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U.S. Citizenship  
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Services

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FILE: WAC 03 196 50203 Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER Date: JUN 07 2005

IN RE: Petitioner: [Redacted]  
Beneficiary: [Redacted]

PETITION: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the  
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

*Robert P. Wiemann*

Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The service center director denied the nonimmigrant visa petition and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed. The petition will be denied.

The petitioner is a manufacturer and wholesaler of women's apparel and garments that seeks to employ the beneficiary as a market research analyst. The petitioner endeavors to classify the beneficiary as a nonimmigrant worker in a specialty occupation pursuant to § 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b).

The director denied the petition because the beneficiary is not qualified to perform the duties of a specialty occupation. On appeal, counsel submits a brief.

Section 214(i)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1184(i)(2), states that an alien applying for classification as an H-1B nonimmigrant worker must possess full state licensure to practice in the occupation, if such licensure is required to practice in the occupation, and completion of the degree in the specialty that the occupation requires. If the alien does not possess the required degree, the petitioner must demonstrate that the alien has experience in the specialty equivalent to the completion of such degree, and recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions relating to the specialty.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C), to qualify to perform services in a specialty occupation, an alien must meet one of the following criteria:

- (1) Hold a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;
- (2) Hold a foreign degree determined to be equivalent to a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;
- (3) Hold an unrestricted state license, registration or certification which authorizes him or her to fully practice the specialty occupation and be immediately engaged in that specialty in the state of intended employment; or
- (4) Have education, specialized training, and/or progressively responsible experience that is equivalent to completion of a United States baccalaureate or higher degree in the specialty occupation, and have recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions directly related to the specialty.

The record of proceeding before the AAO contains, in part: (1) Form I-129 and supporting documentation; (2) the director's request for additional evidence; (3) the petitioner's response to the director's request; (4) the director's denial letter; and (5) Form I-290B and supporting documentation. The AAO reviewed the record in its entirety before issuing its decision.

The petitioner is seeking the beneficiary's services as a market research analyst. Although not explicitly stated, it appears that the petitioner requires a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent in business administration for the proffered position.

The director found that the beneficiary was not qualified for the proffered position because the beneficiary's education, experience, and training were not equivalent to a master's degree in a specialty required by the occupation. On appeal, counsel states, in part, that the beneficiary is qualified for the position because she holds a related baccalaureate degree.

Upon review of the record, the petitioner has failed to establish that the beneficiary is qualified to perform the duties of a market research analyst, a position that requires a master's degree in business administration, marketing, statistics, communications, or some closely related discipline in private industry. *See the Handbook*, 2004-2005 ed. at 174. In this case, the beneficiary holds a baccalaureate degree in office administration conferred by a Filipino institution. An evaluation from a company that specializes in evaluating academic credentials indicates that the beneficiary possesses the equivalent of a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration awarded by regionally accredited U.S. colleges and universities. Even if the AAO were to conclude that a bachelor's degree is sufficient for a market research analyst position within the petitioner's industry, the beneficiary would still not be eligible to perform the duties of the offered position because she does not possess a bachelor's degree in a relevant specialization within the business specialties. Business administration is not a specialized field of study. *See Matter of Michael Hertz Associates*, 19 I&N Dec. 558 (Comm. 1988). It is also noted that neither the petitioner nor counsel addresses the beneficiary's qualifications under the criterion at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C)(4); therefore, this issue will not be discussed further.

As related in the discussion above, the petitioner has failed to establish that the beneficiary is qualified to perform the duties of the proffered position. Accordingly, the AAO shall not disturb the director's denial of the petition.

Beyond the decision of the director, the AAO does not find that the proffered position is a specialty occupation because the petitioner has not clearly defined the beneficiary's proposed duties. For this additional reason, the petition may not be approved.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The petitioner has not sustained that burden.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed. The petition is denied.