

§157.43 Certification

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1 Legend:

2 Current Language - Normal font

3 New Language - Underscored

4 **[Deleted Language]** - Strikethrough, Bold & Brackets

5 **Staff Recommendation**

6 **Legal Recommendation**

7 **Education Committee Recommendation**

8
9 §157.43 Course Coordinator Certification

10
11 (a) General.

12
13 (1) A course coordinator is an individual who has the overall responsibility for
14 conducting an emergency medical services (EMS) training course ~~in under the direction of~~ an
15 approved EMS training program (program).

16
17 (2) A course coordinator must be certified as at least an emergency medical
18 technician (EMT), and must be certified or licensed at or above the level of the course being
19 coordinated.

20
21 (3) Course coordinator certification is dependent on the individual's EMS
22 personnel certification and is subject to the same status as that personnel certification. If the
23 department imposes disciplinary action in accordance with §157.16 of this title (relating to
24 Emergency Suspension, Suspension, Probation, Revocation or Denial of a Provider License) or
25 §157.36 of this title (relating to Criteria for Denial and Disciplinary Actions for EMS Personnel
26 and Voluntary Surrender of a Certificate or License), the action shall also be imposed
27 automatically and immediately on the individual's course coordinator certification.

28
29 (b) Levels of certification. Course coordinators may be certified as a basic coordinator or
30 as an advanced coordinator.

31
32 ~~[(e) Currently certified course coordinators. Course coordinators certified on the
33 effective date of this rule shall be considered to have met the requirements of subsection (d)
34 or (e) of this section appropriate to their current level of certification.]~~

35
36 (c) ~~(d)~~ Basic coordinator requirements. To be certified as a basic course coordinator, the
37 candidate shall:

38
39 (1) submit an application for basic course coordinator certification along with the
40 nonrefundable fee of \$60 to the Texas Department of Health (department) except a fee shall not
41 be required if compensation is not received for coordinating training courses or programs;

42
43 (2) have at least two years of EMS instructional experience ~~[been a certified
44 EMS instructor for at least two consecutive years;]~~

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46 (3) have documented not less than 120 hours of instruction for initial EMS
47 certifiants; ~~[or have successfully conducted an EMT-Basic course;]~~

48
49 (4) submit documentation that the candidate is an effective instructor from an
50 existing course coordinator and/or program director. ~~[submit documentation of positive~~
51 ~~evaluations as a certified instructor.]~~

52
53 ~~(5) be affiliated with and operate under the supervision of a licensed provider, an~~
54 ~~EMS medical director, a teaching hospital, a regionally accredited post-secondary educational~~
55 ~~institution and/or a health care institution accredited by an organization recognized by the~~
56 ~~department;~~

57
58 (5) be affiliated with and operate under the supervision of a licensed provider, an
59 EMS medical director, a teaching hospital, an educational entity meeting standards and criteria
60 for sponsoring basic EMS courses, a regionally accredited post-secondary educational institution
61 and/or a health care institution accredited by an organization recognized by the department;

62
63 ~~[(6) submit letters of intent from qualified providers of clinical and field~~
64 ~~internship experience;]~~

65
66 (6) If the applicant is not affiliated with an entity as described in (c)(5) of this
67 section the applicant must submit a self study as described in 157.32 of this title for basic
68 program approval and must be in compliance with established EMS education standards outlined
69 in the department's EMS Education and Training Manual.

70
71 (7) have successfully completed a department-sponsored course coordinator
72 training course; and

73
74 (8) after completing all the above requirements, pass the EMS coordinator exam
75 and retest, if necessary, no later than one year after course completion date. The nonrefundable
76 retest fee is \$30, except a fee shall not be required if compensation is not received for
77 coordinating training courses or programs. If requirements are not completed within one year
78 after course completion date, the candidate must meet the requirements of subsection (d) of this
79 section including the completion of another initial course to be certified.

80
81 (d) ~~[(e)]~~ Advanced coordinator requirements. To be certified as an advanced course
82 coordinator, the candidate shall:

83
84 (1) submit an application for advanced course coordinator certification along with
85 the nonrefundable fee of \$60 to the department; except a fee shall not be required if
86 compensation is not received for coordinating training courses or programs;

87
88 (2) have an associate degree, a bachelor degree, or an advanced degree;

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90 (3) have at least four years of EMS instructional experience ~~been a certified EMS~~
91 ~~instructor for at least four consecutive years or~~ certification as a basic course coordinator for two
92 consecutive years;

93
94 (4) have documented not less than 120 hours of instruction for initial EMS
95 certifiants;

96
97 (5) submit documentation of positive evaluations as a certified instructor or as a
98 basic coordinator;

99
100 ~~(6) be affiliated with and operate under the supervision of a regionally acerredited~~
101 ~~post secondary educational institution, a health care institution acerredited by an organization~~
102 ~~recognized by the department, or another entity approved by the department to sponsor an~~
103 ~~advanced training program in accordance with §157.32 of this title (relating to EMS Education~~
104 ~~Program and Course Approval);~~

105
106 (6) be affiliated with and operate under the supervision of a licensed provider, an
107 EMS medical director, a teaching hospital, an educational entity meeting standards and criteria
108 for sponsoring advanced EMS courses, a regionally accredited post-secondary educational
109 institution and/or a health care institution accredited by an organization recognized by the
110 department;

111
112 ~~{(7) submit a letter of intent from qualified providers of clinical and field~~
113 ~~internship experience;}~~

114
115 (7) If the applicant is not affiliated with an entity as described in (d)~~(e)~~(6) of this
116 section the applicant must submit a self study as described in 157.32 of this title for advanced
117 program approval and must be in compliance with established EMS education standards outlined
118 in the department’s EMS Education and Training Manual.

119
120 (8) have successfully completed a department-sponsored course coordinator
121 training course;

122
123 (9) after completing all the above requirements, pass the EMS coordinator exam
124 and retest, if necessary, no later than one year after course completion date. The nonrefundable
125 retest fee is \$30, except a fee shall not be required if compensation is not received for
126 coordinating training courses or programs. If requirements are not completed within one year
127 after course completion date, the candidate must meet the requirements of subsection (e) of this
128 section including the completion of another initial course to be certified; and

129
130 (10) candidates who hold current basic coordinator certification and are applying
131 for advanced coordinator certification must complete all requirements of this subsection except
132 paragraphs (d) ~~{(e)}~~(8) and (d) ~~{(e)}~~(9) of this subsection.

133

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134 (e) ~~[(f)]~~ Period of Certification. After verification by the department of the information
135 submitted by the candidate, the candidate who meets the requirements of the applicable
136 subsection (c) ~~[(d)]~~ or (d) ~~[(e)]~~ of this section shall be certified as a ~~[(n)]~~ course coordinator for two
137 years commencing on the date of issuance of the certificate.

138
139 (f) ~~[(g)]~~ Course coordinator training. All course coordinator courses shall be conducted
140 by the department or by the department in conjunction with a regionally accredited post-
141 secondary educational institution approved by the department to sponsor a training program.
142 ~~[(Criteria for admission to coordinator training shall be as follows:)]~~ The candidate for
143 admission to course coordinator training will meet the requirements of subsection (c) or (d) of
144 this section as appropriate to the level of certification desired. Candidates will be given seats
145 based on the following priorities:

146
147 ~~[(1) the candidate for admission to course coordinator training will meet the~~
148 ~~requirements of subsection (d) or (e) of this section as appropriate to the level of~~
149 ~~certification desired;~~

150
151 ~~(2) the candidate shall submit a resume and completed application to the~~
152 ~~appropriate department regional EMS office;~~

153 ~~(3) the appropriate department regional EMS director will forward the~~
154 ~~application and attachments to the appropriate training facility with a recommendation~~
155 ~~regarding the candidate's admission status; and~~

156
157 ~~(4) successful candidates will be given a seat in the class based on availability~~
158 ~~and admissions requirements.]~~

159
160 (1) individuals recognized by the department as an emergency course coordinator;

161
162 (2) need for training in an area where a certified course coordinator is not
163 available within a reasonable distance and training is unavailable;

164
165 (3) the probable adverse consequences to prehospital emergency care; and

166
167 (4) availability and admissions requirements.

168
169 (g) ~~[(h)]~~ Responsibilities. Course coordinator shall have the following responsibilities:

170
171 (1) plan for and evaluate the overall operation of assigned courses;

172
173 (2) provide supervision and oversight for assigned courses;

174
175 (3) act as liaison between the students, personnel instructing in assigned courses,
176 the program, and the department;

177

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- 178 (4) coordinate submission of course approval documents and fees, if applicable,
179 for assigned courses to the department as defined in the department's EMS Education and
180 Training Manual;
- 181
182 (5) assure availability and quality of classrooms and other facilities necessary to
183 provide for the instruction and convenience of students enrolled in assigned courses;
- 184
185 (6) ~~[in cooperation with the training program,]~~ process student applications,
186 verify prerequisites, and select students;
- 187
188 (7) schedule classes and assign program instructors;
- 189
190 (8) assure that training equipment and supplies are available and operational for
191 each laboratory session;
- 192
193 (9) maintain effective relationships with clinical and field internships facilities
194 necessary to meeting the instructional objectives of assigned courses;
- 195
196 (10) develop field internship and clinical objectives for assigned courses;
- 197
198 (11) train and evaluate internship preceptors;
- 199
200 (12) ~~[in cooperation with the training program,]~~ maintain all program and
201 course records for a minimum of five years;
- 202
203 (13) ~~[in cooperation with the training program]~~ coordinate course written
204 examinations, skills proficiency verifications, and other student evaluations;
- 205
206 (14) ~~[in cooperation with the training program]~~ evaluate the effectiveness of
207 the personnel who instruct in assigned courses;
- 208
209 (15) ~~[in cooperation with the training program]~~ supervise and evaluate the
210 effectiveness of the clinical and field internship training for assigned courses;
- 211
212 (16) ~~[in cooperation with the training program]~~ attest to the successful course
213 completion of all students who meet the program's requirements for completion, in a format
214 prescribed by the department;
- 215
216 (17) ensure that instructors and students understand the requirements, processes,
217 and paperwork necessary to obtain Texas EMS certification or licensure;
- 218
219 (18) adhere to the curriculum standards as referenced in 157.32; and
- 220
221 (19) adhere to the standards outlined in the department's EMS Education and
222 Training Manual.

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223
224 (20) notify the department in writing immediately and begin conducting an
225 investigation within 5 days of receiving any information or allegations, verbal or written, of
226 serious misconduct or negligence, occurring within or during an EMS course, regarding a
227 student, instructor, or anyone involved in an EMS course.

228
229 (21) submit a written investigation report to the department within 15 days after
230 receiving any information or allegations, verbal or written, of serious misconduct or negligence,
231 occurring within or during an EMS course, regarding a student, instructor, or anyone involved in
232 an EMS course.

233
234 (22) notify the department within 30 days of any change of address.

235
236 (h) ~~(i)~~ Emergency Coordinator ~~[Exception]~~. A program may request the department to
237 ~~[grant an exception to]~~ allow a person not currently certified as a course coordinator to
238 temporarily perform the duties listed in subsection (g) ~~[(h)]~~ of this section.

239
240 (1) Such request must be submitted in writing and must include the following:

241
242 (A) documentation of the urgency of the situation;

243
244 (B) a letter from the program endorsing the individual who is to
245 temporarily perform the duties of course coordinator; and

246
247 ~~[(C) letters of intent from qualified providers of clinical and field~~
248 ~~internship experiences appropriate to the level of training to be offered; and]~~

249
250 (C) letter of support from the medical director of the program.

251
252 ~~[(D) a letter of intent from a medical director.]~~

253
254 (2) In determining whether the request ~~[for an exception]~~ is to be approved or
255 denied, the department shall consider but not be limited to the following issues:

256
257 (A) resignation of a previous course coordinator or the inability of a
258 course coordinator to complete a current training course;

259
260 (B) need for training in an area where a certified course coordinator is not
261 available within a reasonable distance and training is unavailable; ~~[through no outreach or~~
262 ~~distance learning technology;]~~ and

263
264 (C) the probable adverse consequences to prehospital emergency care- if
265 the request ~~[exception]~~ is not approved.

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267 (3) After evaluation by the department, the program shall be notified, in writing,
268 of the approval or denial of the request.

269
270 (4) An individual who is approved shall be considered an emergency
271 ~~[temporary]~~ course coordinator for not more than two years. If all requirements for course
272 coordinator certification are not met in the two-year period, the approved training program with
273 which the coordinator is affiliated must demonstrate a continuing need. ~~[for the exception.]~~ If
274 the department does not issue a continuance, ~~[continue the exception, temporary status shall~~
275 ~~cease and]~~ the individual may no longer function as an emergency ~~[temporary]~~ course
276 coordinator.

277
278 (i) ~~[(j)]~~ Recertification.

279
280 (1) Prior to the expiration of a course coordinator certificate, the department shall
281 send a notice of expiration to the certificant at the address shown in the current records of the
282 department. It is the responsibility of course coordinators to notify the department within 30 days
283 of any change of address.

284
285 (2) If a certificant has not received notice of expiration from the department 30
286 days prior to the expiration, it is the duty of the certificant to notify the department and request
287 an application for recertification. ~~[Failure to apply for recertification shall result in~~
288 ~~expiration of the certificate.]~~

289
290 (3) To be eligible for recertification, the course coordinator shall meet
291 recertification requirements during the latest coordinator certification period and:

292
293 (A) maintain active EMS certification as required in subsection (a)(2) of
294 this section;

295
296 (B) attend departmental ~~[regional]~~ updates for course coordinator as
297 required by the department;

298
299 ~~[(C) maintain association with:~~
300
301 ~~(i) an approved basic or advanced program if recertifying as a~~
302 ~~basic coordinator;~~

303
304 ~~(ii) an approved advanced program if recertifying as an~~
305 ~~advanced coordinator;~~

306
307 ~~(D) maintain affiliation with entities which provide clinical and field~~
308 ~~internship experience;]~~

309
310 (C) ~~[(E)]~~ submit an application for recertification and a nonrefundable fee
311 as in subsection (c) ~~[(d)]~~ or (d) ~~[(e)]~~ of this section;

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(4) After verification by the department of the information submitted the course coordinator who meets the requirements of subsection (c) ~~[(d)]~~ or (d) ~~[(e)]~~ of this section shall be recertified for two years commencing on the date following the expiration of the last certificate.

(j) ~~[(k)]~~ Late recertification.

(1) An application for recertification shall be considered late if the application and nonrefundable fee are received after the most recent certificate has expired and if all requirements for recertification are not met prior to the expiration ~~[end]~~ of the most recent certification period.

(2) A course coordinator who has not recertified prior to the expiration ~~[end]~~ of his most recent certification period is not certified and may not perform the duties of a course coordinator.

(k) ~~[(l)]~~ To be eligible for recertification, the candidate shall meet the following:

(1) A candidate whose certificate has been expired for 90 days or less may renew the certificate by submitting an application and paying a nonrefundable renewal fee that is equal to 1-1/2 times the normally required application renewal fee for that level as listed in subsection (c) ~~[(d)]~~ or (d) ~~[(e)]~~ of this section.

(2) A candidate whose certificate has been expired for more than 90 days but less than one year may renew the certificate by submitting an application and paying a nonrefundable renewal fee that is equal to two times the normally required application renewal fee as listed in subsection (c) ~~[(d)]~~ or (d) ~~[(e)]~~ of this section.

(3) A candidate must complete ~~of~~ all requirements for recertification no later than one year after the expiration of the most recent certificate.

(4) After verification by the department of the information submitted by the candidate, the candidate who meets the requirements of this subsection shall be recertified for two years commencing on the day of issuance of a certificate.

(5) A candidate whose certification is expired more than one year must meet the requirements of subsection (c) ~~[(d)]~~ or (d) ~~[(e)]~~ of this section including the completion of another initial course to be certified.

(l) ~~[(m)]~~ Disciplinary actions.

(1) Administrative penalty. The department may ~~impose~~ assess an administrative penalty on a course coordinator not to exceed \$7,500 per day per violation of the Health and Safety Code or the rules adopted thereunder.

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357
358 (2) Emergency suspension. The ~~[[bureau chief of the Bureau of Emergency~~
359 ~~Management (bureau)] department~~ may issue an emergency order to suspend an course
360 coordinator's certification if the ~~[[bureau chief] department,~~ has reasonable cause to believe [the
361 conduct] [continued activity by] of the [individual] certificant constitutes a ~~threat to the public~~
362 health and safety an imminent danger to the public health or safety.
363

364 (A) An emergency suspension shall be effective immediately without a
365 hearing or notice to the certificate holder. Notice shall be established on the date that a copy of
366 the signed emergency suspension order is sent to the address shown in the current records of the
367 department. Notice shall also be given to any sponsoring entity.
368

369 (B) If a written request for a hearing is received from the certificate holder
370 within 15 days of the suspension, the department shall conduct a hearing not later than the 30th
371 day after the date on which a hearing request is received to determine if the emergency
372 suspension is to be continued, modified, or rescinded. The hearing and appeal from any
373 disciplinary action related to the hearing shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act,
374 Government Code, Chapter 2001.
375

376 (3) Suspension, revocation, administrative penalty or denial of certification. The
377 department may suspend, revoke, or deny a certification or assess an administrative penalty for,
378 but not limited to, the following reasons:
379

380 (A) failing to maintain active status EMS personnel certification at the
381 appropriate level;
382

383 (B) failing to comply with the responsibilities of a course coordinator as
384 defined in subsection (g) ~~[(h)]~~ of this section;
385

386 (C) falsifying or assisting another person in falsifying an application for
387 EMS certification or licensure;
388

389 (D) falsifying or assisting another person in falsifying a program approval
390 application, a self-study, a course approval application, or any supporting documentation;
391

392 (E) falsifying or assisting another person in falsifying a course completion
393 certificate or any other document that records or verifies course activity and/or is a part of the
394 course record;
395

396 (F) obtaining, or attempting to obtain, or assisting another person in
397 attempting to obtain or to ~~attempt to~~ obtain personnel certification or recertification by fraud,
398 deception, falsification, theft, misappropriation, coercion, forgery, deception, or
399 misrepresentation;
400

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- 401 (G) failing to complete and submit the course applications and student
402 documents within established time frames;
- 403
404 (H) coordinating or attempting to coordinate a course above the
405 coordinator's level of certification;
- 406
407 (I) compromising or failing to maintain the order, discipline and fairness
408 of a department-approved course or program;
- 409
410 (J) allowing inadequate class presentations in a course for which the
411 coordinator is responsible;
- 412
413 (K) demonstrating a lack of supervision of personnel instructing in courses
414 for which the coordinator is responsible;
- 415
416 (L) compromising an examination or examination process administered or
417 approved by the department;
- 418
419 (M) cheating or assisting another [person](#) in cheating on an EMS
420 examination, other evaluation or any other activity offered, ~~or~~ conducted [or approved](#) by the
421 department, a training program approved by the department, or a provider licensed by the
422 department;
- 423
424 (N) accepting ~~[any benefit to which there is no entitlement or]~~ [benefits](#)
425 ~~[in any manner]~~ through [fraud, deception, falsification, theft, misappropriation, coercion,](#)
426 [forgery, deception, or misrepresentation](#) ~~[fraud, deception, falsification, misrepresentation,~~
427 ~~theft, misappropriation, or coercion]~~;
- 428
429 (O) failing to maintain appropriate policies, procedures and/or safeguards
430 to ensure the safety of students, instructors, ~~[or other]~~ class participants [or other persons](#);
- 431
432 (P) allowing [\[recurrent\]](#) use of inadequate, inoperable, or malfunctioning
433 equipment;
- 434
435 (Q) failing to maintain the fiscal integrity of a course for which the
436 coordinator is responsible;
- 437
438 (R) issuing a check to the department which is returned unpaid;
- 439
440 (S) failing to maintain education [program and/or](#) course records;
- 441
442 (T) failing ~~[demonstrating unwillingness or inability]~~ to comply with
443 the Health and Safety Code and/or the rules adopted thereunder;
- 444

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445 (U) failing to timely provide [give] the department true and complete
446 information when requested ~~[asked regarding any alleged or actual violation of the Health~~
447 ~~and Safety Code, or the rules adopted thereunder, or failing to report a violation];~~
448

449 (V) functioning or attempting to function as a course coordinator during a
450 period of suspension, ~~which may be cause for suspension of the coordinator certification;~~
451

452 (W) committing any violation during ~~[a]~~ an administrative or criminal
453 probationary period.
454

455 (X) Failing to report a violation of the Health and Safety Code, or the rules
456 adopted thereunder;
457

458 (Y) failure to notify the department when any current student or certified
459 or licensed program employee is arrested or convicted for any crime;
460

461 (Z) conviction of a crime which directly relates to the profession of EMS
462 personnel or EMS educators as described in §157.37 of this title;
463

464 (AA) received a deferred adjudication or deferred prosecution to resolve
465 any criminal charge against the candidate or certificant which relates to the candidate's or
466 certificant's ability to carry out EMS duties and/or the responsibilities of an EMS Course
467 Coordinator;
468

469 (BB) failing to maintain a substantial amount of skill, knowledge and/or
470 academic acuity to timely and/or accurately carry out the duties of an EMS Course Coordinator;
471

472 (CC) unprofessional conduct such as, but not limited to the following:

473 (i). retaliation

474 (ii). discrimination

475 (iii). verbal or physical abuse

476 (iv). inappropriate physical or sexual contact
477

478 (DD) failing to meet standards as required in this section;
479

480 (EE) previous conduct on the part of the applicant during the performance
481 of duties relating to the responsibilities of EMS personnel or an EMS Course Coordinator that is
482 contrary to accepted standards of conduct as described in Chapter 157 of these rules;
483

484 (FF) disciplinary action relating to a certificate or license issued in another
485 state; and/or
486

487 (GG) misrepresenting any requirements for certification or licensure
488

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489 (m) ~~[(4)]~~ Notification. If the department proposes to deny, suspend or revoke a course
490 coordinator certificate or assess an administrative penalty, the certificant or applicant ~~[course~~
491 ~~coordinator]~~ shall be notified at the address shown in the current records of the department. The
492 notice must state the alleged facts or conduct warranting the action and state that the certificant
493 or applicant ~~[course coordinator]~~ has an opportunity to request a hearing in accordance with the
494 Administrative Procedure Act, Government Code, Chapter 2001.

495
496 (n) Hearing request.

497 (1) The certificant or applicant ~~[course coordinator]~~ may request a hearing
498 within 15 days after the date of the notice. This request shall be in writing and submitted to the
499 department ~~[bureau chief]~~.

500
501 (2) If the certificant or applicant ~~[course coordinator]~~ does not request a hearing
502 within 15 days after the date of the notice of opportunity, the certificant or applicant ~~[course~~
503 ~~coordinator]~~ waives the opportunity for a hearing and the department shall implement its
504 proposal.

505
506 (o) ~~[(5)]~~ Probation. The department may probate any penalty assessed under this section
507 and may specify terms and conditions of any probation issued.

508
509 (p) ~~[(6)]~~ Reapplication.

510
511 (1) ~~[(A)]~~ Two years after the revocation, denial, or the voluntary surrender of a
512 certificate while disciplinary action is pending, an individual may petition the department, in
513 writing, for the opportunity to reapply for certification. Expiration of a certificate during the
514 suspension period shall not affect the two-year waiting period required before a petition can be
515 submitted.

516
517 (2) ~~[(B)]~~ The department shall evaluate the petition and may allow or deny the
518 opportunity to reapply for certification. The petitioner bears the burden of proving fitness for
519 certification.

520
521 (3) ~~[(C)]~~ In evaluating a petition for permission to reapply for certification the
522 department shall consider but is not limited to the following issues:

523
524 (A) ~~[(i)]~~ the likelihood of a repeat of the actions or inactions that led to
525 revocation or denial;

526
527 (B) ~~[(ii)]~~ the petitioners overall record as a course coordinator;

528
529 (C) ~~[(iii)]~~ letters of support or recommendation;

530
531 (D) ~~[(iv)]~~ letters of protest or nonsupport of the petition; and
532

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533 (E) ~~(v)~~ the need for the services of a course coordinator in the given area
534 the course coordinator would serve.

535
536 (4) ~~(D)~~ The petitioner shall be notified of the department's decision to allow or
537 deny the submission of reapplication for certification within 60 days of the submission of the
538 request.

539
540 ~~(5) (E) A course coordinator whose certificate expires during a suspension or~~
541 ~~revocation period may not petition to reapply for certification until the end of the suspension or~~
542 ~~revocation period.~~

543
544 (q) Surrender of a certificate. Surrender of a certificate shall not deprive the department
545 of jurisdiction in regard to disciplinary action against the certificant. An individual who wishes
546 to surrender his or her certification prior to the expiration of the certificate may do so by:

547
548 (1) completing a Surrender of Certificate statement; and

549
550 (2) in the event that a disciplinary action is pending or reasonably imminent, the
551 certificant must acknowledge that the surrender constitutes a plea of "no contest"
552 to the allegations upon which the disciplinary action is predicated.

553
554 (r) ~~(n)~~ For all applications and renewal applications, the department ~~{(or the board)}~~ is
555 authorized to collect subscription and convenience fees, in amounts determined by the Texas
556 Online Authority, to recover costs associated with application and renewal application
557 processing through Texas Online.