

Minimum Faculty Standards

Excerpt from Iowa Administrative Code

Chapter 24 – Community College Accreditation

281—24.3 ([260C](#))

Definitions.

For purposes of interpreting [rule 281—24.5\(260C\)](#), the following definitions shall apply:

"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.

"Full-time instructor." An instructor is considered to be full-time if the community college board of directors designates the instructor as full-time. Consideration of determining full-time status shall be based on local board-approved contracts.

"Higher Learning Commission." The Higher Learning Commission is the accrediting authority within the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Iowa Code sections 260C.47 and 260C.48 require that the state accreditation process be integrated with that of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

"Instructors meeting minimum requirements." A community college instructor meeting the minimum requirements of Iowa Code Supplement section 260C.48(1) as amended by 2008 Iowa Acts, House File 2679, is an instructor under contract for at least half-time or more teaching college credit courses. Beginning July 1, 2011, a community college instructor meeting the minimum requirements is an instructor teaching college credit courses. Credit courses shall meet requirements as specified in [rule 281—21.2\(260C\)](#), and meet program requirements for college parallel, career and technical education, and career-option programs as specified in [rule 281—21.4\(260C\)](#) and Iowa Code chapter 260C.

"Minimum of 12 graduate hours." The 12 graduate hours may be within the master's degree requirements or independent of the master's degree, but all hours must be in the instructor's field of instruction.

"Relevant work experience." An hour of recent and relevant work experience is equal to 60 minutes. The community college will determine what constitutes recent and relevant work experience that relates to the instructor's occupational and teaching area. The college shall maintain documentation of the instructor's educational and work experience.

281—24.5 ([260C](#))

Accreditation components and criteria—additional state standards.

To be granted accreditation by the state board of education, an Iowa community college must also meet five additional standards pertaining to minimum standards for faculty; faculty load; special needs; vocational education evaluation; and quality faculty plan.

24.5(1) Faculty.

Community college-employed instructors who are under contract for at least half-time or more, and by July 1, 2011, all instructors who teach in career and technical education or arts and sciences shall meet minimum standards. In accordance with Iowa Code Supplement section 260C.48(1) as amended by 2008 Iowa Acts, House File 2679, standards shall at a minimum require that community college instructors who are under contract for at least half-time or more, and by July 1, 2011, all instructors meet the following requirements:

- a. Instructors in the subject area of career and technical education 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 license for the occupational area in which the instructor is teaching, and shall meet either of the following qualifications:
 - (1) A baccalaureate or graduate degree in the area or a related area of study or occupational area in which the instructor is teaching classes.
 - (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.
- b. Instructors in the subject area of arts and sciences shall meet either of the following qualifications:
 - (1) Possess a master's degree from a regionally accredited graduate school, and have successfully completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graduate level courses in each field of instruction in which the instructor is teaching classes.
 - (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.
- c. Developmental education and adult education instructors employed half-time or more may or may not meet minimum requirements depending on their teaching assignments and the relevancy of standards to the courses they are teaching and the transferability of such courses. If instructors are teaching credit courses reported in arts and sciences or career and technical education, it is recommended that these instructors meet minimum standards set forth in [281—subrule 21.3\(1\)](#), paragraph “a” or “b.” By July 1, 2011, all instructors teaching credit courses shall meet minimum standards.