

Applied Bachelor's Degree Programs Questions and Answers

Question 1

With regard to Section 1.2 and the term “Regional,” must responders use an already defined region such as JobsOhio Region or CMSA regions or can each individual institution define the region based on industry needs/service area?

Institutions may define a region using a definition that differs from the JobsOhio or CMSA region. If an institution chooses this path, the institution’s submission should clearly define the region and provide a justification for the definition.

Question 2

In Section 1.2, there is a statement, “Submit data from the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation as an appendix item.”

Please confirm you are referencing this resource: <https://topjobs.ohio.gov>.

Yes, this is the resource referenced.

Question 3

Also may applicants provide additional, more recent data confirming the in-demand occupations from additional leading industry sources such as EMSI or Burning Glass?

Yes, institutions may use data from other leading industry sources; however, the submission should identify how and why the data may differ from data cited on the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation web pages.

Question 4

In Section 3, the RFI states, “Describe the financial capacity for the proposed program.” Please clarify “financial capacity” beyond what will be covered in other bullets within this section that will address facilities, faculty, staff, fees, business model, etc. Is there something specific beyond what is in the other bullet points that should be covered?

ODHE is seeking an overview of whether the institution has identified what overall expenditures will be needed for the proposed program and from whence the funds will be drawn. Also, if the institution has a low financial composite score, that should be mentioned here, as well as how financial resources will be obtained for the program.

Question 5

With regard to the commitment from business/industry, typically an employer might commit to:

- *Providing co-op and full-time employment opportunities for qualified students/graduates in the program, or*
- *Consider providing co-op and full-time employment opportunities for qualified students/graduates in the program*

Are these adequate commitments or is ODHE looking for specific numbers in terms of employment commitments? Some employers are reluctant to be more specific several years in advance.

We understand that providing specific numbers may be challenging, but we are expecting a level of commitment from the business/industry that is high. In short, employer needs should warrant the establishment of the applied bachelor's degree at the college. It may be the that the employer exclusively hires from the college (though exact numbers are not available), however, the employer should be able to predict estimates of employees that will be needed. The content of the agreement will vary depending on the program. The agreement should address the commitment of the employer regarding the role of the industry in curriculum design, the expectations for the number of internships to be provided, and the level of commitment the employer intends to demonstrate regarding the hiring of program graduates. Institutions that have programs approved will be expected to demonstrate that graduates of the program received employment from business/industry partners.

Question 6

While the authorizing legislation states that these will be applied bachelor's degrees, must the word "applied" be used in the degree title?

No.

Question 7

If a program curriculum includes the necessary 36-40 transfer module credits (in the appropriate categories), what is the rationale for one of the new degrees to be a Bachelor of *Applied* Science vs. Bachelor of Science degree?

ORC 3333.051 defines applied bachelor's degree as follows:

- (a) Specifically designed for an individual who holds an associate of applied science degree, or its equivalent, in order to maximize application of the individual's technical course credits toward the bachelor's degree;
- (b) Based on curriculum that incorporates both theoretical and applied knowledge and skills in a specific technical field.

In addition to general education coursework, the program would emphasize applied learning throughout the upper division coursework. ODHE expectations for the applied bachelor's degree will also include a close relationship with industry/business partners.