under U.S. Department of Education regulations, each state is required to have a process to handle complaints for all institutions in the State, except certain Federally run institutions and tribal institutions such as tribally controlled community colleges. For purposes of HEA eligibility under these regulations, the State remains responsible for responding to complaints about institutions in the State regardless of what body or entity actually manages complaints. Information on the State of Florida and the University’s accrediting bodies has been described above. For other states, the [State Higher Education Executive Officers](#) (SHEEO) has compiled a list of [State Contact Information](#). It will be updated as additional information becomes available.

NOTE: Students should attempt to resolve complaints with the University itself. Applicable University policies usually describe the appropriate procedures. Filing a complaint with the State of Florida or an accrediting body does not excuse a student from following any applicable University policies for appeals or challenges to actions taken or toll any time frames for the filing of such internal appeals.

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