

How Schools or Other Educational Programs Qualify for NCGR Equivalency

NCGR's equivalency program allows students to enter our four-level certification program at a higher level than if they were entering the program with no previous study. Specific coursework or certification at a qualified school may allow the student to test as high as Level IV in NCGR's program.

Effective as of January 2006, the NCGR Board has initiated a new set of requirements for schools and other organizations that apply for equivalency in our certification program. These new regulations are as follows:

1. School needs to be officially in existence for at least five years.
2. School should have at least one graduating class.
3. School should be a stand-alone school; that is, not strictly conform only to the NCGR curriculum, but have its own separate identity and curriculum.
4. School should have a faculty of at least three teachers.
5. School should have a program that spans at least two years. A series of workshops, seminars, lectures, etc. do not make a school. There should be some kind of comprehensive program of a continuous nature.
6. There should be a review of an equivalency-granted school by the Education Director plus a chosen representative from the NCGR Board or the Board of Examiners after a ten-year period from acceptance for equivalency. A school's equivalency will remain in force for as long as there is good will and cooperation shown between NCGR and the school.
7. The granting of equivalency for a school should be decided by the Education Director in cooperation with the Chair and then voted final approval by the Board.
8. Some outside criteria should be established for equivalency, such as APAI acceptance, state licensing, longevity and continuity of a school over a reasonable period of time, and other such considerations.

These requirements are over and above the criteria we now have in place as guidelines for equivalency, which are essentially a review of a school's curriculum of studies, and a determination by the Education Director as to how rigorous these studies are. This entails a complete review of course topics covered within a school program, plus proof that an applicant has successfully tested on those topics (by way of transcripts or other such documentation). There should be some general conformity with NCGR's curriculum, as outlined in our Study Guide, in order to determine which NCGR Level can be exempted.

An applying school would not automatically be exempted from our Levels I, II, and III, but may be exempted from any one of these from Level I up. However, no school can be exempted from our Level IV exams.

As part of NCGR's revised equivalency requirements, all schools and organizations who had previously been included in our program have recently been asked to resubmit their documentation—including their overall curriculum, specific courses of study, number of instructors, students enrolled, and the like. This process of reevaluation will now take place every five years in order to insure that the schools and organizations accepted into NCGR's Equivalency Program still maintain the standards spelled out in our new policy.

Those distinguished schools and organizations currently included in our equivalency program are listed on our website at www.geocosmic.org/educ, or a current list can be obtained directly from the Education Director via email at eduadmin@geocosmic.org.

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