

State Minimum Faculty Credential Standards Expanded

Legislation passed by the 82nd General Assembly has expanded the pool of college faculty required to meet state minimum faculty standards.

With the passage of [Senate File 588](#) in 2007, minimum faculty standards were expanded to apply to not only full-time faculty but those under contract for half-time or more as well.

Earlier this year, the legislature made further changes to the standards with the passage of [House File 2679](#). By July 1, 2011, all community college instructors teaching college credit coursework must meet state minimum standards — including adjunct faculty. The only exception to these standards are developmental education instructors teaching only courses that are not intended to transfer or to complete a degree. The standards do not apply to instructors of non-credit courses.

In accordance with the changes in [Iowa Code](#), the Department has proposed revisions to Chapters 21 and 24 of the [Iowa Administrative Code](#) (281). These proposed regulations were presented to the [State Board of Education](#) and stakeholder groups. The State Board issued a [“Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules,”](#) which was followed by a public comment period and a [public hearing](#) held September 19. The [State Board of Education](#) will consider adoption of the administrative rules on November 3. If approved, the tentative effective date is January 21, 2009.

The [state accreditation process](#) ensures that state standards such as minimum faculty standards are met within the context of continuous institutional improvement. Each college is

Minimum Faculty Standards (IAC 281-21.3)

Career and Technical (CTE) Instructors

CTE instructors shall be registered, certified, or licensed in the occupational area in which the state requires registration, certification or licensure, and shall hold the appropriate registration, certificate, or licenses for the occupational area in which the instructor is teaching, and shall meet either of the two following qualifications:

- (1) A baccalaureate or graduate degree in the area or related area of study or occupational area in which the instructor is teaching classes.

OR

- (2) Special training and at least 6,000 hours of recent and relevant work experience in the occupational area or related occupational area in which the instructor teaches classes if the instructor possesses less than a baccalaureate degree.

Arts and Sciences Instructors

Arts and Sciences instructors shall meet either of the two following qualifications:

- (1) Possess a master’s degree from a regionally accredited graduate school, and have successfully completed 12 credit hours of graduate level courses in each field of instruction in which the instructor is teaching classes.

OR

- (2) Have two or more years of successful experience in a professional field or area in which the instructor is teaching classes and in which post-baccalaureate recognition or professional licensure is necessary for practice, including but not limited to the fields or areas of accounting, engineering, law, law enforcement, and medicine.

Definitions (IAC 281-21.3(2))

“Recent and relevant work experience” - Each community college must determine what constitutes recent and relevant work experience for career and technical education instructors,

“Field of instruction” — The determination of what constitutes each field of instruction should be based on accepted practices of regionally-accredited two and four-year institutions of higher education.

subject to accreditation by the State Board of Education. The Department’s [accreditation process](#) includes protocol related to instructor credentialing requirements and college per-

sonnel policies.

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