



**AACRAO**  
International Education  
Services

**Credential Fraud,  
Diploma Mills  
and Accreditation Mills**

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**Document Fraud**

- **Tampering:** Altering an existing document
- **Forgery:** Creating a document from scratch to look like a real document from a real institution

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**Document Fraud**

- Altered / Manufactured by an individual
- Provided by a service for a fee
  - “Replacement” service
  - “Replica” service
  - “Novelty” degrees

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Getting Started Latest Headlines Docu

**Quick Turnaround! Great Prices!**

**Categories**

- Home Page
- GED Diplomas
- High School Diplomas
- Actual Replicas**
- Diploma Designs
- Fake Transcripts**
- Rec - SAT
- Emblem Options
- Frame Options
- Transcript Accessories

**We maintain a large, ever changing database of actual diploma designs. As close as possible, our ReplicaxPhD.com's match the actual school's layout, text and line spacing.**

**If you don't find a particular school listed AND HAVE a copy of an actual diploma, our ReplicaxPhD.com's match the actual school's layout, text and line spacing.**

Temple University  
Texas A&M International University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas Christian University  
Texas Southern University  
Texas Tech University  
Thunderbolt, The American Graduate School of International Management  
Touro University  
Truett McConnell University  
Troy University and Community  
Troy State University  
Tulane University  
Tuskegee Institute  
University of Akron  
University of Alaska  
University of Arizona  
Arizona State University

**INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY REPLICAS AVAILABLE:** See our list below

[See College Actual Replica International List Here](#)

[illegible]



Special Combination Packages:				
Degree Package	Price	Discounted Price	Number of documents you get	
High School Diploma + Associate Degree	\$299 + \$399 = \$698	\$489	20	<a href="#">Order Now!</a>
Associate Degree + Bachelor's Degree	\$399 + \$499 = \$898	\$629	20	<a href="#">Order Now!</a>
Bachelor's Degree + Master's Degree	\$499 + \$499 = \$998	\$699	20	<a href="#">Order Now!</a>
Master's Degree + Doctorate Degree	\$499 + \$599 = \$1098	\$769	20	<a href="#">Order Now!</a>
High School Diploma + Associate Degree + Bachelor's Degree	\$299 + \$399 + \$499 = \$1197	\$778	30	<a href="#">Order Now!</a>
Associate Degree + Bachelor's Degree + Master's Degree	\$399 + \$499 + \$499 = \$1397	\$908	30	<a href="#">Order Now!</a>
Bachelor's Degree + Master's Degree + Doctorate Degree	\$499 + \$499 + \$599 = \$1597	\$1038	30	<a href="#">Order Now!</a>

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## Diploma Mill Fraud

- DMs sell fraudulent academic documents
- Why fraudulent?
  - Intention to misrepresent/deceive
  - Worthless academically
    - Bogus "university"
    - Little or no academic work required

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## Diploma Mill Red Flags +

- Name similar to a real institution
- Only "location" is a Web site, no contact info shown, several DMs on one computer, domain registry disguised
- Quick turnaround time to degree
- "Special offers", pricing, package deals
- Samples of docs shown on Web site

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## Diploma Mill Red Flags †

- “Faculty” have diploma mill degrees
- Purports to be a “foreign” institution
- “Accreditation” by a bogus body
- Operation runs its own
  - Transcript verification service
  - Accreditation body
  - Foreign credential evaluation service

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## British Universities?

- Harrington University
- Sherwood University
- Shepperton University

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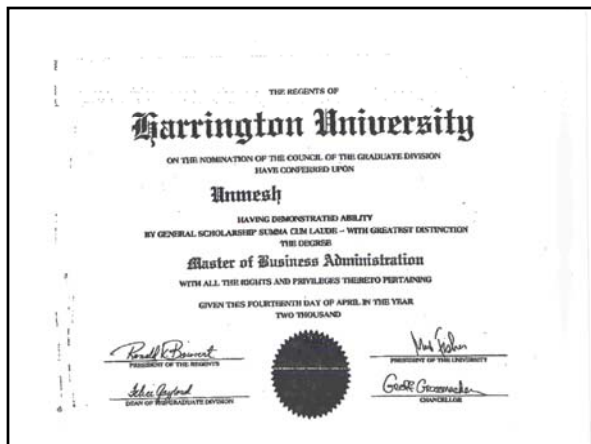
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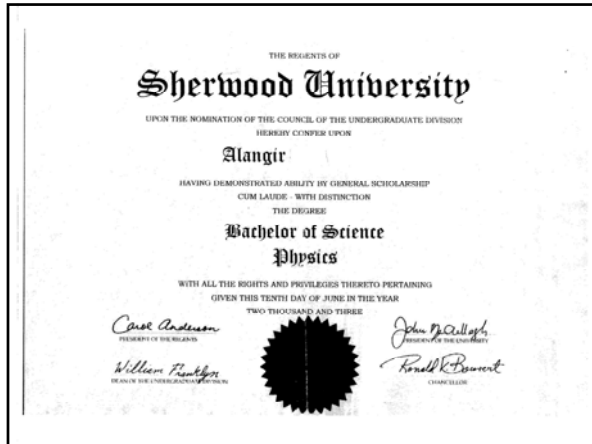
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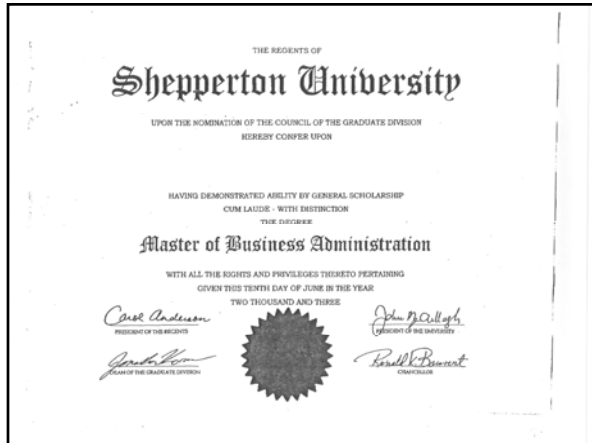
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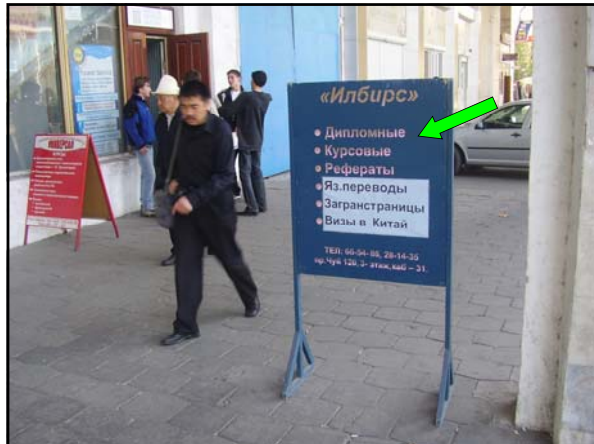
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## Accreditation Mills

- Bogus “accreditors” that are not approved by any legitimate quality assurance body in the US or abroad
- May be tied to a diploma mill
- Diploma mills may create their own “accreditors” to appear “legitimate”

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## Approval of Accreditors in the US

- Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) - [www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)
- US Dept. of Education - [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

Note: They do not accredit institutions;  
they review accreditors.

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## Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

[www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)

- Membership org for institutions (3000+ members)
- Develops standards based on input and interests of membership
- Requires that accreditors consider only institutions that are operating legally.

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## CHEA Web site Resources

[www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)

Council for  
Higher Education  
Accreditation  
®

CHEA

Government Relations

Databases and Directories

Informing the Public  
About Accreditation

Recognition

Degree Mills and  
Accreditation Mills

CHEA Research  
and Publications

International  
Quality Review

About CHEA

International Directory

CHEA Member Services

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## US Department of Education

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

- Independently develops standards for accreditor recognition.
- Recognition of accreditor allows accredited institutions to participate in federal programs.
- Supports many kinds of institutions:  
academic, technical, vocational, career,  
computer schools, job training, etc.

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## In Other Countries Legal Recognition

- Ministry of Education / govt. authority
  - Federal / national
  - State / province / canton
  - Mixed
- Legal basis
  - Operational (license to operate)
  - Educational (authorization to teach and award credentials)

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## In Other Countries Quality Assurance/Accreditation

- “Quality assurance” relatively new concept
- Several models:
  - Government vs. private sector as accreditor
  - Institution vs. programs
  - One accrediting body vs. several
  - Permanent vs. ongoing

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## St. Regis University Liberia? Accredited?



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**SPOKESMANREVIEW.COM**
Friday, September 19, 2008

SPOKANE

**Diploma mill co-conspirator nets 3-year jail term**

Bill Morin  
 Staff writer  
 August 6, 2008

Steven Karl Randock Sr., described by a prosecutor as the chief financial operator of a spokane-based diploma mill, was sentenced Tuesday to three years in prison after his defense attorney made an impassioned plea for home detention.

Randock got the same sentence given to his wife, Dixie Ellen Randock, on July 2 after they both pleaded guilty earlier this year to conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud.

For six years, the Randocks and a team of associates sold high school and college degrees from 21 fictitious online schools they created and counterfeit diplomas and transcripts from 66 legitimate universities.

From nondescript offices in Mead and later in Post Falls, they sold more than 10,000 of the degrees and related academic products to 612 buyers in 131 countries (V pulling in \$7,369,907.

**Search:** [Degree recipients](#) | [By recipients' organizations](#)

**Previous coverage:**  
[Diploma mill](#)

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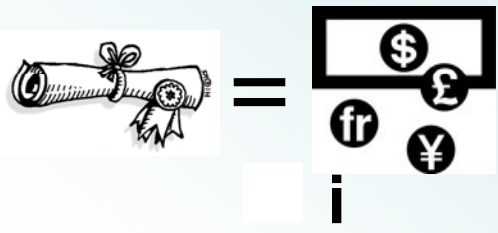
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## Why is Credential Fraud So Widespread?



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## Why So Widespread?

- “Credential-conscious” society
- “Degrees” = Dollars
  - Initial hiring, promotion
  - Salary increases based on education
  - Academic level commensurate with professional experience

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## Low Risk / High Gain

- Easy to obtain
- Low level of scrutiny
- Legal loopholes
  - Weak state laws or weak/no enforcement of existing laws

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## Why Does This Matter?

- Ethics
- Legal responsibilities
- Practical considerations
  - “Time bomb” ticking on your campus  
(Students, Faculty, Administration)
  - Dealing with consequences of fraud is a poor use of already-stretched resources

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## What Can You Do?

- **BE PROACTIVE.** Be prepared for fraud.
- Educate yourself and your staff
  - Provide resources
  - Establish a standard, consistent approach to application and document review

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## What Can You Do?

- Policies & procedures that encourage:
  - review of all applicant documentation
  - confirmation of info shown on docs
  - verification of questionable docs
  - follow-up on confirmation of inauthentic docs
- Track cases
- Revise and adjust policies as needed

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## What Can You Do?

- Act quickly. *Fraudsters love inaction.*
- Inform
  - state consumer affairs/attorney general's office
  - state postsecondary education office
  - education colleagues

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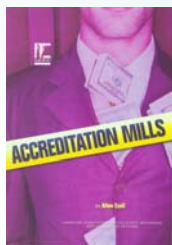
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## AACRAO Resources

[www.aacrao.org/publications](http://www.aacrao.org/publications)



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## AACRAO Annual Meetings

### Speakers & Handouts

<http://www.aacrao.org/meetings/past.cfm>

- AACRAO IES Staff
- Allen Ezell and John Bear, co-authors of *Degree Mills* - [www.degree Mills.com](http://www.degree Mills.com)
- Prof. George Gollin, University of Illinois
- Alan Contreras, OR Office of Degree Authorization
- Jack Zurlini, Jr., Asst. Atty. General, WA
- Erik Johansson, Swedish ENIC

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## Other Resources on Degree & Accreditation Mill Fraud

- AACRAO *College and University*
- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Times Higher Education (UK)
- Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review
- Boston College Center for International Higher Education
- US Government, various offices

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## AACRAO International Resources

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## Other International Resources

- Ministries of education (MOE)
- International Association of Universities
  - World Higher Education Database
  - International Handbook of Universities
- MOE-sponsored information networks
- EducationUSA information network

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## AACRAO International Education Services At your service!



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Do not add to the problem.  
Be a part of the  
**SOLUTION.**



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