



USE OF EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS IN NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

POSITION STATEMENT

A Position Statement is not a regulation of the NC Board of Nursing and does not carry the force and effect of law and rules. A Position Statement is not an interpretation, clarification, or other delineation of the scope of practice of the Board. A Position Statement is adopted by the Board as a means of providing direction to licensees who seek to engage in safe nursing practice. Board Position Statements address issues of concern to the Board relevant to protection of the public and are reviewed regularly for relevance and accuracy to current practice, the Nursing Practice Act, and Board Administrative Code Rules.

NCBON does not support the use of any external examination that is used as a gatekeeper for progression or graduation. Schools can include performance on an external exam as part of a final course grade; however, the score should not count as an all-or-none scale for meeting or failing to meet a specific predetermined criterion. If an external exam is utilized in grading, the external exam should count no more than 10% of the grade and the assignment of points is on a sliding scale based on performance on the examination.

Note:

The Position Statement for the use of external examinations/standardized tests is not currently mandated by law and has been developed consultatively to assist program directors who utilize external examinations/standardized tests in the nursing curriculum to assess student knowledge and target appropriate student remediation. (Pending Rule 21 NCAC 36.0321(p) addresses use of external examination in regulation.)

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