These amendments to the NASD Handbook 2005-2006 were ratified by the Membership on Saturday, September 17, 2005.

PLEASE NOTE: The revisions to NASD operational standards set forth in this document take effect immediately. All institutions and evaluators must follow standards and guidelines reflected in the current Handbook and any approved addenda current at the time of application.

Standards for Degree-Granting Institutions
Standards for Professional Studio Schools, Community Education Programs, and Other Non-Degree-Granting Institutions

NASD Handbook 2005-2006 – pages 75-76
II. Operational Standards
I. Credit and Time Requirements

Add new last number as follows:

5. Transcript Evidence

Transcripts of graduates must be consistent with the curricular and other requirements stated in the institution’s publications applicable to the degree being awarded. Applicability is defined by the published policies of the institution.

Page 52: The parallel statement applicable to non-degree-granting institutions

5. Transcript Evidence

For non-degree-granting programs for which transcripts or other records of curriculum completion are provided, such transcripts or records of graduates must be consistent with the curricular and other requirements stated in the institution’s publications applicable to the credential being awarded. Applicability is defined by the published policies of the institution.

Standards for Degree-Granting Institutions

NASD Handbook 2005-2006 – page 78

II. Operational Standards

Add new item II.I. as follows:

L. Independent Study

1. Definition

Each offering institution must publish information that includes its definitions of independent study and its policies for the conduct of independent study on campus or through distance learning.
2. Policies and Resources

   a. Institutions offering degrees extensively based on independent study must provide the instruction, tutorials, critiques, evaluations, and resources essential to degree programs of that type, and to each specific degree being offered.

   b. At the terminal degree level, institutions may not wish to specify course or credit requirements, other than the satisfactory completion of certain examinations, project reviews, or a dissertation.

3. Student Requirements

   a. The content and expectations for each independent study course or program or degree must be clearly stated to the student in writing before each independent study begins.

   b. When independent study is used to substitute for a required course, the institution must ensure that the content, scope, depth, and learning expectations of the required course are fulfilled by the independent study.

4. Degree Requirements

   Each institution determines the extent to which independent study is to be a means for meeting the requirements for each degree that it offers. However, if a degree is based primarily on course requirements that are to be taken in formal classes, normally, independent study is not substituted for more than 20% of such required courses.

Reletter remaining sections.

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