April 2020

Accommodations for coronavirus pandemic crisis

In an effort to provide guidance and flexibility in the unprecedented situation created by the coronavirus pandemic the COA offers these policy considerations:

For those students whose graduation status would be negatively impacted by the requirement to “participate in an on-campus laboratory setting in which the application of restorative art principles is practiced” (Standard 5.4.6.j.) the current on campus RA requirement is temporarily suspended until further notice. Students are still expected to engage in RA activities, however the method of delivery of instruction is flexible as long as participation is verified and documented by the program.

For those students whose graduation status would be negatively impacted by the requirement to “actively participate in at least ten embalming cases” (Standard 5.4.6.a.), the program has flexibility to determine technical competence of each graduating student. Substantive evidence of technical competence must be verified and documented by the program but will not be dependent on number of cases.

If alternative plans to complete the restorative art and and/or embalming requirements are required, the program must notify the ABFSE office and provide the following:
- On college letterhead,
- Signed by the program director
- Designate the time period involved, i.e. dates, semester/quarter, etc.
- Describe how student graduation or progress has been negatively impacted by the coronavirus crisis to necessitate alternative plans.
- Brief description of the alternative plans to fulfill the obligations of the accreditation standards

Evidence/documentation of student work is to be maintained by the program.
Restorative Art Sample letter:
As a result of the coronavirus pandemic of 2020, XYZ College was closed dates.
The impact on students is/was ......
Students enrolled in course(s) completed the practical application of restorative art principles in the following manner ......
Signed

Embalming Sample letter:
As a result of the coronavirus pandemic of 2020, XYZ College was closed dates.
The impact on students is/was ......
Students enrolled in course(s) were unable to complete the required embalming cases in the manner described by the funeral service/mortuary science program.
To full graduation requirements, certification of embalming competency was verified in the following manner ......
Signed