

ABFSE

AMERICAN BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE EDUCATION

ABFSE TOWN HALL MEETING November 11, 2021 – 2 pm EST via zoom

This Town Hall session had 75 attendees representing 44 schools, plus 3 NFDA representatives, 1 CANA representative, 1 ABFSE public member and 6 guests.

ABFSE President Jolena Grande opened the Veteran's Day meeting with an introduction to the "The Journey to Serve" program. The program is a joint effort of the ICCFA Educational Foundation and the Funeral Service Foundation that encourages veterans to consider a career in funeral service. Schools are encouraged to use the related promotional materials and video. <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/540773471>

Reminder: The 2021 ABFSE annual report will include a question about the veteran status of new enrollees and graduates.

The bulk of the Town Hall session was devoted to discussion of a COA proposal to revise Standard 10 – NBE, Graduation Rate, and Job Placement Rate. See the details following the list of announcements.

Announcements:

- There will be **No** increase in ABFSE annual membership/accreditation renewal fees for FY 2022.
- ABFSE Strategic plan was extended for two years.
- The 6th edition of the Embalming textbook will be available for March 2022. Sharon Gee-Mascarello (former instructor at Wayne State University) took over the editor responsibilities for the book from Bob Mayer. The 6th edition, which includes color illustrations, is published by McGraw-Hill on behalf of ABFSE. Pre-orders via Amazon can be made now.
- Virtual clinical site inspections are a permanent policy not a response to COVID.
- There is no requirement that 10 embalming cases have to be completed in a single semester or term.
- *Current* affiliation agreements with clinical sites are required.

- Curriculum review is planned for summer 2022 as an in-person workshop after two years of virtual sessions. Programs interested in hosting a summer curriculum workshop should contact the ABFSE office.
- PowerPoint presentations from the October 2021 Self Study workshop are available on the ABFSE website at the *For Educators* page and the *Workshops* page. <https://www.abfse.org/html/workshops.html>.
- ABFSE website is due for an update. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Association announcements:

- NFDA offers a digital publication especially for students called director.edu. Programs are encouraged to share information about the publication with their students.
- NFDMA has invited the ABFSE to visit their headquarters when we meet for the Annual Conference in Atlanta in April of 2023.
- CANA – sponsors virtual ‘peer support’ meetings: <https://gocana.org/peersupport>.
 - Sessions are open to all funeral service personnel.
- ICFSEB Job Task Analysis survey. The Conference wants participants to help develop the survey. Deadline to apply is November 18, 2021 <https://theconferenceonline.org/jta/>
 - ABFSE programs should encourage other professionals to participate in the survey when it becomes available.
 - Educators also have the opportunity to become NBE item writers. See the ICFSEB website for details.

ABFSE Standard 10.

Current Standard: Programs must maintain a minimum 60% pass rate for first time takers on the Arts and Sciences sections of the NBE.

New Standard: Programs must maintain an NBE pass rate for first-time takers of the Arts and Sciences sections that is not lower than one standard deviation below the mean pass rate of all accredited programs. Program pass rate will be determined by ultimate (persistence) pass rate within one year of certification.

Calculation for the New Standard:

1. The pass rate for each accredited program is determined for the calendar year (number of passers/ number of takers). Programs may submit Appendix J exemptions to exclude those who took the NBE more than one year after completing funeral service coursework.
2. The mean (average) pass rate is calculated for Arts and Sciences.
3. Standard deviation of the mean pass rate of all accredited programs is calculated. Standard deviation measures the spread of scores.

Explanation

The move from a criterion referenced standard of 60% to a norm referenced standard will account for changes and trends in NBE pass rates. If a program is within one standard deviation from the mean, it is in compliance with the standard.

Example:

Assume there are 10 AFBSE accredited programs. Their pass rates for the Arts section of the NBE are:

76% 67% 69% 88% 60% 81% 59% 61% 57% 87%

The mean pass rate is 70.5%

The standard deviation is 11.17

Any program that is within 11.17 of 70.5 is in compliance with the standard. A program would need a minimum pass rate of 59.33% ($70.5 - 11.17$). With the dataset above, one program would not be in compliance under the new standard. Under the old standard, two programs would not be in compliance.