

## Things to Consider Before You Transfer

Many students assume that if a school is authorized by SEVIS to issue I-20s, it is an accredited school. That is NOT the case. It is very important that you transfer to a school that is accredited. Attending an accredited college or university is important because:

- 1) A prospective employer may not hire you if you graduate from an unaccredited school.
- 2) Classes taken at unaccredited schools cannot normally be transferred to an accredited university. This means that any time and money you spend at the unaccredited school may be wasted.
- 3) If you get a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited college or university, you may have a very difficult time getting admission to a master's or Ph.D. program. Like most accredited universities, Wichita State University will not accept a student into any graduate program if the student attended an unaccredited school.
- 4) Under certain circumstances, some unaccredited schools can legally operate in the U.S. If the U.S. government, however, finds that an unaccredited school is operating without demonstrating some degree of educational merit, the school may be closed down without any advanced notice. Immigration could then consider you to be out of status and refuse to allow you to transfer to another school or order your departure from the U.S. **This happened with Tri-Valley University in California in January 2011.**

Like any consumer, you need to research any major product or service you purchase. An education is an investment in your future so it is important for you to make a well-informed decision about any school you plan to attend. We highly recommend that you ascertain the accreditation status of the school to which you plan to transfer. The U.S. Department of Education provides a searchable database of all of the accredited post-secondary institutions in the U.S. To find the accreditation status of the school you plan to attend, please visit: <http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>.

Examples of institutional accreditation include:

- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Examples of specialized accreditation include:

- Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)
- Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education