

21 NCAC 36 .0120 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply throughout this chapter unless the context indicates otherwise:

- (1) "Academic term" means one semester of a school year.
- (2) "Accountability/Responsibility" means being answerable for action or inaction of self, and of others in the context of delegation or assignment.
- (3) "Accredited institution" means an institution accredited by a United States Department of Education approved institutional accrediting body.
- (4) "Active Practice" means activities that are performed, either for compensation or without compensation, consistent with the scope of practice for each level of licensee as defined in G.S. 90-171.20(4), (7) and (8).
- (5) "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)" means for the purposes of Board qualification a nurse who meets the criteria specified in G.S. 90-171.21(d)(4).
- (6) "Assigning" means designating responsibility for implementation of a specific activity or set of activities to a person licensed and competent to perform such activities.
- (7) "Clinical experience" means application of nursing knowledge in demonstrating clinical judgment.
- (8) "Clinical judgment" means the application of the nursing student's knowledge, skills, abilities and experience in making decisions about client care.
- (9) "Competent" means having the knowledge, skills and ability to safely perform an activity or role.
- (10) "Continuing Competence" means the on-going acquisition and application of knowledge and the decision-making, psychomotor, and interpersonal skills expected of the licensed nurse resulting in nursing care that contributes to the health and welfare of clients served.
- (11) "Contact Hour" means 60 minutes of an organized learning experience.
- (12) "Continuing Education Activity" means a planned, organized learning experience that is related to the practice of nursing or contributes to the competency of the nurse as defined in 21 NCAC 36 .0223 Subparagraph (a)(2).
- (13) "Controlling institution" means the degree-granting organization or hospital under which the nursing education program is operating.
- (14) "Curriculum" means an organized system of teaching and learning activities directed toward the achievement of specified learning objectives/outcomes.
- (15) "Delegation" means transferring to a competent individual the authority to perform a selected nursing activity in a selected situation. The nurse retains accountability for the delegation.
- (16) "Dimensions of Practice" means those aspects of nursing practice that include professional responsibility, knowledge-based practice, legal/ethical practice and collaborating with others, consistent with G.S. 90-171.20(4), (7) and (8).
- (17) "Distance education" means the teaching/learning strategies used to meet the learning needs of students, when the students and faculty are separate from each other.
- (18) "Faculty directed clinical practice" means the responsibility of nursing program faculty in overseeing student clinical learning including the utilization of preceptors.
- (19) "Focused client care experience" means a clinical experience that simulates an entry-level work experience. The intent is to assist the student to transition to an entry-level practice. There is no specific setting requirement. Supervision may be by faculty/preceptor dyad or direct faculty supervision.
- (20) "Interdisciplinary faculty" means faculty from professions other than nursing.
- (21) "Interdisciplinary team" means all individuals involved in providing a client's care, who cooperate, collaborate, communicate and integrate care to ensure that care is continuous and reliable.
- (22) "Level of Licensure" means practice of nursing by either a Licensed Practice Nurse or a Registered Nurse as defined in G.S. 90-171.20(7) and (8).
- (23) "Level of student" means the point in the program to which the student has progressed.
- (24) "Maximum enrollment" means the total number of pre-licensure students that can be enrolled in the nursing program at any one time. The number reflects the capacity of the nursing program based on demonstrated resources sufficient to implement the curriculum.

- (25) "Methods of Instruction" means the planned process through which teacher and student interact with selected environment and content so that the response of the student gives evidence that learning has taken place. It is based upon stated course objectives/outcomes for learning experiences in classroom, laboratory and clinical settings.
- (26) "National Credentialing Body" means a credentialing body that offers certification or re-certification in the licensed nurse's or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse's specialty area of practice.
- (27) "NCLEX-PN™" means the National Council Licensure Examinations for Practical Nurses.
- (28) "NCLEX-RN™" means the National Council Licensure Examinations for Registered Nurses.
- (29) "Nursing Accreditation body" means a national nursing accrediting body, recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- (30) "Nursing program faculty" means individuals employed full or part time by academic institution responsible for developing, implementing, evaluation and updating nursing curricula.
- (31) "Nursing project" means a project or research study of a topic related to nursing practice that includes a problem statement, objectives, methodology and summary of findings.
- (32) "Participating in" means to have a part in or contribute to the elements of the nursing process.
- (33) "Pattern of noncompliance" means episodes of recurring non-compliance with one or more Rules in Section .0300.
- (34) "Preceptor" means a registered nurse at or above the level of licensure that an assigned student is seeking, who may serve as a teacher, mentor, role model and supervisor for a faculty directed clinical experience.
- (35) "Prescribing Authority" means the legal permission granted by the Board of Nursing and Medical Board for the nurse practitioner and nurse midwife to procure and prescribe legend and controlled pharmacological agents and devices to a client in compliance with Board of Nursing rules and other applicable federal and state law and regulations.
- (36) "Program Closure" means to cease operation of a nursing program.
- (37) "Program Type" means a course of study that prepares an individual to function as an entry-level practitioner of nursing. The three program types are:
 - (a) BSN - Curriculum components for Bachelor of Science in Nursing provides for the attainment of knowledge and skill sets in the current practice in nursing, nursing theory, nursing research, community and public health, health care policy, health care delivery and finance, communications, therapeutic interventions and current trends in health care. For this program type, the client is the individual, family, group, and community.
 - (b) Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)/Diploma in Registered Nursing - Curriculum components for the ADN/Diploma in Registered Nursing provides for the attainment of knowledge and skill sets in the current practice in nursing, community concepts, health care delivery, communications, therapeutic interventions and current trends in health care. For this program type, client is the individual, group of individuals, and family.
 - (c) Practical Nurse Diploma - Curriculum prepares for functioning in a dependent role in providing direct nursing care under the direction of a registered nurse or other health care provider as defined by the Nursing Practice Act. Curriculum components provide for the attainment of knowledge and skill sets in the current practice of practical nursing, communications, therapeutic interventions, including pharmacology, growth and development and current trends in health care. For this program type client is the individual, or group of individuals.

- (38) "Review" means collecting and analyzing information to assess compliance with Section .0300 of this Chapter. Information may be collected by multiple methods including review of written reports and materials, on-site observations and review of documents or in person or telephone interview(s) and conference(s)
- (39) "Rescind Approval" means a Board action that removes the approval status previously granted.
- (40) "Self Assessment" means the process whereby the individual reviews her/his own nursing practice and identifies the knowledge and skills possessed, as well as those skills to be strengthened.
- (41) "Specialty" means a broad, population-based focus of study encompassing the common health-related problems of that group of patients and the likely co-morbidities, interventions and responses to those problems.
- (42) "Supervision" means the provision of guidance or direction, evaluation and follow-up by the licensed nurse for accomplishment of an assigned or delegated nursing activity or set of activities.
- (43) "Survey" means an on-site visit for the purpose of gathering data in relation to reviewing nursing programs compliance with Section .0300 of this Chapter.

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