

Criteria of Accreditation Related to “Educational Programs”

A. Program Alignment and Administration

The institution has implemented a systematic process to document that each program

1. aligns with the mission of the institution,
2. has clearly stated objectives,
3. has content relative to its objectives and aligned with the needs of the people and industries served by the program,
4. is evaluated annually to ensure currency of its objectives and content,
5. has varied evaluation methodologies that reflect established professional and practice-based competencies, and
6. includes coursework that is qualitatively and quantitatively consistent at each campus where it is offered.

(Objectives 2-A-1 through 2-A-3)

The institution ensures that each program

7. is approved and administered under established institutional policies and procedures and supervised by an administrator who is part of the institutional organization, and
8. includes on-campus administrators and faculty in planning activities.

(Objective 2-A-4)

9. The institution considers the length and the tuition of each program in relation to the documented entry level earnings of completers.

NOTE: The Employer Program Verification Form must be completed by potential employers of program graduates (Occupational Advisory Committees) to assist in documenting compliance with this Criterion.

(Objective 2-A-5)

Each associate degree program meets the following requirements:

10. The program is designed to lead graduates directly to employment in a specific career.
11. The appropriate applied degree title, such as Associate of Applied Technology, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Occupational Studies, Associate of Science, or Associate of Occupational Technology, is used and includes the specific career and technical education field (i.e., Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology).
12. The program has a minimum of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours.
13. The program includes a minimum of 15 semester hours or 23 quarter hours of general education courses that are not applicable to a specific occupation, with a minimum of one course from each of the following areas: humanities, behavioral sciences, natural or applied sciences, and mathematics.

(Objective 2-A-6)

14. A credit hour is equivalent to a minimum of each of the following: one semester credit for 15 clock hours of lecture, 30 clock hours of laboratory, or 45 clock hours of work-based activities; or one quarter credit for 10 clock hours of lecture, 20 clock hours of laboratory, or 30 clock hours of work-based activities. (Objective 2-A-7)