

281—56.16 (259) Training.

56.16(1) Duration of training. Rehabilitation training is provided according to the actual needs of the individual. It is designed to achieve the specific employment outcome that is selected by the individual consistent with the individual's unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice.

56.16(2) Types of training. The types of training programs available are as follows:

a. Postsecondary training, which is training in the arts and sciences for which postsecondary credit is given and which is generally considered to be applicable toward an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or advanced degree.

b. Vocational training, which includes any organized form of instruction that provides the knowledge and skills essential for performing in a vocational-technical area. Such knowledge and skills may be acquired through training in an institution, on the job, by correspondence, by tutors, through a selection from the menu of services, or through a combination of any or all of these methods.

c. Prevocational training, which includes any form of basic training given for the acquisition of background knowledge or skills prerequisite or preparatory to vocational training or to employment where the primary occupational knowledge and skills are learned on the job or through a selection from the menu of services.

d. Work adjustment training, which includes any training given for any one or a combination of the following reasons:

(1) To assist individuals with disabilities, if needed, to acquire personal habits, attitudes and skills that will enable them to function effectively.

(2) To develop or increase work tolerance prior to engaging in prevocational or vocational training, or in employment.

(3) To develop work habits and to orient the individual to the world of work.

(4) To provide skills or techniques for the specific purpose of enabling the individual to compensate for the loss of the use of a member of the body or the loss of a functional capacity.

e. Job coaching, which includes, but is not limited to, intensive on-the-job training necessary to teach an employee both the job duties and job-related responsibilities.

f. Supported employment, which means competitive work in an integrated work setting with ongoing support services for individuals with the most significant disabilities for whom competitive employment has not traditionally occurred or has been interrupted or intermittent as a result of significant disabilities. Supported employment also includes transitional employment for individuals with chronic mental illness. Supported employment is limited to a period of 18 months unless a longer period is established in the IPE.

g. Customized training, which is a plan developed by the client's counselor in cooperation with the client and the employer-trainer whereby the employer-trainer accepts the client for training for a specific job or job family, paid or unpaid, that may or may not result in employment with the training employer.

56.16(3) Scope of training. The division may provide training services as long as those services are part of a client's IPE. Training facilities shall be selected to meet the client's health, disability, and program needs. Training facilities within the state are preferred; those outside Iowa shall not be used unless approved for use by the vocational rehabilitation agency in the state in which the facility is located.

56.16(4) Financial assistance for postsecondary training. Calculations of financial assistance for postsecondary training are determined annually. In order for the division to continue to assist the greatest practical number of eligible clients, assistance shall be no less than 40 percent and no more than 60 percent of the cost of attending the least expensive in-state public institution for a course of instruction leading to an undergraduate degree. In all cases, the postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled must be accredited by an entity recognized by the federal Department of Education as having authority to accredit postsecondary institutions.

a. Tuition and fee-based general assistance.

(1) Second year or less status. A student is considered to be in second year or less status when the student has earned fewer than 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours in the student's present area of study or discipline; when the student is enrolled in a community college or other two-year postsecondary institution; or when the student is enrolled in a program whose terminal degree is an associate degree but the student has not yet attained the associate degree. For an eligible student in second year or less status, the division shall pay no less than 40 percent and no more than 60 percent of the least expensive per-credit-hour tuition charged by an Iowa community college.

(2) Third or fourth year status. A student is considered to be in third or fourth year status if the student has earned at least 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours or has achieved an associate degree in the student's present area of study or discipline but has not yet earned a postsecondary baccalaureate degree. For an eligible student in third or fourth year status, the division shall pay no less than 40 percent and no more than 60 percent of the tuition charged by the college or university, limited to the amount charged by the least expensive Iowa regents institution. Students in third or fourth year status who take graduate courses are only eligible to receive the established assistance rate for third or fourth year status.

(3) Medical school. Only a student enrolled full-time in a graduate school pursuing a course of studies that will lead to a medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO) degree is eligible for assistance under this paragraph. For a student who is an MD or DO candidate, the division shall pay no less than 40 percent and no more than 60 percent of the tuition charged by the college of medicine of the University of Iowa. Students pursuing any other graduate degree in a medical arts program may be eligible for assistance under subparagraph 56.16(4)"a"(5).

(4) Law school. Only a student enrolled full-time in a graduate school pursuing a course of studies that will lead to a doctor of jurisprudence (JD) degree is eligible for assistance under this paragraph. For a student who is a JD candidate, the division shall pay no less than 40 percent and no more than 60 percent of the tuition charged by the college of law of the University of Iowa. Students pursuing any other graduate degree from a law school may be eligible for assistance under subparagraph 56.16(4)"a"(5).

(5) Graduate or postgraduate school. Notwithstanding subparagraphs 56.16(4)"a"(3) and (4), for a student enrolled in a graduate or postgraduate school, the division shall pay no less than 40 percent and no more than 60 percent of the tuition charged by the college or university, limited to the amount charged by the least expensive comparable graduate school at an Iowa regents institution.

(6) Distance learning (on-line courses). For a student enrolled in a distance learning course, the division shall pay the lesser of one of the following:

1. No less than 40 percent and no more than 60 percent of the actual cost of the course, or
2. The rate established for a student in second year or less status.

(7) Continuing education courses. For a student taking a noncredit continuing education course, the division shall pay the lesser of one of the following:

1. No less than 40 percent and no more than 60 percent of the actual cost of the course, or
2. The rate established for a student in second year or less status.

(8) Out-of-state postsecondary institutions. For an eligible student who attends a postsecondary institution located outside Iowa, the division shall pay at the same rates set in this subrule.

b. Support services for postsecondary training. Unless approved as an exception by the supervisor, the amounts authorized for the items listed herein cannot exceed the amounts that would otherwise be spent on tuition and fees.

(1) Transportation shall be provided only when and to the extent that the cost is caused by participation in a program of vocational rehabilitation services.

(2) Maintenance shall be provided only to support participation in a program of vocational rehabilitation services when the client has no resources to address basic living expenses.

(3) Books and supplies may be provided in lieu of tuition and fees, but the amount provided therefor shall be no less than 40 percent and no more than 60 percent of the amount based on tuition and fees.

(4) Tutoring shall be provided only for courses that are part of the actual degree requirements and only when this service is not available for free through the school attended by the client. Tutoring for program entrance examinations, such as the GRE, LSAT, or MCAT, is not allowed without an exception approved by the supervisor.

(5) Unless approved as an exception, tools and equipment required for participation in a training program shall be provided in lieu of the tuition and fee amount.

(6) Unless approved as an exception, supplies for a course without which the course cannot be successfully completed shall be provided in lieu of the tuition and fee amount.

(7) Unless approved as an exception, fees for specialized equipment or computer programs needed to learn a subject or to access a course shall be provided in lieu of the tuition and fee amount.

(8) Fees for certification tests that are part of a course shall be paid pursuant to the 40 percent to 60 percent range established as the tuition and fees standard. For certifications and licensure fees that are not part of a course, the division shall use the financial needs assessment form to determine the level of division participation.

56.16(5) General guidance regarding postsecondary training is available from the division's case services manual.

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