

NEED AND REASONABLENESS

MINNESOTA STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Statement of Need and Reasonableness for licensure of Postsecondary Vocational Technical Personnel in Swine Production

3700.0285 Swine Production Management

The statutory authority for the State Board of Vocational Technical Education to promulgate these rules is contained in Minnesota Statutes section 136C.04, subd. 9 which states:

Licensure. The State Board may promulgate rules, according to the provisions of Chapter 14, for licensure of teaching, support, and supervisory personnel in postsecondary and adult vocational education. The State Board may adopt licensure rules according to Sections 14.29 to 14.36 when necessary for continuous programs approved by the Board and when the Board determines appropriate licensure standards do not exist.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3700.0200 agricultural occupational licensure rule represented here focuses on three processes. For the purpose of clarification each process will be defined here.

1. New Venture Program Licenses

The State Board of Vocational Technical Education evaluates and approves initial and annual program applications according to the State Board of Education rules 3505.6100 to 3505.6400. Approximately ten to fifteen new venture programs receive approval annually. A new venture program is one which has not been previously offered within the technical college system and represents an entirely new program to be delivered. The Board is using the permanent rule process for new venture programs since no appropriate licenses for these categories exist. The new venture program represented in this statement is:

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Formal rule occurs through a process which involves a general advisory committee. Representatives from licensed postsecondary administrators, supervisory staff, vocational instructors and support staff, private trade school and the Board of Teaching,

State Board of Vocational Technical Education staff, the Minnesota Council of Vocational Education, State Board of Education staff, and finally Licensure staff from the State Board of Vocational Technical Education serve in an ex-officio status. The committee formulates general licensure guidelines and procedures for selecting individuals to serve on specific committees. This committee then reviews and makes recommendations on the final licensure draft.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The proposed permanent rules follow the precedent set by the revised agricultural instructor requirements adopted September 12, 1987, the revised business and office rules adopted February 6, 1988, and administrative licenses adopted on November 26, 1988. There are four major changes within the previous revisions and reflected within these revisions.

1. Crossover areas. The crossover areas compliment the technical college system's program restructuring. This effort converts programs to courses and then courses to credits. Thus the license allows the holder to teach a particular program and specified courses in any program throughout the technical college system. The courses listed as crossovers are reasonable since they are a result of the expertise acquired via the occupational and/or educational experiences specifically required of the license holder. This is needed to remove an artificial barrier which, in the past, allowed the individual to teach only within a program. This makes it possible to implement the restructured programs with appropriately credentialed staff, allowing an instructor to teach specific courses anywhere within a college.

2. Occupational and/or educational experience requirements. The occupational experience requirement identifies the job titles which will be accepted to meet licensure requirements. This specificity is needed to provide both the applicant and the hiring authority with information which will be used in making application for the license. The occupational experience requirements are reasonable because they are conceptually and functionally represented in the education programs and in the occupations for which the programs prepare individuals. There is also an increase in the total number of occupational hours from current rule of 6000 hours to revised rule of 8000 hours. This is reasonable since credit is given for educational experiences which relate directly to the occupation in question. In addition, credit will be given for teaching experience as it relates directly to the occupation being taught. Since these substitutions allow for a total of 4000 hours of occupational experience, the increase to 8000 hours is reasonable. In addition, the increase to 8000 hours represents only a total of one year. Since the crossover areas require more specificity required to teach individual courses throughout the technical college system, a greater depth and breadth of knowledge is required which is represented in the additional year of experience or education.

3. Recent occupational experience. There is an increase in recent occupational experience from "500 to 1000 hours in the last five years" to "2000 hours in the last five years". This increase is necessary so that individuals teaching programs and courses are knowledgeable about technical, economic and industrial changes as they relate to their specific occupational field. It is reasonable since it allows a five year time frame in which to acquire one year or 2000 hours of occupational experience. It would be possible, therefore, to obtain the additional 1500 hours by working only three summers.

4. Substitution for occupational experience. This subpart is necessary as a means of allowing teachers to expand into new, modified or restructured programs which reflect both new content area and existing content. The utilization of teaching experience in specified programs assures that only teaching experience which is conceptually related to the new, modified, or restructured program is allowed as a substitute for recent occupational experience. This recognizes specific knowledge in current programs as applicable to new programs which contain a portion of the same or similar content. 500 hours of recent occupational experience is still retained for the new licensure area to assure up-to-date industrial exposure to the occupation. This amount is reasonable because it can be obtained over five years and is only 12 1/2 weeks.

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Subpart 1. May Teach. Lists programs and courses which license holder may teach.

Subpart 2. Other Requirements. Refers to the other requirements an applicant must meet for licensure.

Subpart 3. Educational and Occupational Experience Requirement. Specifies number of hours and specific occupational areas acceptable for instructor licensure in the specific occupational program as well as appropriate education.

Subpart 4. Substitution for Recent Occupational Experience. Identifies relevant current teaching experience which can substitute for a portion of the recency requirement of 3700.0200, subpart 2.

The 3700.0200 rule will be implemented using current processes and should not incur additional expense.

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Subpart 1. May teach. Crossover areas in this license are swine specific and limited to agriculture. The license holder is required to have a minimum of two years postsecondary education specific to swine and/or agriculture plus a corresponding ratio of occupational experience. The crossovers are limited but reasonable given the requirements listed in subpart 3, item A or B.

Subpart 2. Other requirements. This refers to the general requirements as specified in 3700.0100. There are no changes in this subpart. 3700.0200 refers to general requirements for agricultural instructors. There are no changes in this subpart.

Subpart 3. Educational and occupational experience.

Item A. A degree in an agricultural area is appropriate and reasonable for the content within these degrees. The content of value for the swine production program is as follows: facility design and ventilation, finances and budgeting, animal science breeding and nutrition, and agricultural marketing. The swine production program contains courses in each of these areas. The occupational experience is specific to the swine area and encompasses breeding, farrowing, nursery and finishing. This is necessary to assure the breadth and depth of swine production required in larger intensive operations. Therefore it is reasonable to require such experience.

Item B. This item is an alternate route to licensing and allows swine content specific education. The primary focus of this education is application of the principles taught in the broad agricultural educational programs as it pertains to swine production. It is therefore reasonable. The occupational experience is increased by 2000 hours and is reasonable since the education is decreased by two years from item A. The occupational experience rationale remains the same.

Subpart 4. Substitution for occupational recency. The only teaching experience allowed is in swine production and management which is reasonable since this is a swine specific program. It is reasonable to assume an applicant is cognizant of current production and management trends due to the industrial visits and advisory committee activities.