

ABFSE Review of Standards 2017-2018

Process: ABFSE Review of Standards began in Summer 2017 with a widely distributed survey that was also available on the ABFSE website. All accredited programs received the Review of Standards survey and were asked to distribute to students. Association members, NFDA, NFDMA, ICCFA and CANA, distributed the invitation to participate in the survey to their membership and a random sample of recent graduates received an invitation to participate. The invitation to complete the survey was also shared with other national (ICFSEB, SIFH, IOGR) and state associations, state boards and others. An open survey invitation was available to the public via the ABFSE website.

A summary of the initial survey responses was posted on the ABFSE website and was reviewed by the COA and Executive Committee in October 2017.

COA and the COA liaison Committee participated in a 2-day Review of Standard workshop in February, 2018. The results of these combined efforts were presented for review at the April 2018 Annual Conference.

The *proposed* updated Standards were again presented for survey beginning in June 2018. Final comments were received on September 4, 2018. Results are tabulated for review by COA and the ABFSE Executive Committee in October 2018 and will be presented for final approval by ABFSE as a Notice of Motion at the Annual Conference in April 2019. A total of 120 survey responses were received.

Respondent Characteristics:

- 46.6% Funeral Service Licensee
- 8.5% Funeral Service Student
- 28.9% Funeral Service Educator
- 2.5% Employed in funeral service, not as licensee
- 13.5% Other (includes retired licensees, interns, regulators and 1 healthcare worker)

Gender

- 51.7% male
- 48.3% female

Age

- 19.6% Less than 30
- 18.8% 31-40
- 18.8% 41-50
- 23.0% 51-60
- 19.6% 60+

Proposal: The proposed changes to the ABFSE standards can be separated into 2 categories. – housekeeping and content changes.

Housekeeping changes include:

Replace the existing Preamble with a new Introduction.

Consolidate the existing 15 standards to 13 standards. This requires:

- re-numbering,
- combining the content of Standards 1 and 2
- moving the content of the existing Standard 13 (Record of Student Complaints) into the Administrative Practice and Ethical Standards standard.
- grouping together the three standards applicable only to single purpose, non-regionally accredited institutions.

Content changes include”

Aims and Objectives Standard is revamped as Program Learning Objectives in order to lead to more meaningful assessment.

Administrative Practices and Ethical Standards (originally Standard 4) now contains the specific accreditation statement language for single purpose institutions. Result: two accreditation statements appear in this standard.

Finance standard was re-vamped to improve focus on programmatic budget and guidelines for ‘gatekeeper’ institutions.

Curriculum Standard changes are primarily housekeeping.

- Programs are required to maintain a current Form B-6 ‘Curriculum Distribution by Content Area’.
- Inspection of clinical/funeral home sites was changed. Inspections are now required every 3 years (v. every 2 years).

Changes to the Faculty Standard are primarily clarification of existing language.

Facilities Standard includes updated language regarding affiliation agreements.

Library/Learning Resources Standard adds the expectation that:

- students will receive orientation to use the available library/learning resources *and*
- plans exist to ensure that technology resources are current and functioning.

Changes to the Students Standard include:

- the expectation that students will receive necessary orientation prior to the start of coursework.
- basic guidelines for credit by experience, *if applicable*.
- Records and reports references are moved to the Administrative Practices ... standard.

Program Planning and Evaluation/Assessment Standard includes language clarification and:

- use of the 3-year average to evaluate graduation and job placement rates.
- The time frame to implement ‘Probation’ and ‘Show Cause’ sanctions is revised to meet USDE requirements. (ABFSE was told that too much time was granted to make corrections)
- Programs offering 50% or more of coursework via distance education will be required to disclose NBE pass rates, graduation rates, and job placement rates for that modality.

Current standards 12, 14, 15 are re-numbered and grouped together. These standards apply to non-regionally accredited, single purpose schools where ABFSE serves as ‘gatekeeper’ and address Default

rates on student loans, Program length, tuition and fees and Program length in credit hours. Revised language is intended to clarify the intent of the standards.

In general, the portions of the proposed standards that appear in ***bold italics*** represent changes arising from the initial comment period. Information appearing in **red**, ***red italics*** or **purple** represents changes resulting from the second comment period.