

ABFSE

AMERICAN BOARD OF
FUNERAL SERVICE EDUCATION

Review of Standards Summary of COA suggestions

General comments:

Effective date depends on the date of final approval of changes at the conclusion of the Review of Standards process.

All Distance Education (DE) guidance is merged into the Standards.

COA recommends combining Standards 12 and 13 into a single standard. The content is USDE mandated since ABFSE serves as gatekeeper for certain institutions.

Standard 1 – Structure, Organization and Administration

- USDE definition of credit hour will be provided in a new appendix so that any future changes directed by USDE will not require a change in the standards.
- Clarity is added for programs offering DE.
- Advisory Board specifics are added. Currently, Advisory Board details are found in the Candidacy Chapter (Chapter IV).
- Details of organizational structure and administrative responsibilities are clarified.
- Program Director expectations in 1.7 and 1.8 are combined into a single sub-standard.

Standard 2 - Program Learning Outcomes

- Minor modifications clarifying where Program Learning Outcomes must appear. Move one sub-standard to Standard 10.

Standard 3 – Administrative Practices and Ethical Standards

- Clean up of language and merge DE guidance (this will be done for all standards).

Standard 4 - Finance

- Clean up of language and consolidation of sub-standards for gatekeep institutions.

Standard 5 - Curriculum

- Clarification of language regarding issues often encountered during site visits.
- Recommend moving FTC to the Legal, Regulatory, Ethical category.
- Provides language specific to programs offering bachelor degrees.

Standard 6 - Faculty

- Clean up and clarification of language.
- Recommendation that every program have at least 2 full-time faculty.

Standard 7 - Facilities

- Clean up and clarification of language.

Standard 8 – Library/Learning Resources

- Clean up and clarification of language.

Standard 9 - Students

- Clean up and clarification of language.

Standard 10 – Program planning & Evaluation/Assessment

- Recommend use of standard deviation and persistence pass rate for evaluation of NBE pass rates.

Standards 11 & 12 – Default Rates.... And Program Length, Tuition, Fees ...

- Adds language to emphasize that these standards must be addressed by gatekeeper schools as per USDE requirements.

Standards 12 & 13 - Program Length, Tuition, Fees ... And Program Length in Credit Hours

- Combine into a single standard for gatekeeper schools due to the similarity of content.

Review of Standards

COA initiated the Review of Standards by looking at the existing standards and drafting recommendations that fit accreditation needs.

The COA recommendations will serve as the starting point for the full review process.

These recommendations will be shared via email with all ABFSE programs.

Time is allotted for discussion of the Review of Standards process during the 2023 ABFSE Annual Conference.

May 1 – a survey for review of standards will be shared with all schools, the associations and the public to solicit comments on the standards. Responses due by June 15.

A summary of the responses will be shared during a Town Hall session on July 11.

The Executive Committee will review the survey responses and Town Hall feedback on July 21 and the preliminary results will be presented for approval at the quarterly Executive Committee meeting on July 28.

COA will review the survey and comments at the October 2023 meeting. A *final* version of the Standards will be prepared and go for another comment period due to close by December 31.

Following evaluation of the second comment period, final approval of the revised Standards will be on the ABFSE Annual Meeting agenda in April 2024 including a decision on date of implementation.

Timeline

March – distribution of COA suggestions to all programs

April 13 – discussion of the Review of Standards process at ABFSE Annual Conference

May 1 – survey for Review of Standards distributed to schools, associations, general public
- responses due by June 15

July 11 – Town Hall to share preliminary responses

July 21 – Executive Committee to review responses

July 28 – Preliminary responses to quarterly Executive Committee meeting for approval

October 17 – Review by COA and *final* proposed version of standards to go for additional comments by December 31

April 2024 – final version of Standards presented at Annual Meeting for approval and determination of implementation date.