Call for Comments – April 2018

PROPOSED CHANGES

Key to Changes: Delete, Add

Policy on Certificate, Diploma, and Two-Year Degree Programs
(Applicable to Undergraduate Only)

Within higher education, there exists a variety of patterns relative to two-year programs. Some are freestanding, but others are found within four-year institutions and are distinguished as separate curricular programs awarding a terminal two-year degree. Others are offered within four-year curricular programs where the two-year degree is granted to those who complete the first two years of the four-year curriculum. Generally, the purposes of certificate, diploma, and two-year degree programs are to provide the benefits of a biblical higher education to those students (1) who do not elect to complete a four-year degree, (2) who are planning to transfer to another college or university, or (3) who are preparing for an occupation or ministry that does not require a four-year degree. The terms “certificate” and “diploma” are considered synonymous for ABHE purposes. Whether the program is terminal (preparation for immediate entry into a career or profession) or transfer (preparation for further education), the following guidelines apply.

So that the benefits of a biblical higher education can best be provided to these students in the limited amount of time available, the following guidelines are established for terminal and transfer programs:

1. One- and two-year certificate/diploma programs and associate degrees must include the minimum equivalent of 12 semester hours (18 quarter hours) of biblical/theological studies must which concentrate on an examination of those biblical principles that are essential for the development of a biblical worldview.

2. Associate degree programs must include a minimum of 48 semester hours (72 quarter hours) of general studies must which concentrate on an examination of the presuppositions underlying the various disciplines in light of biblical principles. One or more courses must be drawn from each of the following four disciplines:
Communication, Humanities/Fine Arts, Natural Science/Mathematics, and Social/Behavioral Sciences.

3. Three-year certificate/diploma programs must include the equivalent of 24 semester hours (36 quarter hours) of biblical/theological studies.

4. Four-year certificate/diploma programs must include the equivalent of 30 semester hours (45 quarter hours) of biblical/theological studies.

5. Students must be afforded the opportunity to actively participate in meeting the needs of people through the program of ministry formation program.

6. Students must be challenged to develop a personal philosophy of ministry that emphasizes the application of biblical principles to both the unchanging need of man humanity and the changing issues and needs of modern society.

7. Students must be afforded the opportunity to formulate a biblical worldview based upon their biblical and general studies and their involvement in ministry.

8. Students must be challenged to embody the characteristics and spirit of Jesus Christ.

[Applicable standards: 11a]

Adopted October 1979; revised October 1987, October 1990, PROPOSED February 2018