



Red Flags

- The awarding of the degree does not make sense with the biographical information supplied.
- It is difficult to find the location of the institution itself.
- The degree is based largely on life experience or prior learning with little or no coursework completed at the awarding institution.
- Special offers of “Order by Midnight Tonight” or “Order Now”
- The institution is accredited by an agency which you are not familiar with or one with no accreditation information.
- The institution is not listed by any reliable sources for recognised institutions.
- Accreditation information is vague or absent on literature about the institution or programme.

Additional Resources

Books

- *Degree Mills: The Billion-dollar industry that has sold over a million fake diplomas* (2005) by Allen Ezell and John Bear
- *Fraud and Education: The Worm in the Apple* (2001) by H. J. Noah and M. A Eckstein
- *Diploma Mills - Degrees of Fraud* (1988) by D. W. Stewart and H. A. Spille
- *Bear's Guide to Earning Degrees by Distance Learning* (2003) by J. Bear and M. Bear
- *What You Need to Know Before You Choose* (2007) pamphlet by the Barbados Accreditation Council

**IF IN DOUBT
CHECK IT OUT!**

The Council wishes to acknowledge the contribution to this pamphlet by Ms. Margit Schatzman of Educational Credential Evaluators Inc. (ECE), USA.

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“Your Gateway to Global Recognition”

**FACTS
ABOUT
FRAUD**

**Tips for Detecting
Fraudulent
Credentials**

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