



Appraiser Qualifications Board

Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria

Interpretation – Acceptable College and University Courses

This communication is for the purpose of issuing an Interpretation of the *Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria*. Interpretations are essential to a proper understanding of the requirements set forth in the *Criteria* and as such, are binding upon users of the *Criteria*. Interpretations will be incorporated into the published version of the *Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria* at its next printing.

Date Issued: May 1, 2009

Effective Date: January 1, 2010

Interpretation of Criteria Section(s):

Certified Residential Real Property Appraiser (2008 Criteria)
Certified General Real Property Appraiser (2008 Criteria)
- Criteria Specific to Qualifying Education Section III (B)

Issue(s):

Effective January 1, 2008, applicants for a Certified Residential Real Property Appraiser or Certified General Real Property Appraiser credential are required to possess college degrees, or in lieu of the required degrees, applicants may complete specified college-level education. Although the *Criteria* describe acceptable accrediting agencies, some accreditations apply to non-degree-granting colleges and universities, which was not the intent of the AQB.

Background:

The *Criteria* requires an Associate degree for the Certified Residential classification, and a Bachelors degree for the Certified General classification. However, in lieu of these respective requirements, applicants may complete specific courses from accredited colleges and universities. For the Certified Residential credential, applicants are required to complete a total of 21 semester credit hours in seven (7) specified subject matter areas. For the Certified General credential, applicants must complete a total of 30 semester credit hours in ten (10) subject matter areas.

The *Criteria* describe acceptable accreditation bodies for colleges and universities. However, it has come to the attention of the AQB that some of these entities may accredit schools that are not degree-granting institutions. Since the “in lieu” option is designed to be an alternative to possession of a degree from an accredited college or university, the intent of the AQB is, and always was, that all courses completed “in lieu” of a degree were taken from an accredited degree-granting college or university.

Criteria Section(s) Affected and New Interpretation

Certified Residential Real Property Appraiser Classification (2008 Criteria)

III. Qualifying Education

B. In lieu of the Associate degree, an applicant for the Certified Residential license shall successfully pass all of the following collegiate subject matter courses from an accredited college, junior college, community college, or university:

1. English Composition;
2. Principles of Economics (Micro or Macro);
3. Finance;
4. Algebra, Geometry, or higher mathematics;
5. Statistics;
6. Computer Science; and
7. Business or Real Estate Law.

Total hours of equivalent college courses in lieu of an Associate degree: 21 semester credit hours or its equivalent for the certified residential appraiser. If an accredited college or university (accredited by the Commission on Colleges, a regional or national accreditation association, or by an accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education) accepts the College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) examination(s) and issues a transcript for the exam, showing its approval, it will be considered as credit for the college course.

Certified General Real Property Appraiser Classification (2008 Criteria)

III. Qualifying Education

B. In lieu of the Bachelors degree, an applicant for the Certified General license shall successfully pass all of the following collegiate subject matter courses from an accredited college, junior college, community college, or university:

1. English Composition;
2. Macro Economics;
3. Micro Economics;
4. Finance;
5. Algebra, Geometry, or higher mathematics;
6. Statistics;
7. Computer Science;
8. Business or Real Estate Law; and
9. Two elective courses in accounting, geography, agricultural economics, business management, or real estate.

Total hours of equivalent college courses in lieu of a Bachelor's degree: 30 semester credit hours or its equivalent for the certified general appraiser. If an accredited college or university (accredited by the Commission on Colleges, a regional or national accreditation association, or by an accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education) accepts the College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) examination(s) and issues a transcript for the exam, showing its approval, it will be considered as credit for the college course.

New Interpretation Language

Interpretation (for both sections):

All courses used in lieu of the required degree must have been completed at a college or university that is an accredited, degree-granting institution. The degree-granting accreditation must have been obtained from an entity identified in Section III.B.