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July 14, 2010

Lee Van Dusen, D.C., President
The Council on Chiropractic Education
8049 N. 85th Way
Scottsdale, AZ 85258-4321

Dear Dr. Van Dusen;

Re: Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine degree

An announcement dated March 3, 2010, indicates that the Council at its Annual Meeting granted reaffirmation of accreditation to the National University of Health Sciences for the "Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine" program. http://www.cce-usa.org/uploads/2010-03-03_Accreditation_Actions_Announcement.pdf

According to the U.S. Department of Education web site, the Council on Chiropractic Education is recognized as a specialized accrediting agency. The scope of recognition is: "the accreditation of programs leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree and single-purpose institutions offering the Doctor of Chiropractic program."

http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg7.html#NationalInstitutional

No mention is made of a Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine degree.

The Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine degree was proposed by the Western States Chiropractic College in 1994. The proposal appears to have been put to rest later that year. Among the concerns enumerated were:

1. The American Chiropractic Association (ACA) House of Delegates passed a resolution stating: "Chiropractic, as defined in the ACA Master Plan relating to education, experience, and training is sufficient to define the precepts, tenets and responsibilities of the practitioner and the profession. Any effort to develop a Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine (DCM) degree is not necessary and may in fact be in conflict with some existing state scope of practice laws. (Ratified by the House of Delegates, July 1994)." http://www.acatoday.org/level2_css.cfm?T1ID=10&T2ID=117#24
2. Accreditation of the DCM degree. The Department of Education listing does not reference the DCM degree.

3. State laws generally require a Doctor of Chiropractic degree for licensure. Furthermore, states generally prohibit the practice of medicine and surgery by chiropractors, and regulate the use of titles by licensees.

For further discussion of concerns, please see “DCM—A Final Look” in Dynamic Chiropractic, October 7, 1994, Vol. 12, Issue 21.

http://www.toyourhealth.com/print_friendly.php?pr_file_name=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.toyourhealth.com%2Fmpacms%2Fdc%2Farticle.php%3Fid%3D41523%26no_paginate%3Dtrue%26friendly%3Dtrue

The September 17, 2009 minutes of the Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners reference National’s DCM program:

http://www.oregon.gov/OBCE/minutes/Sept_09_PUB_Mins.pdf?ga=t

Emory Giles PhD re: National College of Chiropractic’s Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine degree. Dr. Giles is asking if National’s Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine (DCM) degree will be accepted in Oregon. He states that this degree is exactly the same as the doctor of chiropractic degree. Given the response to Western States Chiropractic College’s own DCM degree a number of years ago, Dave was hesitant to answer this inquiry without the Board’s input. Our statute says we do accept graduates from CCE accredited colleges. As long as applicants to practice chiropractic in Oregon graduate with a chiropractic college degree from a CCE approved college, they will be accepted for examination and licensure. The Board felt this would be confusing to the public and notes there is no mention of this term in our statutes, rules or the Doctor’s Title Act.

Dr. Van Dusen, please answer the following questions:

1. Does CCE accredit Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine degree programs?
2. Has CCE established standards for the DCM degree? I was unable to locate any on your web site.
3. Is the DCM degree within the scope of USOE’s recognition of CCE as an accrediting agency?
4. Does CCE accredit programs leading to any degree other than Doctor of Chiropractic?

Sincerely,

Christopher Kent, D.C.