

Approved High School Accreditations for Financial Aid

To stay compliant with federal regulations, the financial aid office must determine if your high school credential is valid. This does not affect the admission to James Sprunt Community College. James Sprunt Community College accepts high school transcripts regardless of the school's accreditation. Please visit <https://jamesprunt.edu/admissions-aid/steps-to-apply/>. You must also submit your high school transcript to our admissions office.

Please be sure that your High School Diploma is an accredited diploma granting high school. Your best option is a school that is accredited by one of the regional accrediting associations. To determine whether or not a high school is regionally accredited, find out from which state the online program is operating. Then check what regional agency grants accreditation to schools in that state.

There are six recognized (by Department of Education and Council for Higher Education Accreditation) regional accreditation organizations for US high schools:

- **Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools** covers educational institutions in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, DC, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, as well as schools for American children in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.
- **New England Association of School and Colleges** covers educational institutions in the six new England states Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.
- **Western Association of Schools and Colleges** covers educational institutions in California, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Micronesia, Palas and Norther Marianas Islands, as well as schools for American children in Asia.
- **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)** cover educational institutions in Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, and Texas. Has a searchable [database](#) of accredited schools.

The next two regional organizations have searchable databases that default to the SACS database:

- **North Central Association of Colleges and Schools** covers educational institutions in Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Wyoming. Searchable database is in SACS database.

- Northwest Accreditation Commission for Primary and Secondary schools covers education institutions in Alaska, Idaho, Montana Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Searchable database is in [SACS database](#).

Alternatively, some on-line schools are accredited by the Distance Education Training Council (DETC). The DETC is also recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. DETC accreditation is considered valid by many employers. However, many regionally accredited colleges and universities will not accept course credits from DETC accredited schools and some employers do not accept these diplomas. Learn more: DETC Accreditation.

Note that recognition of an accrediting agency does not guarantee a particular diploma will be accepted by colleges and universities or employers.

Ultimately, regional accreditation remains the most widely accepted form of accreditation for diplomas earned both on-line and at traditional public and private high schools. For Further Information for On-Line High School Accreditation, go to: Regional Accreditation for Online Schools - The Regional Acccreditors. If your on-line diploma program is not accredited by the above agencies, you may contact James Sprunt Community College for information regarding our Adult High School/General Education Development Program.

For more information about HSE & AHS classes, contact Sherri Thigpen at 910-275-6201 or visit our Basic Skills page at https://jamesprunt.edu/workforce_category/college-and-career-readiness/

*Additionally, if a student is awarded Financial Aid and it is later determined that his/her high school credential is invalid. She/he will be responsible for any funds distributed, including tuition and bookstore charges.