

**RULES  
OF  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
DIVISION OF REGULATORY BOARDS  
TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY**

**CHAPTER 0020-02  
EDUCATIONAL AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS**

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**0020-02-.01 RECOGNIZED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**

- (1) As used in this chapter, a “semester hour” means the conventional college semester hour. Quarter hours may be converted to semester hours by multiplying them by two-thirds.
- (2) For purposes of evaluating the education qualifications of applicants for certificates under Tenn. Code Ann. §62-1-106, the Board will recognize those junior colleges, colleges and universities accredited at the time the applicant’s degree was received by virtue of membership in one of the following regional accrediting agencies.
  - (a) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
  - (b) Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;
  - (c) New England Association of Schools and Colleges;
  - (d) North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;
  - (e) Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges; or
  - (f) Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
- (3) A listing of accredited colleges and universities recognized by the Board is contained in the “Accredited Institutions of Post-Secondary Education,” published by the American Council on Education for the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation. However, an applicant whose degree was received from a non-accredited college or university may qualify under the provisions of paragraphs (4), (6) or (7) of this rule.
- (4) If an institution was not accredited at the time an applicant’s degree was received but was accredited at the time his application was filed with the Board, the institution will be recognized as acceptable to the Board for the purposes of Tenn. Code Ann. § 62-1-106, provided the institution:
  - (a) Certifies that the applicant’s total educational program would qualify him for graduation with a baccalaureate degree during the time the institution has been accredited; and
  - (b) Furnishes the Board satisfactory proof, including college catalogue course numbers and descriptions, that the pre-accrediting courses used to qualify the applicant as an accounting major can be matched with substantially equivalent post-accredited courses.

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- (5) If an applicant's degree was received at an accredited college or university as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this rule, but the education program used to qualify the applicant included courses taken at either a two-year or non-accredited institution before or after graduation, such courses will be deemed to have been taken at the accredited institution from which the applicant's baccalaureate degree was received; provided, however, that the courses were either accepted by virtue of inclusion in an official transcript or by certification to the Board.
- (6) A graduate of a four-year degree-granting institution which was not accredited at the time the applicant's degree was received or at the time of filing the application will be recognized by the Board as a graduate of a four year accredited college or university, provided:
  - (a) A credential evaluation service approved by the Board certifies that the applicant's degree is equivalent to a degree from an accredited educational institution; or
  - (b)
    1. An accredited educational institution, as defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this rule, accepts the applicant's non-accredited baccalaureate degree for admission to a degree program;
    2. The applicant satisfactorily completes at least fifteen (15) semester or twenty-two (22) quarter hours in post-baccalaureate education at the accredited educational institution, of which at least nine (9) semester or thirteen (13) quarter hours shall be in accounting; and
    3. The accredited college or university certifies that the applicant is in good standing for continuation in the graduate program or has maintained a grade point average in these courses that is necessary for graduation.
- (7) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this rule, the Board may recognize, after thorough evaluation, any junior college, college or university holding membership in the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools for purposes of evaluating the educational qualifications of applicants pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 62-1-106. Provided, however, the Board may impose such reasonable limitations as it deems necessary on the scope of recognition to be given any individual institution pursuant to this paragraph.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§58-308, 62-1-105, 62-1-106, and 62-1-111. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed May 28, 1987; effective August 27, 1987. Amendment filed August 5, 1991; effective September 19, 1991. Amendment filed February 8, 1993; effective March 25, 1993. Amendment filed April 20, 1994; effective July 4, 1994. Repeal and new rule filed June 10, 1999; effective August 24, 1999. Amendment filed October 17, 2003; effective December 31, 2003. Amendment filed August 15, 2006; effective October 29, 2006.

#### **0020-02-.02 EDUCATION.**

- (1) An applicant will be deemed to have met the educational requirement if the applicant has earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited educational institution and obtained the minimum number of hours required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 62-1-106(c) which includes:
  - (a) At least twenty-four (24) semester or thirty-six (36) quarter hours of accounting education including the elementary level;
  - (b) Not more than three (3) semester or four (4) quarter hours may be internship programs which may be applied to the twenty-four (24) semester hours or thirty-six (36) quarter hours in accounting; and,

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- (c) At least twenty-four (24) semester or thirty-six (36) quarter hours in general business education in one (1) or more of the following:
  - 1. Algebra, Calculus, Statistics, Probability
  - 2. Business Communication
  - 3. Business Law
  - 4. Economics
  - 5. Ethics
  - 6. Finance
  - 7. Management
  - 8. Technology/Information Systems
  - 9. Marketing
- (2) For purposes of this rule, accounting hours, other than elementary courses, above the minimum requirement may be substituted for general business education.
- (3) For purposes of this rule, candidates must have at least twelve (12) semester or eighteen (18) quarter hours of accounting education and at least twelve (12) semester or eighteen (18) quarter hours of general business courses at the upper division level, junior level courses or higher.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§62-1-105 and 62-1-106. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 10, 1999; effective August 24, 1999. Amendment filed October 15, 2003; effective December 29, 2003. Amendment filed October 17, 2003; effective December 31, 2003. Amendment filed August 15, 2006; effective October 29, 2006. Repeal and new rule filed April 6, 2011; effective July 5, 2011.

### **0020-02-.03 EXPERIENCE.**

- (1) The experience required to be demonstrated for issuance of an initial certificate pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 62-1-106(j) shall meet the requirements of this rule.
  - (a) Experience may consist of providing any type of services or advice using accounting, attest, management advisory, financial advisory, tax or consulting skills.
  - (b) The applicant shall have his or her experience verified to the Board by a licensee as defined in the Act or a licensee from another state. Acceptable experience shall include employment in industry, government, academia or public practice. In evaluating experience, the Board shall consider such factors as the complexity and diversity of the work.
  - (c) One (1) year of experience shall consist of full or part-time employment that extends over a period of no less than one (1) year and no more than three (3) years and includes no fewer than two thousand (2,000) hours of performance of services described in subparagraph (1)(a) above.
  - (d) In accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 62-1-108(c)(2) any individual licensee who is responsible for supervising attest services and signs or authorizes another person to

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sign the accountant's report on the financial statements on behalf of the firm, shall meet professional competency requirements and shall have no less than two (2) years of experience satisfactory to the Board in the preparation of financial statements or reports on financial statements.

- (e) Experience must be earned within the ten (10) year period immediately preceding the latest application for a certificate under the Act.
- (2) Evidence of Applicant's Experience.
- (a) Any licensee who has been requested by an applicant to submit to the Board evidence of the applicant's experience and has refused to do so shall, upon request by the Board, explain in writing or in person the basis for such refusal.
  - (b) The Board may require any licensee who has furnished evidence of an applicant's experience to substantiate the information.
  - (c) Any applicant may be required to appear before the Board or its representative to supplement or verify evidence of experience.
  - (d) The Board may inspect documentation relating to an applicant's claimed experience.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§62-1-105, 62-1-106, 62-1-107, and 62-1-108.. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 10, 1999; effective August 24, 1999. Amendment filed October 15, 2003; effective December 29, 2003. Amendment filed August 15, 2006; effective October 29, 2006.