

## Teacher Qualifications and Department for New OTM Mathematics Courses

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Existing HLC accreditation standards and Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) standards are to be followed for the instructor qualifications for the new Ohio Transfer Mathematics courses.

It should be noted that ODHE does not have requirements regarding the department from which mathematics coursework is offered. Each institution has authority to determine the department structure that best suits its mission and student success.

### **As of May of 2020, HLC standards for faculty credentials state:**

[Effective September 1, 2017.]B.2. Faculty Roles and Qualifications

a. Qualified faculty members are identified primarily by credentials, but other factors, including but not limited to equivalent experience, may be considered by the institution in determining whether a faculty member is qualified. Instructors (excluding for this requirement teaching assistants enrolled in a graduate program and supervised by faculty) possess an academic degree relevant to what they are teaching and at least one level above the level at which they teach, except in programs for terminal degrees or when equivalent experience is established. In terminal degree programs, faculty members possess the same level of degree. When faculty members are employed based on equivalent experience, the institution defines a minimum threshold of experience and an evaluation process that is used in the appointment process. Faculty teaching general education courses, or other non-occupational courses, hold a master's degree or higher in the discipline or subfield. If a faculty member holds a master's degree or higher in a discipline or subfield other than that in which he or she is teaching, that faculty member should have completed a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours in the discipline or subfield in which they teach.

b. Instructors teaching in graduate programs should hold the terminal degree determined by the discipline and have a record of research, scholarship or achievement appropriate for the graduate program.

### **HLC standards align with ODHE guidelines for faculty credentials. ODHE standards as of May 2020 state:**

#### Faculty Credentials

The following expectations apply to all full-time and part-time instructors, including graduate teaching assistants and high school teachers who serve as adjunct faculty members for dual enrollment courses.

1. For general education courses:

- Faculty members teaching general education courses must hold a minimum of a master's degree in the discipline or a master's degree and a cohesive set<sup>3</sup> of at least 18 semester credit hours of graduate coursework relevant to the discipline.

- Individuals who are making substantial progress toward meeting the faculty credentialing requirements and who are mentored by a faculty member who does meet the minimum credentialing requirements may serve as instructors while enrolled in a program to meet credentialing requirements. Examples of such individuals include graduate teaching assistants (GTAs), adjunct faculty members and dual enrollment faculty members.

## 2. For courses other than general education courses:

- Faculty members must hold a terminal degree or a degree at least one level above the degree level in which they are teaching:

- » At least a bachelor's degree if teaching in an associate degree program

- » At least a master's degree if teaching in a bachelor's degree program » A terminal degree if teaching in a graduate program.

- Individuals who are making substantial progress toward meeting the faculty credentialing requirements and who are mentored by a faculty member who does meet the minimum credentialing requirements may serve as instructors during their educational programs. Examples of such individuals include graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) or adjunct faculty members who are working toward meeting the faculty credentialing requirements.

- Faculty members teaching technically- or practice-oriented courses must have practical experience in the field and hold current licenses and/or certifications, as applicable.

- For programs involving clinical faculty (e.g., student teaching supervisors, clinical practicum supervisors), the credentials and involvement of clinical faculty are described and meet applicable professional standards for the delivery of the educational experiences.

## 3. The following expectations apply to all faculty members:

- Faculty members must hold a degree from a regionally or nationally accredited institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or equivalent as verified by a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services.

- Where professional accreditation or licensing standards for faculty differ from the Chancellor's standards, faculty members are expected to meet the higher standards.

- Faculty members must show evidence of continuing professional development in the discipline.

- Faculty members who teach online courses must be prepared for teaching in an online environment.

- Faculty members within a program should have received their degrees from a variety of institutions. Faculty members who received their degrees from a single institution should not constitute the majority of the program's faculty.

4. The following expectations apply to faculty members teaching developmental education courses:

- Faculty must possess one of the following

- » at least a bachelor's degree in education, with an emphasis on teaching mathematics or reading or composition

- » a bachelor's or master's degree and experience teaching literacy or numeracy to adolescents or adults