

March 30, 2018

## Court Ruling Could Revive Terminated College Accreditor

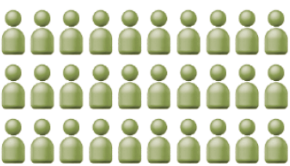
As part of a broader crackdown on for-profit higher education, the Obama administration ruled in 2016 that the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools would no longer be recognized by the Education Department. As a result, more than 240 for-profit schools overseen by the organization have had to find a new accreditor to certify their performance by June 2018. Otherwise, the schools would lose access to Title IV federal aid — a virtual death sentence for most.

On March 23, a federal judge ruled that the Obama administration had failed to consider additional evidence relevant to ACICS's case. The ruling did not immediately reverse the administration's decision, but provides the Trump administration a chance to undo the decision and revive ACICS. Supporters of for-profit higher education argue that the Obama administration's decision was politically-motivated and will harm students attending these schools.

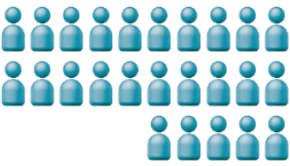
Public records compiled by the Center for American Progress show that many ACICS schools have made progress towards obtaining new accreditation. During the 2015-16 school year, more than 180,000 students attended schools whose future status was still uncertain as of March 2018. However, most of these schools were scheduled for review by a new accreditor, meaning they will have an opportunity to qualify for federal aid in time for the June deadline — but only if they can meet the standards set by their new accreditor.

### Enrollment at ACICS-accredited schools, by status

1 person icon = 5,000 students attending during the 2015-2016 school year



**148,976 students**  
attending schools that have obtained new accreditation



**125,172 students**  
attending schools that will receive an accreditation review before the June deadline

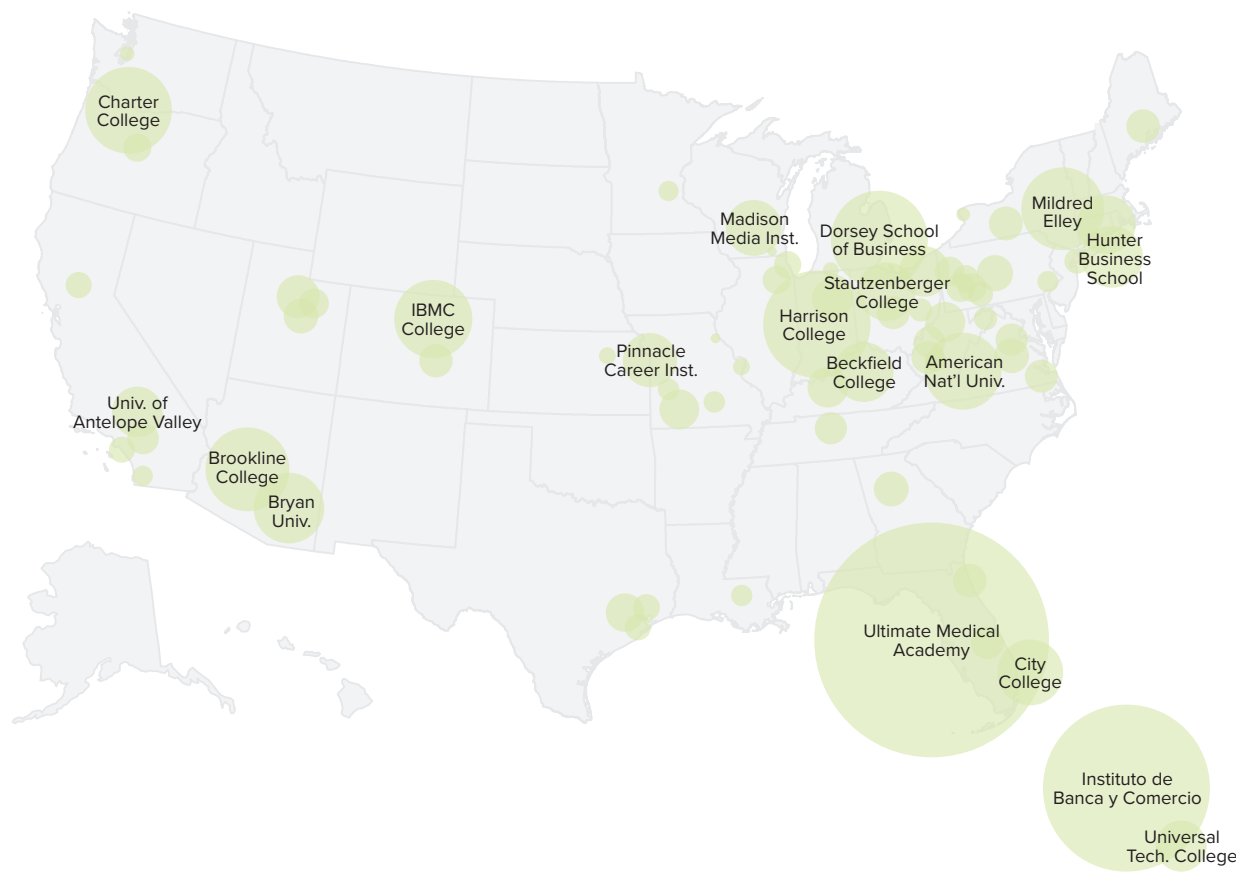


**60,993 students**  
attending schools whose progress could not be verified



**46,327 students**  
attending schools that closed or are otherwise Title IV ineligible

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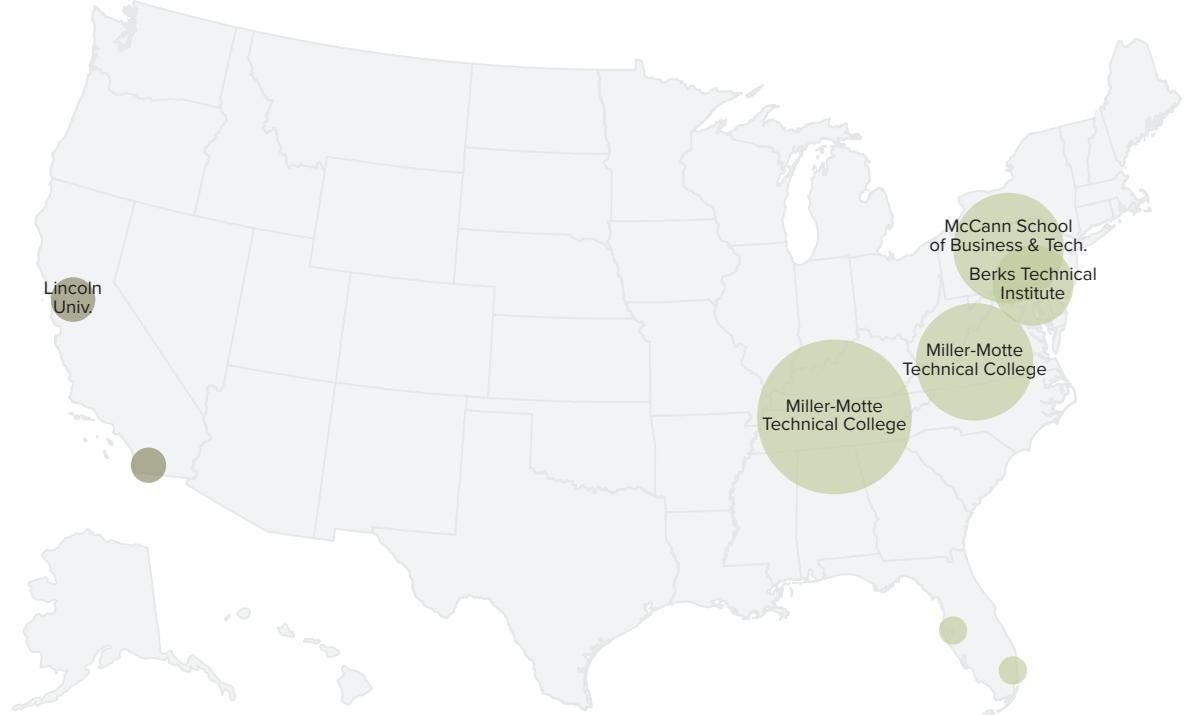
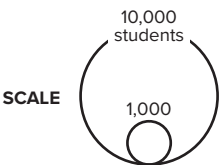


### Schools that successfully obtained a new accreditor

Green bubble icon: Obtained new accreditor (72 schools, 116,316 students)

Following the Obama administration's decision to cease recognition of ACICS, these schools successfully applied and obtained accreditation under a new agency and will be eligible for Title IV aid beyond the June deadline.

If the Trump administration reversed the decision and recognized ACICS, these schools would be largely unaffected.

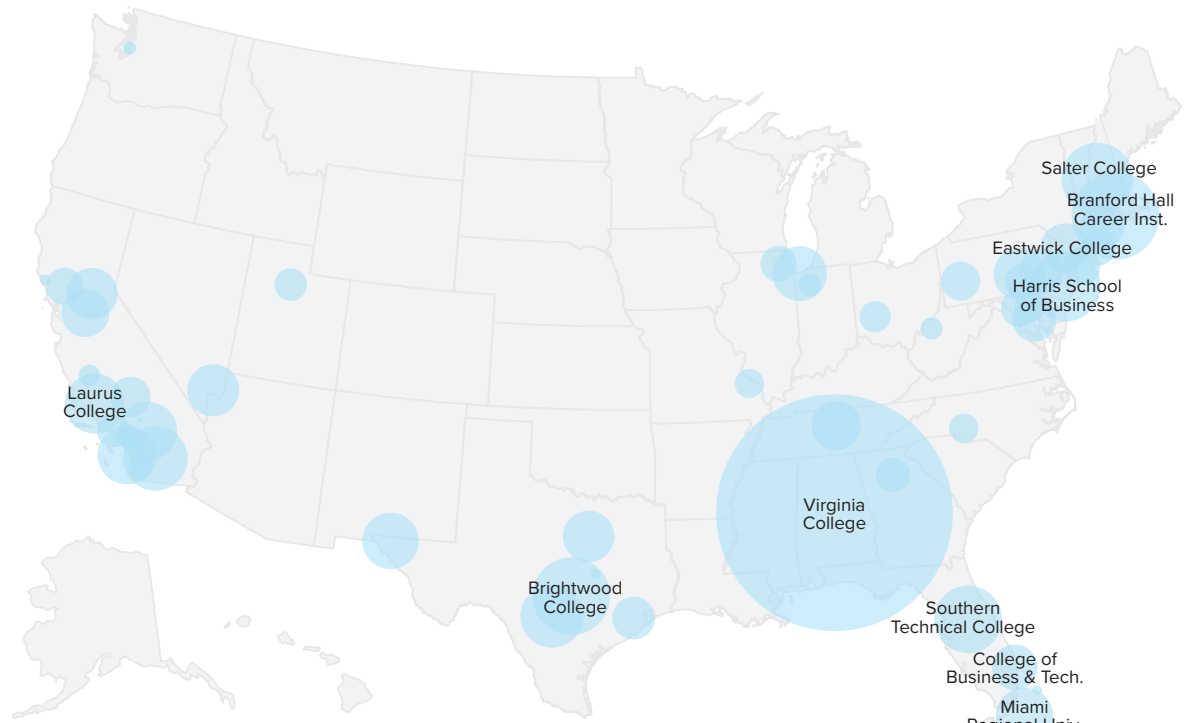
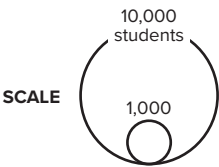


### Schools maintaining eligibility through other means

Light green bubble icon: Merged with an accredited school (6 schools, 30,936 students)  
Dark green bubble icon: Preaccredited with new agency (2 schools, 1,724 students)

Five of these schools will still be eligible for Title IV aid beyond June because they merged with another accredited institution. A sixth school is currently awaiting Education Department approval for its merger.

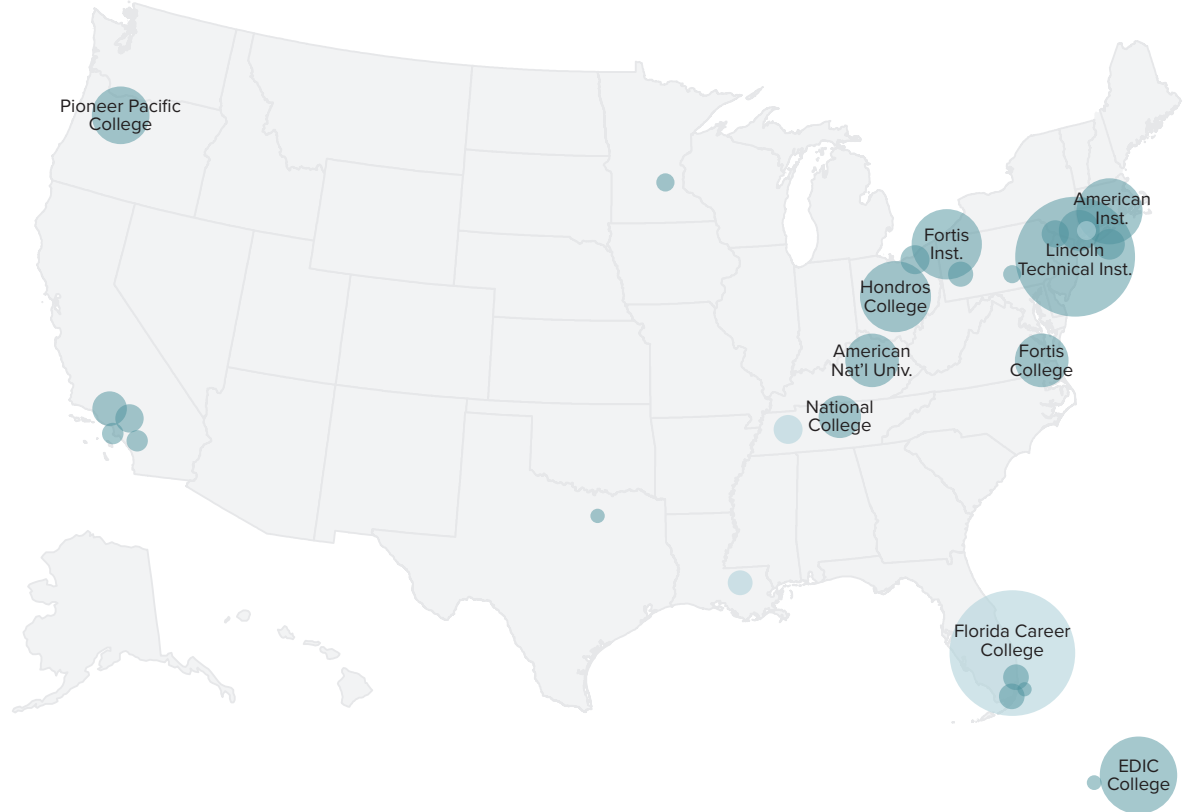
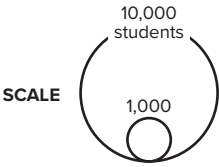
Two schools have received a preliminary preaccreditation with a new agency that will allow them to maintain Title IV eligibility beyond June.



### Schools with reviews scheduled before the June deadline

Blue bubble icon: Review scheduled before June deadline (51 schools, 86,010 students)

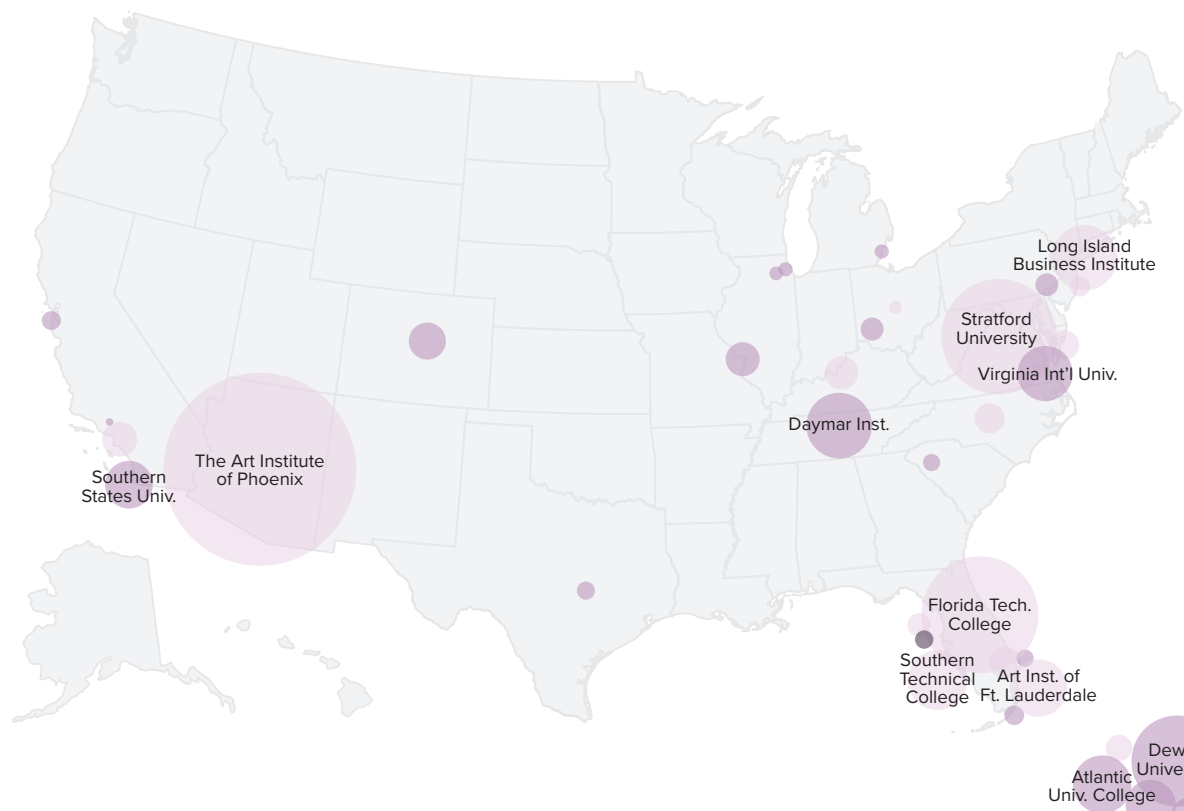
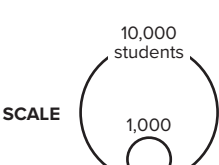
According to public records, these schools are scheduled for a review with a new accreditor before the June deadline. If they meet the necessary standards and are approved, they will maintain their Title IV eligibility beyond June.



### Schools undergoing review, final decision unknown

Dark blue bubble icon: Reviewed but not yet approved (25 schools, 29,785 students)  
Light blue bubble icon: Review still in progress (4 schools, 9,377 students)

These schools are seeking approval from a new accreditor, but the outcome of their review is not yet known. If they meet the necessary standards and are approved, they will maintain their Title IV eligibility beyond June.

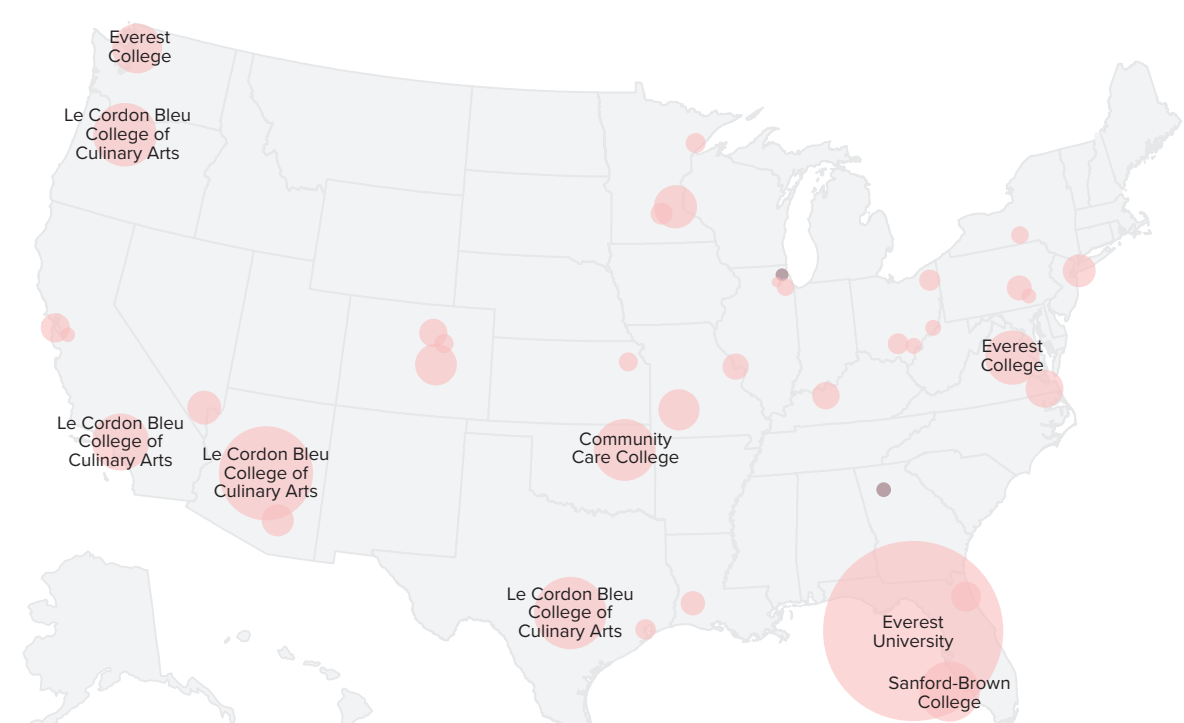
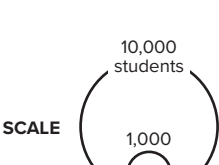


### Schools whose progress toward new accreditation is unknown

Pink bubble icon: Status unknown or unverified (15 schools, 43,820 students)  
Purple bubble icon: No known review in progress (21 schools, 16,993 students)  
Dark purple bubble icon: Denied by new accreditor (1 school, 180 students)

These schools' progress towards new accreditation could not be verified using public records.

Many are seeking new accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, which does not provide as much information about its review schedule compared to other agencies.



### Schools closed or otherwise ineligible for Title IV

Red bubble icon: Closed (38 schools, 46,124 students)  
Dark red bubble icon: Not in Title IV or ineligible (3 schools, 203 students)

These schools have already closed or have otherwise already been ruled ineligible for Title IV aid.

The collapse of Everest University, based in Florida, was a major catalyst for the Obama administration's decision to cease recognition of ACICS.

