

CHAPTER 6/ FEDERAL COMPLIANCE



FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

*Committed to ethical practice,
RSC adheres to the HLC/NCA Federal
Compliance Program by communicating
accurately its programs and costs,
following established policies,
complying with the law, and offering
its constituencies appropriate
curricula and services.*



FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

RSC operates in compliance with federal and state regulations as well as its internal policies and/or guidelines. This section addresses institutional compliance with federal mandates as required by the Higher Learner Commission ([RD71-Handbook of Accreditation, 8.2-1](#)).

Credits, Program Length, and Tuition (HLC Policy I.C7)

RSC adheres to the guidelines established by the Ohio Board of Regents (OBOR) for offering degree programs and awarding credit for college course work. The [Ohio Board of Regents' rule 3333-1-04 \(RD87\)](#) of the [Operating Manual for Two-Year Campus Programs \(RD72\)](#) is authorized in the [Ohio Revised Code 3333.04 and 3333.20 \(RD87\)](#) respectively. These rules stipulate credit hour and degree requirements.

As an Ohio technical college, RSC is approved to award the following degrees: Associate of Applied Science, the Associate of Applied Business and the Associate of Technical Studies. The OBOR has established 90 hours as the minimum and 110 hours as the maximum credit hours needed for each degree. From time to time, the OBOR authorizes degree programs to exceed 110 hours. RSC has one such program, Dental Hygiene, which currently has permission to exceed the 110 hour maximum by two hours (RD#; Waiver of Maximum Hours). The remaining degree programs fall within the 90-110 credit hour degree requirements. OBOR guidelines stipulate that approximately 50% of the credits should be in non-technical education. This stipulation includes general education courses in English, Mathematics, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Humanities or Life and Physical Sciences and basic related courses, which include technical course work but are not program/major specific.

RSC operates on a quarter system with 10 weeks of instruction followed by a week for final examination. In addition, the College offers course work on a flexibly scheduled basis where courses may meet over a shorter or longer timeframe, but are held to the contact hour requirements for the number of credit hours awarded. One credit hour is awarded for each contact hour scheduled in a standard ten-week lecture course. Contact hours are equated to a 50-minute timeframe. OBOR stipulates a specified time structure for labs, clinicals, practicums, and internships, utilizing varying contact hour requirements. For example, two or more contact hours of lab are typically equivalent to one credit hour.

Ohio residents who attend RSC are charged the stated tuition rate per credit hour. Tuition for 2007-08 is \$92.30 per credit hour. Non-residents are subject to a higher fee, \$184.60 per credit hour. However, through reciprocity agreements residents of specified contiguous Indiana counties have been deemed to qualify for the resident rate. While Rhodes State College defines a full-time student as someone taking 12 or more credit hours per quarter, data on student charges (e.g., instructional & general fees, nonresident

surcharges) reported to OBOR are based on 15 credit hours, per OBOR guidelines. For those colleges reporting a range of credit hours, the cost of tuition and fees are the same for any number of hours within the range.

Table 6-1 provides a summary of credit hour charges and fees for full-time undergraduates at technical colleges and state community colleges. The credit hour charge column is institutionally derived. Some colleges charge registration and/or other fees each term, regardless of credit hours enrolled. These fees are reflected in the credit hour charge, which overestimates per hour charges for effected institutions. For example, RSC charges \$92.30 per hour for tuition, but an additional \$25 registration fee each quarter, regardless of the number of hours registered. The OBOR overestimate of per hour charges is calculated at \$94.00 as shown in **Table 6-1**, demonstrating that RSC's credit hour charges are lower than five of the other eight benchmarked technical colleges and six of the nine State Community Colleges in Ohio. In total, 11 of the Ohio technical and community colleges show higher credit hour charges, than RSC, representing a reasonable rate for tuition and fees.

Table 6-1: Tuition and Fee Comparison Among Ohio Two Year Colleges

Technical Colleges ¹	Calendar	Credit Hours (Range) ²	Credit Hour Charge ³	Instructional Fee	General/Facilities Fee	Out-of-state Surcharge
Rhodes State College	Quarter	15	\$94.00	\$1,136	\$274	\$1,385
Belmont Technical College	Quarter	15	\$84.07	\$911	\$350	\$934
Central Ohio Technical College	Quarter	12-15	\$100.00	\$912	\$288	\$900
Hocking Technical College	Quarter	12-18	\$98.50	\$816	\$366	\$1,182
Marion Technical College	Quarter	12-16	\$101.67	\$996	\$224	\$636
Zane State (Muskingum) College	Quarter	15	\$85.00	\$1,125	\$150	\$1,275
North Central State College	Quarter	15	\$80.73	\$1,020	\$191	\$1,211
OSU, Agricultural Technical Institute	Quarter	12+	\$173.67	\$1,994	\$90	\$4,203
Stark State College of Technology	Semester	15	\$127.00	\$1,545	\$360	\$900
State Community Colleges						
Cincinnati State Comm & Tech College	Quarter	15	\$85.93	\$1,203	\$86	\$1,203
Clark State Community College	Quarter	12-18	\$96.83	\$983	\$179	\$983
Columbus State Community College	Quarter	15	\$79.00	\$1,050	\$135	\$1,440
Edison State Community College	Semester	15	\$115.00	\$1,485	\$240	\$1,485
Northwest State Community College	Semester	15	\$136.00	\$1,950	\$90	\$1,635
Owens State Community College	Semester	12-18	\$123.83	\$1,290	\$196	\$1,290
Southern State Community College	Quarter	12-15	\$94.17	\$1,040	\$90	\$1,046
Terra State Community College	Semester	15	\$119.67	\$1,616	\$179	\$1,023
Washington State Community College	Quarter	15	\$79.00	\$1,140	\$45	\$1,140

Source: Ohio Board of Regents, The Performance Report, Fall 2007 Survey of Student Charges.

1. Technical Colleges based on fall 2007 data and Community Colleges based on fall 2006 data.

2. Based on full-time charges or 15 credit hours and either 2 semesters or 3 quarters.

3. Credit hour charge calculated by institution and equals (Instructional Fee + General Fee) / Minimum full-time credit hours range reported. Includes per term charges for registration and/or other fees.

Institutional Compliance with the Higher Education Reauthorization Act (HLC Policy I.A.5)

RSC is in full compliance with all requirements of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998. Documentation of the College’s approval to participate in and comply with Title IV includes the Program Participation Agreement (PPA), Eligibility and Certificate Renewal (ECAR), and the official cohort default rates for the past three years (2004, 2005, and 2006).

The College demonstrates compliance by completing the Program Participation Agreement (PPA) every five years, which signifies RSC’s agreement with the rules and regulations associated with good stewardship of the federal aid programs (RD94-PPA). The last PPA was completed in 2006 and demonstrates eligibility through 2011. RSC operates the federal aid programs by using information about students and financial aid responsibly. This is evidenced by yearly completion of the Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP). The FISAP is the approved federal vehicle to document previous year usage of funding received in Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, and Federal Work Study (RD68-FISAP).

The Ohio Board of Regents annually audits RSC’s Office of Financial Aid. The most recent audit, conducted during Fall 2006, revealed an overall error rate of .1%. This rate is well below the threshold established in state regulations (RD29-Audit Results). There have been no limitations, restrictions, or termination measures taken against any Title IV program at RSC.

RSC’s Office of Financial Aid regularly monitors the College’s student loan default rate. On average, for the most recent three-year period, the default rate for the Federal Family Educational Loan programs (FFELP) at RSC is 4.5%. The Office of Financial Aid has implemented default management procedures to ensure the rate is within an acceptable range for all loan programs. Table 6-2 illustrates default rates for the past three years.

Table 6-2: Loan Default Rates 2004-2006

Loan Type	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006
FFEL	4.6%	6.0%	2.8%

Source: National Student Loan Data System

Institutional efforts to control student loan defaults include required loan entrance counseling for first-time borrowers. Loan entrance counseling is available online through a web based product, ScholarNet, provided by Great Lakes Products. When the student completes the counseling session, the College is notified. The notation is posted to the student’s financial aid record and the loan is processed.

Loan Disbursements for First-Time Loan Borrowers

Per federal regulations in the Federal Student Aid Handbook, a college may not disburse loan funds for first-time student loan borrowers any earlier than 30 days into the first term of attendance, or the first term that they request loan funds if they are a returning student and have not previously borrowed. A student is only classified as a first-time borrower if Stafford Loan funds have not been paid from any institution. The policy at RSC has been not to disburse any loan funds for first-time borrowers until the third (last) scheduled loan disbursement date of the quarter. Last disbursement is typically paid during the last week of regularly scheduled classes, and before finals week for second 5-week and 10-week courses.

Disclosure of Campus Crime Rates

As required by the Student Right to Know Act, other federally mandated Title IV reporting includes disclosure of campus crime and graduation rates for students.

RSC complies with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act (originally known as the Campus Security Act) by filing crime statistics annually with the U.S. Department of Education. Information on the Clery Act as well as crime statistics for RSC can be found under campus security on the College website .

Disclosure of Graduation Rates

RSC graduation rates are disclosed through the Records and Student Systems department. The graduation rate is compiled on an annual basis with the most recent having been made available in the Spring of 2007. The Campus Crime rates and the graduation rates can also be located on the Integrated Post-secondary Education Data System (IPEDS) student website entitled, [College Opportunities Online](#).

Federal Compliance Visits to Off-Campus Locations (HLC Policy I.C.2)

RSC is not a multi-campus institution as defined by the Higher Learning Commission but does maintain off-campus outreach centers in two counties: Hardin and Putnam. Additionally, the College offers course work at a variety of local high schools in its service district. However, students are not able to complete 50% of a degree program at any of the off-campus course locations.

Institution's Advertising and Recruiting Materials (HLC Policy IV.B.2)

RSC accurately reports its affiliation status with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in the 2007-2008 RSC Catalog ([RD17, p. 12](#)) and on its website, including reference to the HLC website and phone number (<http://www.rhodesstate.edu>).

Professional Accreditations (HLC Policy III.A.1)

RSC has seventeen academic programs accredited by professional accrediting or certification bodies (see Table 6-3).

Table 6-3 Professional Program Accreditations

Program of Study	Accrediting Agency	Program Accredited Since
Dental Hygiene	Commission on Dental Accreditation	1976
Emergency Medical Services	Ohio Department of Public Services	1978
Medical Assisting Technology	Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs with American Association of Medical Assistants Endowment	October, 2000
Radiographic Imaging Technology	Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology	1976
Nursing Program Associate Degree	National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission	1971
Nursing Program Associate Degree	Ohio Board of Nursing	1971
Practical Nurse Certification Program	Ohio Board of Nursing	1999
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program	Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association	Dec 1998
Physical Therapist Assistant Program	Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education	May, 1993
Respiratory Care Technology	Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care and the Commission in Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs	1980
Early Childhood Education	Ohio Department of Education	1987
Human Service Technology	Council for Standards in Human Services Education	1996
Management/Marketing	Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs	July, 1991
Office Administration (IT)	Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs	July, 1991
Information Technologies	Authorized "Microsoft IT Academy" and Microsoft Local CISCO Network Academy	Microsoft Academy since: 2000 CISCO Academy since: 2000
Legal Assisting/Paralegal	American Bar Association Standing Committee of Legal Assistants	1999
Electronic Engineering Technology	Technology Accreditation Commission through the Accreditation Board of Engineering Technology	1992
Mechanical Engineering Technology	Technology Accreditation Commission through the Accreditation Board of Engineering Technology	1998

Source: Deans and Program Chairs

The contact information of each accrediting body is listed in the RSC Catalog with the appropriate degree program. Copies of the each program's most recent accreditation self-study and agency report will be available in the Resource Room during the HLC visit.

Record of Student Complaints (HLC Policy IV.B.4)

RSC follows the procedures for filing, recording, and resolving both academic and non-academic student complaints outlined in the 2007-2008 RSC Catalog (RD17, pp. 247-265). All complaints arising from academic process issues are resolved through the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Cases of non-academic misconduct are handled through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee. The catalog description addresses initial steps, timelines, and resolution processes. The Offices of the VPAA and VPSA maintain logs or files of all written complaints in their areas of authority and the resolution status of those complaints. These offices have primary responsibility for ensuring the effective installation, maintenance, processing, record-keeping, and student notification. The Dean of Student Development also serves as the Title IX Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer, who maintains close association with the Ohio Attorney General's Office on Title IX complaints.

Federal Compliance Summary

RSC adheres to all federal compliance requirements outlined within this chapter. The College recognizes that compliance to stated requirements and exemplary execution of related responsibilities or processes are essential to achieving its mission.

