



American Board of Funeral Service Education
Committee on Accreditation
992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108
Woodbury Heights NJ 08097

January 29th, 2024

RE: Call for Comments on Proposed Standards

Dear ABFSE Committee on Accreditation,

California is currently facing a significant shortage of funeral care practitioners, particularly in the field of embalming. Notably, the state only houses two ABFSE accredited institutions, situated approximately 400 miles apart.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing this shortage and aiming to contribute a much-needed service to the community, Cañada College has embarked on the development of a new ABFSE-accredited Funeral Service Education program. Given the constraints of our campus size and budget, our plans rely on maintaining a lean and fiscally responsible program.

A pivotal consideration in this endeavor is the newly proposed standard 6.8, which stipulates that "Every program is required to have at least two full-time faculty members, one of whom may serve in the role of the program director." This proposed standard, if officially ratified, poses a significant challenge for us in meeting accreditation requirements.

The implementation of standard 6.8 would necessitate a thorough re-evaluation of the financial feasibility of launching a funeral program at Cañada College. Balancing the imperative of accreditation with the practicalities of our resources is a critical aspect of this decision-making process.

Additional Questions:

Standard 4.1: The institution/program must have sustainable and sufficient financial resources to provide instruction and facilities in compliance with this manual.



- What is the operational definition of “sustainable and sufficient financial resources”?
 - Our burgeoning program is currently funded by Strong Workforce Program grant funds. Does this meet the criteria for “sustainable and sufficient financial resources”?
- When will programs be required to move into line with all the accreditation standards?

Sincerely,

Ameer Thompson, Ph.D.
Dean of Science and Technology
Cañada College