

Compliance Training

Collaboration with state regulatory agencies

*Dr. Amir Moghadam
President/CEO
MaxKnowledge, Inc.*

Over the past few years, I have developed a sincere appreciation for our state regulatory agencies and the important work that they do for our sector. I've had the pleasure of meeting many state officials who care deeply about our schools and are genuinely interested in our sector's well-being. I've seen state officials hard at work to streamline their regulatory processes and have observed collaborative efforts between various states to develop common standards.

I've mentioned before in my previous columns that compliance should be seen as a quality improvement tool. Many schools focus on the mechanics of meeting compliance requirements from a regulatory standpoint instead of embracing those requirements from a quality assurance perspective. The fact is that, ultimately, the state regulatory agencies and accrediting bodies help us improve our organizational effectiveness and student outcomes.

To see firsthand the dedication and commitment of state regulatory agencies, you can attend one of the annual conferences of the National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools (NASASPS). NASASPS is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve and promote effective state regulation of private postsecondary education. NASASPS regular membership includes state boards, commissions, agencies or departments that are engaged in the administration, regulation, or supervision of private schools, colleges and universities. At NASASPS conferences, you will see the state officials collaborating together, as well as with the school community, to resolve problems and improve the performance of our sector.

I have personally witnessed the collaborative mindset of state regulatory agencies. MaxKnowledge is actively working with NASASPS and its members to develop quality compliance training programs with the goal of maximizing our sector's performance. Below, I have listed examples of our collaboration with three state agencies in the development of online compliance training courses.

Ohio Rules and Regulations for Admissions Agents

This online course was developed in collaboration with the Ohio State Board of Career Schools and Colleges (Ohio Board) and the Ohio Association of Career Colleges and Schools (OACCS). The course is facilitated by current Ohio Board staff members, John Ware (Executive Director) and Kimberly Stein (Investigator). All admissions representatives working in the state of Ohio are required to take this course. The course is offered through OACCS Online Training Center (www.oaccstraining.org).

Admissions Compliance Training for Florida Career Institutions

This online course was developed in collaboration with the Florida Commission for Independent Education (CIE) and the Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC). The course is facilitated by Patty Aronoff, CIE's former Consumer Services Manager. The course provides four hours of continuing education credit for Florida Admissions Directors and is an approved training program pursuant to the Florida Administrative Code for all Admissions Representatives and Agents. The course is offered through FAPSC Online Training Center (www.fapsconline.org).

Compliance Training for Texas School Directors

This online course was created from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) School Director's Resource Guide in collaboration with the Career Colleges and Schools of Texas (CCST). Representatives from four institutions (ATI Enterprises, Career Quest, Concorde Career Institute, and Remington College) assisted in the creation of this course. The course is facilitated by Frank Hammack, TWC's former Program Specialist. The course is approved for 4 hours of continuing education by the TWC and is offered through CCST Online Training Center (www.ccstonline.org).

In the above examples, I was very impressed with the expertise and experience of our state officials and their contributions to the development of the online courses. I encourage you to visit the NASASPS website at www.nasasps.org to learn more about the collective work of our state regulatory agencies. They truly want us to succeed!

Dr. Moghadam is the founder and CEO of MaxKnowledge, the leading employee training company for the career college sector of higher education. He has over 20 years of experience in career education, serving in many capacities including professor, director of education, academic dean, director of student affairs, campus director, college president and owner. Moghadam earned his PhD in Engineering from the University of Cambridge at the age of 22. He is a recognized leader in career education and has been selected as a Top Innovator by the Career College Central magazine. Moghadam can be reached at amirm@maxknowledge.com.