



Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals

Guidance Document: Related Science Degrees Pursuant to 18 VAC160-20-90 C

Adopted January 16, 2014

I. Background

Board regulation 18 VAC160-20-90.C outlines the specific requirements for licensure of waterworks and wastewater works operators. Said regulation also sets forth the specific requirements for licensure as a Class 3, 2 or 1 waterworks or wastewater works operator, which includes among the qualifications for licensure the option of having a "...bachelor's or master's degree with a major in engineering, engineering technology, or in a related physical, biological, environmental, or chemical science" along with requisite experience.

II. Issue

Applicants and Board staff are occasionally unclear as to whether a degree is "related" pursuant to the above-referenced regulation. As some degree programs have a number of courses relevant to the waterworks and wastewater works professions, the name of the degree program does not always clearly represent whether it is a "related" degree. Absent guidance and clarification from the Board, staff is unable to approve the application if the degree is not clearly "related."

III. Policy

Guidance Document: Related Science Degrees

Adopted January 16, 2014

Page 1 of 2

To ensure consistency in the application of the regulations and guidance to staff and applicants as to what constitutes a “related physical, biological, environmental, or chemical science” degree, Board advised that a minimum of 40 semester credit hours in science and math is acceptable towards meeting the applicable requirements for licensure pursuant to 18 VAC 160-20-90. C. Applicants for licensure pursuant to this provision shall supply official transcripts for each degree program that is being submitted for consideration.

Board staff may request additional information as needed in order to ensure compliance with this policy. Should Board staff be unable to satisfactorily determine whether the credit hours comply with this policy, the application will not be approved. The applicant may request an informal fact-finding conference pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (Chapter 40 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia) in order for the Board to consider the submitted documentation in the event that the supporting documentation is not sufficient or a determination cannot be reasonably made by staff based on the information submitted.