

**141.25 LICENSURE.**

Subdivision 1. **Required.** A school must not maintain, advertise, solicit for, administer, or conduct any program in Minnesota without first obtaining a license from the office.

Subd. 2. **Contract unenforceable.** A contract entered into with a person for a program by or on behalf of a person operating a school to which a license has not been issued under sections 141.21 to 141.35, is unenforceable in any action.

Subd. 2a. **Refunds.** If a contract is deemed unenforceable under subdivision 2, a school must refund tuition, fees, and other charges received from a student or on behalf of a student within 30 days of receiving written notification and demand for refund from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

Subd. 3. **Application.** Application for a license shall be on forms prepared and furnished by the office, and shall include the following and other information as the office may require:

- (1) the title or name of the school, ownership and controlling officers, members, managing employees, and director;
- (2) the specific programs which will be offered and the specific purposes of the instruction;
- (3) the place or places where the instruction will be given;
- (4) a listing of the equipment available for instruction in each program;
- (5) the maximum enrollment to be accommodated with equipment available in each specified program;
- (6) the qualifications of instructors and supervisors in each specified program;
- (7) a current balance sheet, income statement, and adequate supporting documentation, prepared and certified by an independent public accountant or CPA;
- (8) copies of all media advertising and promotional literature and brochures or electronic display currently used or reasonably expected to be used by the school;
- (9) copies of all Minnesota enrollment agreement forms and contract forms and all enrollment agreement forms and contract forms used in Minnesota; and
- (10) gross income earned in the preceding year from student tuition, fees, and other required institutional charges, unless the school files with the office a surety bond equal to at least \$250,000 as described in subdivision 5.

Subd. 4. **Certification.** Each application shall be signed and certified to under oath by the proprietor if the applicant is a proprietorship, by the managing partner if the applicant is a partnership, or by the authorized officers of the applicant if the applicant is a corporation, association, company, firm, society or trust.

Subd. 5. **Bond.** (a) No license shall be issued to any school which maintains, conducts, solicits for, or advertises within the state of Minnesota any program, unless the applicant files with the office a continuous corporate surety bond written by a company authorized to do business in Minnesota conditioned upon the faithful performance of all contracts and agreements with students made by the applicant.

(b)(1) The amount of the surety bond shall be ten percent of the preceding year's gross income from student tuition, fees, and other required institutional charges, but in no event less

than \$10,000 nor greater than \$250,000, except that a school may deposit a greater amount at its own discretion. A school in each annual application for licensure must compute the amount of the surety bond and verify that the amount of the surety bond complies with this subdivision, unless the school maintains a surety bond equal to at least \$250,000. A school that operates at two or more locations may combine gross income from student tuition, fees, and other required institutional charges for all locations for the purpose of determining the annual surety bond requirement. The gross tuition and fees used to determine the amount of the surety bond required for a school having a license for the sole purpose of recruiting students in Minnesota shall be only that paid to the school by the students recruited from Minnesota.

(2) A school required to obtain a private career school license due to the use of "academy," "institute," "college," or "university" in its name and which is also licensed by another state agency or board shall be required to provide a school bond of \$10,000.

(c) The bond shall run to the state of Minnesota and to any person who may have a cause of action against the applicant arising at any time after the bond is filed and before it is canceled for breach of any contract or agreement made by the applicant with any student. The aggregate liability of the surety for all breaches of the conditions of the bond shall not exceed the principal sum deposited by the school under paragraph (b). The surety of any bond may cancel it upon giving 60 days' notice in writing to the office and shall be relieved of liability for any breach of condition occurring after the effective date of cancellation.

(d) In lieu of bond, the applicant may deposit with the commissioner of management and budget a sum equal to the amount of the required surety bond in cash, or securities as may be legally purchased by savings banks or for trust funds in an aggregate market value equal to the amount of the required surety bond.

(e) Failure of a school to post and maintain the required surety bond or deposit under paragraph (d) shall result in denial, suspension, or revocation of the school's license.

Subd. 6. **Resident agent.** Schools located outside the state of Minnesota that offer, advertise, solicit for, or conduct any program within the state of Minnesota shall first file with the secretary of state a sworn statement designating a resident agent authorized to receive service of process. The statement shall designate the secretary of state as resident agent for service of process in the absence of a designated agent. If a school fails to file the statement, the secretary of state is designated as the resident agent authorized to receive service of process. The authorization shall be irrevocable as to causes of action arising out of transactions occurring prior to the filing of written notice of withdrawal from the state of Minnesota filed with the secretary of state.

Subd. 7. **Minimum standards.** A license shall be issued if the office first determines:

- (1) that the applicant has a sound financial condition with sufficient resources available to:
  - (i) meet the school's financial obligations;
  - (ii) refund all tuition and other charges, within a reasonable period of time, in the event of dissolution of the school or in the event of any justifiable claims for refund against the school by the student body;
  - (iii) provide adequate service to its students and prospective students; and
  - (iv) maintain and support the school;

(2) that the applicant has satisfactory facilities with sufficient tools and equipment and the necessary number of work stations to prepare adequately the students currently enrolled, and those proposed to be enrolled;

(3) that the applicant employs a sufficient number of qualified teaching personnel to provide the educational programs contemplated;

(4) that the school has an organizational framework with administrative and instructional personnel to provide the programs and services it intends to offer;

(5) that the premises and conditions under which the students work and study are sanitary, healthful, and safe;

(6) that the quality and content of each occupational course or program of study provides education and adequate preparation to enrolled students for entry level positions in the occupation for which prepared;

(7) that the living quarters which are owned, maintained, recommended, or approved by the applicant for students are sanitary and safe;

(8) that the contract or enrollment agreement used by the school complies with the provisions in section 141.265;

(9) that contracts and agreements do not contain a wage assignment provision or a confession of judgment clause; and

(10) that there has been no adjudication of fraud or misrepresentation in any criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding in any jurisdiction against the school or its owner, officers, agents, or sponsoring organization.

**Subd. 8. Fees and terms of license.** An application for an initial license under sections 141.21 to 141.35 shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee as provided in section 141.255 that is sufficient to recover, but not exceed, the administrative costs of the office.

All licenses shall expire one year from the date issued by the office, except as provided in section 141.251.

**Subd. 9. Catalog, brochure, or electronic display.** Before a license is issued to a school, the school shall furnish to the office a catalog, brochure, or electronic display including:

(1) identifying data, such as volume number and date of publication;

(2) name and address of the school and its governing body and officials;

(3) a calendar of the school showing legal holidays, beginning and ending dates of each course quarter, term, or semester, and other important dates;

(4) the school policy and regulations on enrollment including dates and specific entrance requirements for each program;

(5) the school policy and regulations about leave, absences, class cuts, make-up work, tardiness, and interruptions for unsatisfactory attendance;

(6) the school policy and regulations about standards of progress for the student including the grading system of the school, the minimum grades considered satisfactory, conditions for interruption for unsatisfactory grades or progress, a description of any probationary period allowed by the school, and conditions of reentrance for those dismissed for unsatisfactory progress;

(7) the school policy and regulations about student conduct and conditions for dismissal for unsatisfactory conduct;

(8) a detailed schedule of fees, charges for tuition, books, supplies, tools, student activities, laboratory fees, service charges, rentals, deposits, and all other charges;

(9) the school policy and regulations, including an explanation of section 141.271, about refunding tuition, fees, and other charges if the student does not enter the program, withdraws from the program, or the program is discontinued;

(10) a description of the available facilities and equipment;

(11) a course outline syllabus for each course offered showing course objectives, subjects or units in the course, type of work or skill to be learned, and approximate time, hours, or credits to be spent on each subject or unit;

(12) the school policy and regulations about granting credit for previous education and preparation;

(13) a notice to students relating to the transferability of any credits earned at the school to other institutions;

(14) a procedure for investigating and resolving student complaints; and

(15) the name and address of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

A school that is exclusively a distance education school is exempt from clauses (3) and (5).

Subd. 9a. [Repealed, 1999 c 214 art 3 s 36]

Subd. 9b. [Repealed, 1999 c 214 art 3 s 36]

Subd. 10. **Placement records.** (a) Before a license is reissued to a school that offers, advertises or implies a placement service, the school shall file with the office for the past year and thereafter at reasonable intervals determined by the office, a certified copy of the school's placement record, containing a list of graduates, a description of their jobs, names of their employers, and other information as the office may prescribe.

(b) Each school that offers a placement service shall furnish to each prospective student, upon request, prior to enrollment, written information concerning the percentage of the previous year's graduates who were placed in the occupation for which prepared or in related employment.

Subd. 11. [Repealed, 1999 c 214 art 3 s 36]

Subd. 12. **Permanent records.** A school licensed under this chapter and located in Minnesota shall maintain a permanent record for each student for 50 years from the last date of the student's attendance. A school licensed under this chapter and offering distance instruction to a student located in Minnesota shall maintain a permanent record for each Minnesota student for 50 years from the last date of the student's attendance. Records include school transcripts, documents, and files containing student data about academic credits earned, courses completed, grades awarded, degrees awarded, and periods of attendance. To preserve permanent records, a school shall submit a plan that meets the following requirements:

(1) at least one copy of the records must be held in a secure, fireproof depository;

(2) an appropriate official must be designated to provide a student with copies of records or a transcript upon request;

(3) an alternative method, approved by the office, of complying with clauses (1) and (2) must be established if the school ceases to exist; and

(4) a continuous surety bond must be filed with the office in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 if the school has no binding agreement approved by the office, for preserving student records. The bond shall run to the state of Minnesota.

Subd. 13. **Schools licensed by another state agency or board.** A school required to obtain a private career school license due to the use of "academy," "institute," "college," or "university" in its name or licensed for the purpose of participating in state financial aid under chapter 136A, and which is also licensed by another state agency or board shall be required to satisfy only the requirements of subdivisions 3, clauses (1), (2), (3), (5), (7), and (10); 4; 5, paragraph (b), clause (2); 7, clauses (1) and (10); 8; 9, clause (13); and 12.

**History:** 1969 c 866 s 5; 1971 c 781 s 1,2; 1973 c 714 s 3-9; 1980 c 559 s 1; 1Sp1985 c 11 s 67-70; 1986 c 444; 1989 c 329 art 12 s 4; 1990 c 562 art 3 s 9,10; 1991 c 265 art 8 s 10; 1992 c 513 art 1 s 27; 1Sp1993 c 2 art 2 s 21; 1995 c 212 art 3 s 43,59; 1996 c 366 s 2; 1999 c 214 art 3 s 9-18; 2003 c 112 art 2 s 50; 2005 c 107 art 2 s 60; art 3 s 2-6; 2007 c 144 art 3 s 18-23; 2008 c 298 s 21,22; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 109; 2010 c 364 s 19-21