



**ALABAMA COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE SYSTEM**

**Department of Postsecondary Education  
Bradley Byrne, Chancellor**

## **TIPS FOR RECOGNIZING A FRAUDULENT INSTITUTION**

- Documents may bear the name of entities that are not officially-recognized educational institutions.
- Documents may be misrepresentations of documents issued by legitimate institutions.
- Institution may claim to be selling bogus credentials as *novelty* or *replacement* degrees.
- Institution describes itself with wording like *internationally recognized*, *fully accredited*, *affiliated with...*, *accredited by...*, *verification services available...*, some create their own accreditation and verification services.
- Institution offers life experience credit or curriculum.
- Institution does not require general education core curriculum courses as part of degree program.
- Low number of faculty or faculty not properly credentialed to teach degree curriculum.
- Institution is not accredited.
- Extreme tuition costs on both the low and high ends of the spectrum.
- Check websites for accreditation such as, but not limited to, the U.S. Department of Education.
- These are just tips. Always **DO YOUR HOMEWORK!** Be sure to research institutions.

Information provided by:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) - International Education Services

The Department of Postsecondary Education Private School Licensure Division