



MAY 17 2022

Dr. Blanca Burgos
President
Universal Career School
10720 West Flagler Street
Sweetwater, FL 33174-4406

Sent Overnight Via UPS
Tracking #: 1Z37X7Y30196589581

OPE-ID: 03856300

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Denial of Recertification Application to Participate in the Federal Student Financial Assistance Programs

Dear Dr. Burgos:

On November 18, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (“Department”) issued a letter notifying Universal Career School (“Universal”) that its application for recertification to continue to participate in the student financial assistance programs authorized pursuant to Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1070 *et seq.* (“Title IV, HEA programs”) had been denied, and that as a result, Universal’s participation in the Title IV, HEA programs would end on November 30, 2021. Universal had two weeks from the date of the letter, until December 2, 2021, to file a written appeal. Universal, through its attorney, timely requested and received numerous extensions to file its response with the understanding that Universal remained ineligible for Title IV funds as of November 30, 2021. On March 18, 2022, Universal’s attorney filed an initial response, followed by a supplemental response on April 7, 2022.

Although Universal timely submitted the Reconsideration Request and provided subsequent responses, the Department will not review and respond to those submissions. The Department has recently learned via information obtained from the Florida Department of Education Commission for Independent Education that Universal ceased providing educational instruction to its students on March 19, 2022. According to a teach-out plan Universal submitted to that agency, Universal’s last educational activity was completed on March 19, 2022, when it graduated students in the Cosmetology and Barbering programs. There are no students currently enrolled, and no instruction is taking place. Therefore, the Department considers Universal to have closed on March 19, 2022. Because Universal has closed, the institution’s Reconsideration Request is moot.

The Department’s Atlanta School Participation and Financial Analysis Division will contact Universal shortly regarding the proper procedures for closing out its Title IV, HEA participation. As the President for Universal, you are responsible to ensure that these requirements are met.

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Administrative Actions and Appeals Service Group
830 First St., N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002-8019
StudentAid.gov

Universal Career School

OPE-ID: 03856300

Page 2 of 2

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Lauren Pope of my staff at Lauren.Pope@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan D. Crim

Director

Administrative Actions and Appeals Service Group

cc: Ms. Blanca Burgos, President, Universal, via blancab@ucs.edu
Mr. Ronald Holt, Esq., via Rholt@rousepc.com
Mr. Samuel Ferguson, Executive Director, Florida Commission for Independent Education via susan.hood@fldoe.org
Mr. Gary Puckett, Executive Director, Council on Occupational Education via puckettg@council.org
Department of Defense, via osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.vol-edu-compliance@mail.mil
Department of Veteran Affairs, via INCOMING.VBAVACO@va.gov
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, via CFPB_ENF_Students@cfpb.gov