

Ontario Association of Home Inspectors

Established by the Ontario Association of Home Inspectors Act, 1994

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OAHI Educational Program Acceptance Policy

Background & Rationale of Acceptance Policy:

There currently are numerous community colleges and private education providers offering educational services related to the home inspection profession both locally and internationally. The OAH is a volunteer run organization. While the OAH volunteers would relish the opportunity to review and approve all of the Home Inspection related material being offered, in practice, the volume of quality material being presented prevents us from being able to individually review all of the various courses with sufficient diligence to make a valid determination which courses are suitable for "approval" or not. The OAH also does not have the resources to verify that the course material is being effectively delivered to the student.

To accommodate the situation, the OAH Board of Examiners has taken the position that it may "accept" certain courses or programs for credit towards a member's admission requirements, but will not offer any formal approvals or endorsements. The BOE has also decided that it is in the best interest of all concerned if the OAH concentrates solely on setting learning outcomes and performance standards and is not actively involved in the development and delivery of general education courses except for the OAH Defect Recognition and Reporting Course which is unique.

The OAH has developed a Performance Standard & Knowledge Base Document for the mandatory HVAC and Electrical Baseline Accreditation requirement to set the learning outcomes and skills that are needed to perform a competent home inspection for those particular subject areas. The OAH BOE hopes to continue to develop similar documents as needed and to coordinate these Curriculum Guidelines with future minimum National Standards.

The database of skills and knowledge appended to this document were initially obtained from the CHIBO Occupational analysis. The database was validated by consensus of a group of experienced home inspectors. As the consensus changes, it is our intent that the database will be updated to reflect the dynamic nature of the Home Inspection Industry.

The OAH Board of Examiners, and Board of Directors has approved the following terms & policy for acceptance of educational material for its baseline course requirements.

Part 1: Mandatory Baseline Requirements:

Item (1) MMAH Part 9 The House- Building Envelope MMAH Part 9: The House- Health & Safety

Acceptance Requirement: The OAHI Board of Examiners considers the MMAH (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) certificates from these courses to be part of the basic credentials which make up the “RHI” (Registered Home Inspector) designation. As such it will only recognize the actual MMAH certificate or pass letter. Education providers who are offering these courses and have pass marks below the MMAH 70% must inform the student that the OAHI requires the MMAH endorsement and must allow students who have not obtained this grade to rewrite the exams as per MMAH policy.

Item: (2) Residential HVAC Inspection

Acceptance Requirement: The OAHI BOE will give credit for this requirement to students graduating from community college programs where the course has been **reviewed** by an independent member of the college executive (such as the Dean of the Department - not the instructor) and it has been determined to substantially fulfill the objectives and performance standards as stated in the OAHI HVAC document. As verification, the OAHI must have a letter from the reviewer stating that the course has been reviewed, and that the college will undertake that the standard will be achieved and maintained. If the reviewer is not the Dean of the Department, a Letter should also be provided by the Dean of the Department which has the effect of the College certifying the delivery of the course.

The OAHI will also accept PLA's conducted by the college in accordance with the OAHI Standard.

Private course providers may be accepted under similar letters of review and commitment by special permission of the OAHI BOE provided there is an acceptable third party reviewer. Additional documentation and verification may be requested.

Item (3) Residential Electrical Inspection

Acceptance Requirement:
Same Conditions as Item (2).

Item (4) OAHI Defect Recognition & Reporting Course

Acceptance Requirement:
This course is unique to the OAHI and must be delivered by the OAHI. It is open to members and non-members.

Item (5) *Introduction to Home Inspection - Practical- 30 Hours.*

Acceptance Requirement:

This requirement is intended to give the student exposure to an overview of general home inspection related material such as seminars or home inspection "overview" courses. Any general courses or seminars providing a minimum of 30 hours of practical material related to home inspection will be considered acceptable. A letter indicating the basic course overview and declaring the number of contact hours will be considered acceptable documentation. Any courses or seminars approved for ASHI, CAHPI or OAHI Membership Renewal Credits or CEU's are also accepted providing a minimum of 30 contact hours are obtained by the applicant. Completion of the ASHI or CAHPI insurance exams is also considered acceptable.

Acceptance Policy for Individual Baseline Courses Program:

(1) Course providers offering individual courses meeting any of the requirements of items 1-4 may display the OAHI logo beside the course and state: "This course is accepted by the OAHI towards the Baseline Academic Requirement.....".

(2) Course providers offering complete programs including all items 1-5 may use the OAHI Logo and state: "Successful completion of this course fulfills the OAHI Baseline Academic requirements."

Part 2: Technical Background Component

Programs offering additional technical courses related to home inspection /construction may be deemed by the OAHI Board of Examiners as having satisfied the OAHI "Technical Background" requirement under "Option "B". To do so, the additional courses must satisfy one of the following:

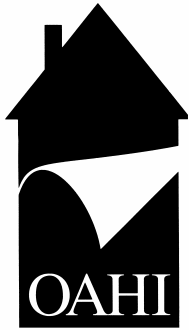
- Minimum of 4 additional construction related technical courses of 80 hours each in subjects other than those covered in the Baseline Course Requirement.
- 320 Hours of General Home Inspection Related Course Material.
- Construction or Home Inspection programs with 160 additional hours of related technical material and prescreening of candidates to verify prior practical experience or education related to construction. The BOE must approve the prescreening process and criteria.

Acceptance Policy for Complete Programs:

Programs including both the Part 1: Baseline and the Part 2 Technical Background Component may use the OAHI Logo and state: "Successful completion of this program fulfills the academic entrance requirements of the OAHI"

***General Housekeeping Rules:**

1. The OAHI must be in receipt of the signed letters of review and undertaking from the responsible person.
2. All course examination and evaluation procedures must be performed under verifiable conditions. (For example courses delivered by correspondence must have a mechanism for proctoring).
3. Legitimate complaints from students regarding the unsuitability of the courses may result in the OAHI repealing Logo use privileges and ceasing to accept courses for credit!
4. The course provider must not make any statement or advertisement of any kind implying that the course or program has been reviewed by, approved, or endorsed by the OAHI. However, the provider may use the Logo with the phrase "In Cooperation with the OAHI", supplemented by the phrase "*Partners in Education*" displayed underneath the OAHI Logo in Italics as shown below.



"Partners in Education"

Please note: The OAH Logo Use Policy is Under Review and subject to change

5) In addition to any other supporting documentation, the following information is required for record keeping purposes which must be forwarded to the OAH office in hard copy please.

On a single sheet of paper (Letterhead) please include

- The official name of the course
- A brief 1 Paragraph description of the course as you would like to see it in a course calendar or Web site posting
- Means of Delivery offered (i.e., classroom, on line, correspondence, field sessions)
- Number of Hours
- What it is to be accepted for (we will confirm this in writing)
- Name of Course Provider
- Contact information of provider
- Permission to publish / release this information
- Signature of person responsible

Upon receipt of this information along with whatever supporting documentation is required, the OAH will send a letter of confirmation authorizing Logo use, confirming what the course is accepted for, and the phrasing of any acceptance claims that may be made. Only the approved statements may be used.

Note: For background information on the admission requirements of the OAH please refer to the OAH web site at: www.oah.com

Copies of the Performance Standard & Knowledge Base Documents will be posted on the OAH web site as they become available.
