

MISSISSIPPI

FINAL GRADING ANALYSIS

OVERALL SCORE: **360.75/700 POINTS (51.5%)**
 LETTER GRADE: **F**

I. OVERSIGHT BODY: **54.75/100 POINTS**

A. IS THERE A STATUTORILY CREATED OVERSIGHT BODY
 THAT IS PUBLICLY ACCOUNTABLE?
53.75/60 POINTS

Element	Points Available	Type 1	Type 2	Average
1. Oversight body is a multi-member board, commission, or panel created by statute	10	10	10	10
2. Oversight body was statutorily created specifically to oversee private postsecondary institutions	10	10	0	5
3. Multi-member board, commission, or panel is the ultimate decision maker (as opposed to a single person, like the head of a department or director)	10	10	10	10
4. Oversight body can engage in rulemaking	10	10	10	10
5. Oversight body's meetings must be open to the public	5	5	5	5
6. Oversight body's meetings must allow public comment	5	5	5	5
7. Oversight body can initiate investigations	5	5	5	5
8. Oversight body can impose penalties for violations	5	5	2.5	3.75
Total Points	60	60	47.5	53.75

Explanation:

In Mississippi, two entities are responsible for authorizing colleges. The Commission on Proprietary School and College Registration is responsible for authorization and oversight of for-profit vocational (technical) postsecondary schools (Type 1), and the Commission on College Accreditation is responsible for authorization and oversight of all colleges and universities or other entities that offer postsecondary academic degrees or offer instruction and are domiciled, incorporated, or otherwise located in Mississippi (Type 2).

Type 1: Proprietary schools. The Commission on Proprietary School and College Registration (CPSCR) establishes and implements the registration program for proprietary schools and colleges in Mississippi. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-4.) Mississippi law requires the CPSCR to adopt rules and regulations for

administration of the proprietary school registration process (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-11) and initiate investigations, and impose penalties where appropriate. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-19; CMSR 09-000-007 (Rule 1.4; Rule 3.2).) Mississippi law requires all official meetings of public bodies to be public and open. (Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5.) Further, Mississippi law requires that CPSCR meetings include time for public participation on every agenda. (CMSR 09-000-007 (Rule 2.2).) Mississippi exempts nonprofit private colleges and universities or any private institution offering academic credits at primary, secondary or postsecondary levels from CPSCR oversight. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-5(g); CMSR 09-000-007, Rule 3.5.) The CPSCR oversees proprietary schools, which are those schools that offer vocational and/or occupational training, not academic degrees.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. The Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation (CCA) approves community, junior and senior colleges and universities, and all other entities which offer one or more postsecondary academic degrees and are domiciled, incorporated or otherwise located in the State of Mississippi. Postsecondary academic degrees include, but are not limited to, associate, bachelor, masters and doctorate degrees. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241.) CCA has the authority to engage in rulemaking (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241), and it has authority to conduct reviews of the institutions under its jurisdiction and conduct onsite investigations as it deems necessary. There is no indication that the CCA has any authority to impose penalties beyond revoking approval, so Mississippi receives only partial credit for this element. The CCA must hold meetings open to the public (Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5) and must allow public participation and comment. (Miss. Code Ann § 25-43-105; CMSR 10-002-202.)

B. STATUTE-SPECIFIED MEMBERSHIP:

1. TO WHAT EXTENT ARE LIMITATIONS PLACED ON FOR-PROFIT MEMBERSHIP ON THE OVERSIGHT BODY?

0/25 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Explicit prohibition on for-profit majority, plus no possibility of a majority of the quorum	Explicit prohibition on for-profit majority	Discouraged	No prohibition specified, but not discouraged	For-profit majority mandated
Type 1	25 Points	20 Points	10 Points	0 Points	-5 Points
Type 2	25 Points	20 Points	10 Points	0 Points	-5 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi requires the five members of the CPSCR to be persons who have held a teaching, managerial or other similar position with any public, private, trade, technical or other school. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-4.) Further, at least one member of the CPSCR is required to be actively engaged in, or retired from, teaching, managerial or other similar position with a privately owned trade, technical or other school. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-4.) Therefore, while the state does not mandate that a majority of the CPSCR be affiliated with for-profit interests, it is a possibility. The state has, however, adopted regulations to ensure that CPSCR members do not have a conflict of interest. (CMSR 09-000-007 (Rule 2.4(D); Rule 3.8).)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi does not place any explicit limitations on members with for-profit interests, and at least one member of the CCA must represent private colleges. Thus, it is possible but not mandated that at one or more CCA members will have for-profit interests. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241; CMSR 10-002-201 (Rule 1.1).)

2. IS THE OVERSIGHT BODY MANDATED TO INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE CONSUMER ADVOCATE?

0/10 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes	No
Type 1	10 Points	0 Points
Type 2	10 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi law does not require CPSCR membership to include a consumer advocate. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-4.)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi law does not require CCA membership to include a consumer advocate. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241(1).)

3. ARE THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY A PUBLICLY ACCOUNTABLE OFFICIAL OR ELECTED IN A GENERAL ELECTION?

1/5 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	All	Majority	Half	Minority	None
Type 1	5 Points	3 Points	2.5 Points	1 Point	0 Points
Type 2	5 Points	3 Points	2.5 Points	1 Point	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. The Mississippi Community College Board appoints the members of the CPSCR. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-4.) Members of the Mississippi College Board are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-4-3(2).) Thus, the members of the CPSCR are not directly appointed by a publicly appointed official or elected in a general election. Because the members of the Mississippi College Board responsible for appointing the CPSCR members are accountable in to the governor, a publicly elected official, Mississippi receives a point.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. The five members of the CCA include the Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board, the Commissioner of Higher Education, or their designees, and three additional members, one of whom is selected by the foregoing two members and who represents the private colleges within the state, and two of whom are selected by the Mississippi Association of Colleges. The executive director of the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB) is appointed as a member of the MCCB by the governor and elected as executive director by other board members. The governor appoints members to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning Commissioner of Higher Learning (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-3) and the

Board of Trustees appoints a nonmember as Commissioner of Higher Education. Ultimately, the Commissioner is appointed by officials with public accountability (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-7) but the remaining members of the CCA are not appointed by public officials nor are they elected in a public election.

II. STATE OVERSIGHT—EFFICACY:

52.25/100 POINTS

A. DOES THE STATE REQUIRE ONSITE REVIEW OF PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS?

3/10 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Mandatory onsite reviews			Discretionary	None
	Every 2 years or less	Every 3-5 years	Over 5 years	Discretion to conduct onsite reviews	No review specified
Type 1	10 Points	8 Points	5 Points	3 Points	0 Points
Type 2	10 Points	8 Points	5 Points	3 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi gives the CPSCR discretion to conduct periodic onsite evaluations, but does not require these visits to occur at specific intervals. Mississippi receives partial credit for giving the CPSCR discretion to do onsite evaluations.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi gives the CCA discretion to conduct onsite visits as it deems necessary, but does not provide any kind of a timetable, require regular onsite visits, or require onsite visits on any specified timetable. Mississippi receives partial credit for giving the CCA discretion to do onsite evaluations. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241; CMSR 10-002-201 (Rule 3.8).)

B. DOES THE STATE REQUIRE UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS FOR ONSITE REVIEWS?

1.5/5 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Required unannounced visits	Discretion to do unannounced visits	No indication
Type 1	5 Points	3 Points	0 Points
Type 2	5 Points	3 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. The CPSCR has discretion to conduct unannounced visits. The CPSCR may conduct periodic announced and unannounced evaluations of any registered institution to determine if the institution is complying with the Mississippi Proprietary School and College Registration law and regulations. (CMSR 09-000-007 (Rule 3.26).)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. The CCA has discretion to conduct site visits. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241.) There is no indication that these discretionary visits must be or may be unannounced and initial site visits must be at a pre-arranged time. (CMSR 10-002-201 (Rule 5.1.4).)

C. DOES THE STATE REQUIRE REGULAR REVIEWS OF PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY APPROVAL TO OPERATE?

20/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Mandatory			Discretionary	None
	Every 2 years or less	Every 3-5 years	Over 5 years	Discretion to conduct reviews	No review specified
Type 1	20 Points	15 Points	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Type 2	20 Points	15 Points	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Proprietary schools in Mississippi must renew their certificates of registration every two years. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-11.)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. The CCA must approve academic degree-granting postsecondary institutions in Mississippi annually. (CMSR 10-002-201, Rule 1.1(4).)

D. DO THE CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL OF AUTHORIZATION MANDATE A REVIEW OF FACTORS ESSENTIAL TO ACADEMIC AND ETHICAL INTEGRITY?

12/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

8 of 8	7 of 8	6 of 8	5 of 8	4 of 8	3 of 8	2 of 8	1 of 8	0 of 8
20 Points	17.5 Points	15 Points	12.5 13.5 Points	10 Points	7.5 10.5 Points	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points

Element	Type 1	Type 2
Admission requirements	M	M
Graduation requirements	M	M
Placement rate	D	D
Completion rate (or graduation rate)	D	M
Advertising practices	M	M
Cohort default rate		
Accreditation status		M
Financial aid policies	D	

M=Mandatory; D=Discretionary

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi requires the CPSCR to review admission requirements, graduation requirements, and advertising practices. (CMSR 09-000-007 (Rules 3.9 and 3.10).) The state requires schools to disclose placement rates (percentage of graduates employed in the field is required, not placement rates) and completion rates to students, and requires proprietary institutions to maintain records on these items and on financial aid issues. Therefore, Mississippi receives partial credit for reviewing these elements, given that the CPSCR may review a proprietary school’s records and this information must be in the records. (CMSR 09-000-007 (Rules 3.9.2 and 3.11).)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi requires the CCA to review admissions requirements, graduation requirements, placement rate (discretionary, if required by the Commission), advertising practices, and accreditation. (CMSR 10-002-201, Rules 4.2.9, 4.2.18, and 4.2.13.3.4.)

E. DOES THE STATE’S OVERSIGHT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FOR-PROFIT AND NONPROFIT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS?

5/15 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes, strongly distinguished	Yes, moderately distinguished	Yes, slightly distinguished	Not distinguished
Type 1	15 Points	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Type 2	15 Points	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points

Explanation

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Private nonprofit institutions that offer academic credits are exempt. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-5(f), (g).)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. The CCA does not distinguish between for-profit and nonprofit institutions. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241; CMSR 10-002-201.)

F. DOES THE STATE REQUIRE INCREASED OVERSIGHT/SCRUTINY OF PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS BASED ON POOR PERFORMANCE?

0/10 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes, mandatory	Yes, mandatory but limited	Yes, discretionary	Yes, discretionary but limited	No
Type 1	10 Points	7.5 Points	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points
Type 2	10 Points	7.5 Points	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi law does not require increased oversight/ scrutiny of proprietary schools based on poor performance, such as high cohort default rates, low graduation rates, and/or low job placement rates.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi law does not require increased oversight/scrutiny of colleges and universities that offer postsecondary academic degrees based on poor performance. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241; CMSR 10-002-201.)

G. DOES STATE LAW INCLUDE ANY SPECIAL PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS WHO ATTEND PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS?

0/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes	No
Type 1	20 Points	0 Points
Type 2	20 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi law does not include any special protections for veterans who attend proprietary schools.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi law does not include any special protections for veterans who attend educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees.

III. STATE OVERSIGHT—SCOPE AND INCLUSION:

50/100 POINTS

A. ARE EXEMPTIONS TO STATE OVERSIGHT COVERAGE LIMITED?

50/100 POINTS

	No exemptions	Few exemptions	Moderate exemptions	Broad exemptions
Type 1	100 Points	75 Points	50 Points	0 Points
Type 2	100 Points	75 Points	50 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

For both Type 1 and Type 2 institutions, Mississippi law contains several exemptions to oversight. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-5; CMSR 09-000-007 (Rule 3.5); Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241; CMSR 10-002-201(Rule 3.4).)

IV. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS: 67.5/100 POINTS

A. ARE INSTITUTIONS REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO POTENTIAL STUDENTS?

20/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes, mandatory	Yes, discretionary	None
	Fact sheet or equivalent required to be given to students	Fact sheet equivalent given to students upon request	No fact sheet required
Type 1	20 Points	10 Points	0 Points
Type 2	20 Points	10 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi requires proprietary schools to provide performance disclosures to prospective students via the Institution Disclosure of Information Form (CPSCR Form 14). This form must be maintained by the institution and made available upon request to CPSCR representatives for use in verification of compliance with this regulatory requirement. Mississippi requires the student to sign acknowledgement of receipt of this information. (CMSR 09-000-007 (Rule 3.8).)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi requires educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees to provide students and prospective students with clearly presented information indicating the institution’s current graduation rate by program and, if required by the Commission, job placement rate by program. Mississippi does not require the student to sign acknowledgement of receipt of this information. (CMSR 10-002-201 (Rule 4.2.18.4).)

B. WHICH INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE DISCLOSURES ARE REQUIRED TO BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT?

27.5/60 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

Type 1: Proprietary schools

Disclosures	Mandatory	Discretionary	Not specified
Cohort default rate (CDR)	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Graduation / completion rates	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Placement rates	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Wage information	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
License exam passage rates	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Methods & sources used to calculate	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Mississippi requires proprietary institutions to disclose information about the percentage of students who complete the program of study within 150% of the normal time, and information about the percentage of the institution’s graduates employed in their field of study or related field within six months after completion of, or graduation from, their program of study. (CMSR 09-000-007 (Rule 3.8).) The latter requirement is not precisely the same as “placement rates,” but serves to convey similar information, so Mississippi receives credit for requiring this disclosure. Mississippi also requires proprietary schools to disclose information about cohort default rates and license exam passage rates to prospective students in the school catalog.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees

Disclosures	Mandatory	Discretionary	Not specified
Cohort default rate (CDR)	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Graduation / completion rates	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Placement rates	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Wage information	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
License exam passage rates	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Methods & sources used to calculate	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Mississippi requires educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees to disclose to students' graduation/completion rates and gives the CCA discretion to require institutions to disclose placement rates. (CMSR 10-002-201 (Rule 4.2.18.4).)

C. DOES THE STATE REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO DISCLOSE ELEMENTS
ESSENTIAL TO STUDENT PROTECTION PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT OR
IN THE ENROLLMENT CONTRACT?

20/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

Type 1: Proprietary schools

Element description	Mandatory	Discretionary	Not specified
Total cost of program	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points
Refund information	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points
Transferability of credits	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points
Length of program	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Mississippi requires educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees to disclose all of the above elements to students prior to enrollment. (CMSR 09-000-007 (Rule 3.8).)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees

Element description	Mandatory	Discretionary	Not specified
Total cost of program	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points
Refund information	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points
Transferability of credits	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points
Length of program	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Mississippi requires institutions to disclose all of the above elements to students and prospective students prior to enrollment. (CMSR 10-002-201 (Rule 4.2.18.2).)

V. REGULATION OF RECRUITING PRACTICES:
62.5/100 POINTS

**A. HAS THE STATE PUT INTO LAW A LIST OF PROHIBITED ACTS
REGARDING ADVERTISING AND RECRUITING?**

62.5/100

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes, strong regulation	Yes, moderate regulation	Yes, weak regulation	No list of prohibited acts
Type 1	100 Points	75 Points	50 Points	0 Points
Type 2	100 Points	75 Points	50 Points	0 Points

PROHIBITED ACTS

Included in list of Prohibited Acts	Type 1	Type 2
Misleading representations using the word “college” or “university”		
Misleading institution affiliations (e.g., military, public institution, businesses)		
Promise of employment	X	
Compensation for enrollment	X	
Compensation or “bounty” to recruiters		
Deception (broad prohibition)	X	X
Misrepresentation (broad prohibition)	X	X
Misleading representations re: accreditation	X	X

1-3=Weak; 3.5-6=Moderate; 6.58=Strong

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi prohibits proprietary institutions from making exaggerated statements concerning employment opportunities (CMSR 09-000-007 Rule 3.9.2), fraud (Rule 3.19, 3.20, 3.23), and false, misleading, or deceptive advertising. (Rule 3.23.) Misleading representations regarding accreditation and compensation for enrollment. (Rule 3.24.)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi broadly prohibits educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees from practices of any type that are false, deceptive, misleading, or unfair. The state requires these educational institutions to ensure that all publications, by any medium, represent accurately and fairly the institution, its programs, available resources, tuition and fees, requirements, and authorization and accreditation status. (CMSR 10-002-201 (Rule 4.2.18.1).)

VI. COMPLAINT PROCESS & RELIEF FOR STUDENTS:

53.75/100 POINTS

A. DOES THE STATE REQUIRE A BOND OR FUND AS A CONDITION OF AUTHORIZATION?

10/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes	No
Type 1	20 Points	0 Points
Type 2	20 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi requires proprietary schools to include a surety bond with the application for a certificate of registration. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-17.)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi does not require educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees to post a surety bond as a condition of authorization. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241; CMSR 10-002-201.)

B. DOES THE STATE REQUIRE A REFUND OF TUITION IF A STUDENT ENROLLS AS THE RESULT OF MISREPRESENTATION?

10/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes, full refund	Yes, partial refund	No refund required
Type 1	20 Points	10 Points	0 Points
Type 2	20 Points	10 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. The required surety bond shall provide for the indemnification of any person suffering loss as the result of any false certification, school closure, any fraud or misrepresentation used in behalf of the principal in procuring such person’s enrollment in a course of instruction, including repayment of tuition paid in advance by any student. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-17.)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi law does not require educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees to provide a refund to students who enroll as a result of misrepresentation. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241; CMSR 10-002-201.)

C. DOES THE STATE REQUIRE INSTITUTIONS TO REFUND TUITION IN THE EVENT OF CLOSURE?

7.5/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes, full refund	Yes, partial refund	Yes, refund in limited circumstances	No refund required
Type 1	20 Points	15 Points	10 Points	0 Points
Type 2	20 Points	15 Points	10 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi law does not explicitly require a refund in the event of closure. The law lays out a refund policy that may apply, thus, a refund is available but may be limited. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-18 CMSR 09-000-007.) Rule 3.27 requires proprietary schools to provide students with refund information upon closure, but does not specify that a full refund must be provided. (CMSR 09-000-007.) Rule 3.7 requires proprietary schools to provide 100% refund if tuition and fees are collected in advance of the starting date of a program and the institution cancels the class, but again, the law does not specify that a full refund is required where the student has attended the class for a period of time and then the institution cancels the class because it the institution in closing.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi law does not require educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees to provide a full refund to students upon school closure. A provision requires schools to provide students with refund information upon closure, but unlike proprietary schools in the state, there is no required refund and there are no guidelines set forth in the law regarding refunds in this circumstance. (CMSR 10-002-201 (Rule 5.5).)

D. DOES THE STATE ALLOW STUDENTS AMPLE TIME TO MAKE A COMPLAINT?

10/10 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	2 years or more (or no deadline)	1-2 years	Under 1 year	Not applicable
Type 1	10 Points	5 Points	1 Point	0 Points
Type 2	10 Points	5 Points	1 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Any person who believes he has been aggrieved by a violation of this section shall have the right to file a written complaint within 2 years of the alleged violation. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-19.) The CPSCR must receive all complaints within 2 years of the alleged violation. (CMSR 09-000-007 Rule 3.19(C).)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi law does not contain any information with regard to student/consumer complaints about educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees. As such, there is no deadline by which a student must file a complaint. The online instructions regarding student complaints specify that the student has two years in which to file a complaint.

E. DOES THE STATE REQUIRE INSTITUTIONS TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION ABOUT FILING A COMPLAINT WITH THE STATE OVERSIGHT BODY?

6.25/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

Type 1: Proprietary schools

Medium	Mandatory	Discretionary	Not specified
Catalog	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Website	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points
Enrollment contract	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Mississippi law requires proprietary schools to disclose information about filing a complaint with the state oversight body in the school catalog as part of the school’s grievance process. Students may file a complaint with CPSCR once they have gone through the school’s complaint process. Therefore, Mississippi receives 10 points for requiring the information in the school catalog and 2.5 points because schools often post the school catalog or information from the school catalog on the school website.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees

Medium	Mandatory	Discretionary	Not specified
Catalog	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Website	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points
Enrollment contract	5 Points	2.5 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Mississippi law does not require educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees to disclose information about filing a complaint with the state oversight body.

F. IS THE COMPLAINT PROCESS READILY ACCESSIBLE AND AVAILABLE ON THE STATE OVERSIGHT BODY WEBSITE?

10/10 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes, with address	Yes, with phone #	Yes, with email address	Yes, with electronic form	No
Type 1	2 Points	2 Points	3 Points	3 Points	0 Points
Type 2	2 Points	2 Points	3 Points	3 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. CPSCR provides an online form with instructions, phone number, and email address. Students can print out the form, complete it, and mail it into the CPSCR.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. CCA provides a web page with a detailed explanation on how a student can file a complaint, an address, a phone number, an email address, and an online form that a student can fill out and send into CCA.

VII. ENFORCEMENT: 20/100 POINTS

A. IS THERE LOSS OF STATE AID FOR SCHOOLS THAT REPEATEDLY PRODUCE SUBSTANDARD GRADUATION RATES, JOB PLACEMENT RATES, AND/OR COHORT DEFAULT RATES?

0/30 POINTS

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes, required	Yes, required but limited	Yes, discretionary	Yes, discretionary but limited	No
Type 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Type 2	30 Points	20 Points	15 Points	5 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Proprietary schools do not receive state aid in Mississippi.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. While educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees can lose aid for a number of reasons, Mississippi law contains no provisions that require the loss of aid for institutions that repeatedly produce substandard graduation, job placement or cohort default rates

B. DOES STATE LAW EXPLICITLY AUTHORIZE A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION FOR STUDENTS AGAINST INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE VIOLATED THE LAWS/REGULATIONS IN PLACE TO GOVERN THEM?

0/30 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes	Limited circumstances	No
Type 1	30 Points	15 Points	0 Points
Type 2	30 Points	15 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi law does not authorize a private right of action for students to use against proprietary institutions who have violated the laws/regulations in place to govern them.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi law does not authorize a private right of action for students to use against educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees who have violated the laws / regulations in place to govern them.

C. DOES STATE LAW EXPLICITLY ALLOW ATTORNEY FEE AWARDS FOR STUDENTS WHO PREVAIL IN LITIGATION AGAINST PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS?

0/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

	Yes	Limited	No
Type 1	20 Points	15 Points	0 Points
Type 2	20 Points	15 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi law does not explicitly allow attorney fee awards for students who prevail in litigation against proprietary institutions who have violated the laws/regulations in place to govern them.

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi law does not explicitly allow attorney fee awards for students who prevail in litigation against educational institutions that offer postsecondary academic degrees who have violated the laws / regulations in place to govern them.

D. DOES STATE LAW EXPLICITLY AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY GENERAL INVOLVEMENT?

20/20 POINTS*

**points for Type 1 and Type 2 schools have been averaged to calculate the above score*

Yes	Limited circumstances	No
20 Points	10 Points	0 Points
20 Points	10 Points	0 Points

Explanation:

Type 1: Proprietary schools. Mississippi law authorizes attorney general involvement. (Miss. Code Ann. § 75-60-21.)

Type 2: Educational institutions offering postsecondary academic degrees. Mississippi law authorizes attorney general involvement. (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-241; CMSR 10-002-201, Rule 1.1(5).)

BONUS POINTS:

Mississippi does not receive any bonus points.



ILLUMINATING INFORMATION



RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS

Mississippi is a member of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA).

LITIGATION, INVESTIGATIONS, AND ACTIONS INVOLVING PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN MISSISSIPPI

For information about pending and recent federal and state government investigations and actions regarding for-profit colleges see David Halperin's compilation at <http://www.republicreport.org/2014/law-enforcement-for-profit-colleges/#sthash.1vc4HmPw.dpuf>.