

**Program standards.**

- (A) All schools submitting programs for approval by the board shall meet the minimum standards of this rule.
- (B) All programs approved by the board shall meet the following minimum standards:
- (1) Each program of instruction shall be described in a manner that concisely and accurately conveys the following to a prospective student:
    - (a) The specific content of the curriculum; and
    - (b) The intended employment outcomes; and
    - (c) The entrance and graduation requirements.
  - (2) A school must submit to the board with the application for new program authorization an instructor qualification form for each instructor retained to teach the program. If the school has not yet hired instructors for the program the school shall submit proposed hiring criteria for the program instructors. For each new instructor hired to teach a program, a school must keep an additional instructor qualification form on file.
  - (3) The classroom, laboratory facilities and equipment must be appropriate to the program of study. At the time of submitting the application, each school must submit a list of equipment and include with the application a timetable as to when such equipment shall be made available.
  - (4) A school shall provide library resources appropriate to the program(s) of study along with standard works of reference.
  - (5) Titles of representative entry level positions for which graduates can be prepared shall be specifically stated in the request for program authorization. Realistic advancement opportunities that can be enhanced by successful employment experience, additional training or further education shall be stated when appropriate.
  - (6) If internships, externships, clinicals or production work is necessary as a part of a school's educational program, every effort shall be made to avoid unfair competition with private enterprise and the exploitation of the students. Schools must also demonstrate that they have secured a sufficient number of site agreements to meet the needs of students in the program.

- (7) A school must certify that all students who receive a grant pursuant to section 3333.29 of the Revised Code maintain an academic record that meets or exceeds the school's standards for satisfactory progress as set forth in the school's catalog.
  - (8) Program names must accurately reflect the content of the program and the potential employment outcomes. No program shall use the word "certified" in the program name unless the program is specifically designed to lead to an industry recognized certification.
  - (9) If the program requires approval of another state agency, the school may be required to provide documentation of the additional approval as part of the program review process.
  - (10) All programs must be designated as either credit hour programs or clock hour programs. All credit hour programs must award credit in either whole or half numbers.
- (C) All certificate and diploma programs approved by the board shall meet the following minimum standards:
- (1) "Certificate program" means generally one or more technical courses usually completed in one to twenty-six weeks, with a single skill objective and generally consisting of at least twenty and no more than six hundred clock hours or thirty-six quarter credit hours or twenty-four semester credit hours. In special cases, ~~basic or general courses~~ non-technical may be included when it is demonstrated such courses are essential to the program and occupational outcomes.
  - (2) "Diploma program" means a program of instruction offering technical and ~~basic~~ non-technical coursework. ~~General courses may be included.~~ The program shall generally range in length from more than six hundred but less than fifteen hundred clock hours; or more than ~~forty~~ thirty-six but less than ninety quarter credit hours; or more than twenty-seven but less than sixty semester hours.
  - (3) Generally eighty per cent of a certificate program's curriculum shall be in the technical courses that support the program's objectives. The curriculum must state whether it will be measured in credit or clock hours.
  - (4) Generally seventy per cent of a diploma program's curriculum shall be in the technical courses that support the program's objectives. The curriculum must state whether it will be measured in credit or clock hours.

- (5) A certificate or diploma program instructor whose teaching assignment is in the occupational specialty must have a high school diploma or GED, other formal training necessary to the program, and have demonstrated competency as a wage earner, generally for at least three years, in the related technical field. Instructors teaching general education courses shall hold a bachelor's degree with a concentration in the discipline as a minimum.
  - (6) Educational requirements may be waived for faculty with five years of work experience or professional certification by a recognized body of authority.
  - (7) Initial program authorization will be for a period not to exceed two years in length. Renewal of program authorization will coincide with the renewal of certificates of registration.
- (D) All associate degree programs approved by the board shall meet the following minimum standards:
- (1) "Associate degree program" means a program of instruction consisting of technical, ~~basic, and general~~ and non-technical courses in which full-time students may complete program requirements in a minimum of two academic years, six to eight academic quarters, or four semesters.
  - (2) A school seeking initial program authorization for an associate degree program must have received a grant of institutional accreditation by a national or regional accrediting agency that is recognized and approved by the United States department of education.
  - (3) A school seeking program authorization for an associate degree program must meet one of the following minimum requirements:
    - (a) The school must have been in operation, with students enrolled, for a minimum of two years, prior to submitting an application for consideration; or,
    - (b) The school must have been under the same ownership as another school that has previously been approved to award associate degrees by the board or by another state for at least two years; or,
    - (c) The school must have been approved by another state to award associate degrees for a period of at least two years; or,

- (d) The school has been permitted by the executive director to grant associate degrees in approved teach-out situation.
- (4) The curriculum for an associate degree program shall consist of a minimum of ninety quarter hours or sixty semester hours of instruction and shall include:
- (a) A minimum of ~~twenty-one quarter hours of fourteen semester hours of general course instruction~~ forty-two quarter credit hours or twenty-eight semester credit of non-technical course instruction.
- (b) ~~A minimum of twenty-one quarter credit hours or fourteen semester hours of basic course instruction.~~
- (e)(b) A minimum of fifty per cent of quarter or semester hours of technical course instruction directly related to the program's occupational objectives.
- (d)(c) A maximum generally of one hundred ten ~~quarter credit~~ quarter credit hours or seventy-three ~~semester hours~~ semester hours unless otherwise approved by the board.
- (e)(d) Remedial coursework shall not be academically creditable.
- (5) Associate degree program authorization and renewal authorization shall be for a time period as determined by the board not to exceed six years. Associate degrees shall be renewed and assessed fees for a period that coincides with the approval cycle for a school's certificate of registration.
- (6) A major is a specialization within an associate degree program. Generally, a minimum of twenty percent and no more than thirty percent of the total hours in the program must be allocated to the technical discipline named in the major.
- (7) A school offering an associate degree shall maintain a library supervised by a trained librarian or competent staff member. The library shall provide appropriate access within the school to standard reference, periodicals and books consistent with the curriculum offerings. The physical holdings may be augmented by an approved cooperative arrangement with another library or by electronic access. The hours of operations for the library shall be for the convenience of the students attending the institution. An area for students to study must be provided.

- (8) A school proposing to offer the associate degree should utilize appropriate persons to advise in the establishment and maintenance of a quality educational program. The advisory committee should be composed of individuals who are not employed by the institution, but who are recognized as practitioners from the community in the disciplines encompassed by the associate degree.
- (9) Before the establishment of the associate degree program, a school shall have at least one person employed to offer leadership in program development, work with advisory committees, recommend equipment and monitor the program's implementation and operation. Such a person must be competent in the field of instruction either by training or work experience or a combination of both.
- (10) A school offering an associate degree shall provide academic advisement for all students.
- (11) Instructors providing academic leadership should hold either a master's degree or bachelor's degree with other advanced preparation, ~~or~~ and have appropriate experience in the field of concentration.
- (12) Instructors with teaching assignments primarily in technical areas should evidence competency based upon:
  - (a) Formal education appropriate to the specialization, usually including the bachelor's or master's degree or their equivalent as demonstrated by expertise, license, or certification and three years work experience; or
  - (b) Practical experience other than teaching in the appropriate specialization, as demonstrated by full-time employment for five years in the career area, or a related field, and evidence of professional certification in the field of concentration; ~~and~~
  - (c) ~~Evidence of professional development in the field of concentration as demonstrated by activity in professional associations, consultative practice, participation in seminars, workshops, and formal coursework, and individual reading and research.~~
- (13) All instructors whose assignments are primarily in the teaching of the general studies curriculum should generally hold a master's degree or have bachelor's degree in the subject matter discipline, and should also show evidence of professional development in the subject matter discipline.

- (14) Full-time instructors who teach in the general studies portion of any degree program must have the following qualifications:
- (a) Hold a master's degree in the subject matter discipline he/she is assigned to teach; or
  - (b) Hold a master's degree in education with proficiency in the subject matter discipline; or
  - ~~(c) Has been exempted by the board on or before December 31, 1994 pursuant to the provisions of section 3332.031 of the Revised Code.~~
- (15) For purposes of this rule only, "Full-time instructor" means an instructor who is assigned for at least thirty hours per week of instruction, laboratory teaching or office hours;
- (E) All advanced degree programs approved by the board shall meet the following minimum standards:
- (1) "Advanced degree program" means a program of instruction at the baccalaureate, masters or doctorate level of instruction.
  - (2) The state board shall not issue such final program authorization for any advance degree programs offered in Ohio unless the degree program has been approved by the board of regents pursuant to the provisions of section 3332.05 of the Revised Code.
  - (3) Program authorization shall be for a period as specified by the board, dependent upon the outcome of the program review. Renewal authorization will be for a period as determined by the board not to exceed six years. Advanced degrees shall be renewed and assessed fees for a period that coincides with the approval cycle for a school's certificate of registration.

Effective:

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Certification

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Date

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