

New at the NCBON

ALERT---NCBON Education Annual Report---ALERT

NOTE: The online education annual report will be available this year from October 8 to October 31 at midnight. Please note the annual report will **not** be accessible after October 31 at midnight.

The NCBON new licensure system will begin migration on October 5 and end on October 8, 2013. We apologize for any inconvenience in advance.

A separate email containing the annual report instructions will be emailed this week. This should allow program directors to begin collecting data early, and enter the collected data during the October 8-October 31 timeframe.

Save the Dates!

Program Director's Education Workshop – February 24, 2014

NCBON Education Summit – April 7, 2014

Updates

The new NCBON website is now up and better than ever. There is also a NCBON app for your Smartphones and/or Tablets.

There are two new podcasts on the NCBON website.

- The first is the Just Culture Student Practice Event Evaluation Tool (SPEET) for nursing education programs to use with student clinical practice errors. The podcast is located on the NCBON website > Nursing Education > Resources for Program Directors > Just Culture Information.
- The second podcast is for Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) seeking licensure in NC. It is a step-by-step process of obtaining a NC nursing license.

NCBON is celebrating our 110 year anniversary (1903-2013) of being the First in Nursing! The NCBON History book will be available in October for purchase.

New Faculty Vitae Form

Beginning on October 1, 2013 a revised faculty vitae form dated 09/2013 will be the one you will use for future submissions. The changes made to the new form will make the process for approval go more smoothly. The major change deals with the faculty teaching/learning requirement and how it has been met.

A Word copy of the new form is available on our website under Resources for Program Directors > Education Forms. The New Clinical Resources Form is also available as a Word document on the same page.

News from National Council of State Boards of Nursing

In an effort to improve effectiveness and efficiency, the NCLEX program will go green and transition to a paperless program. In the past 10 years, Internet access has largely replaced print-based materials for information gathering, information distribution and transactions. NCSBN can more expediently and reliably deliver the same information through electronic means. The paperless initiative will take place starting in the beginning of 2014.

The communication of the paperless initiative will be provided in three phases: impacts to the program before the exam (registration), impacts to exam day processes and impacts to processes after the exam. Below is information on the pieces affected in phase two of the transition to paperless. Phase two focuses on the day of the exam processes. Please communicate these changes to your nursing faculty and candidates.

Impacts to Exam Day Processes

ATT Letter

- Once the Board of Nursing makes a candidate eligible, that candidate will receive their ATT by email. The ATT continues to serve as the candidate's notice that they may schedule their NCLEX at a Pearson Professional Center. Candidates should continue to ensure the ATT letter reflects their name as it appears on their ID, their authorization period, the exam they registered to take, and if applicable, their approved accommodations.
- Beginning January 1, 2014, the paper copy of the ATT letter will no longer be necessary for test admittance.
- To gain access to the NCLEX, candidates must present one form of acceptable identification that matches exactly the name they provided when registering.
- If the candidate's ID does not match exactly the name they registered with, the candidate will not be admitted to test and will have to reregister and repay the examination fee.

The only acceptable forms of identification in test centers in the U.S. are:

- U.S. driver's license (Department of Motor Vehicle-issued)-(if expired, a renewal slip including a photograph and a signature must be presented in order to be admitted)
- U.S. state identification (Department of Motor Vehicle-issued)
- Passport
- U.S. Military Identification

Board Meeting Updates

Full Approval

- Barton College, Wilson – BSN
- Beaufort County Community College, Washington – ADN
- Beaufort County Community College, Washington – PNE
- Catawba Valley Community College, Hickory – ADN
- Davidson County Community College, Lexington – ADN
- Randolph Community College, Asheboro – ADN
- Sampson Community College, Clinton – ADN
- Sampson Community College, Clinton – PNE
- Wayne Community College, Goldsboro – ADN
- Wayne Community College, Goldsboro – PNE



Programs moved from Initial to Full Approval

- Robeson Community College, Lumberton—PNE

Expansions in Enrollment

- Mayland Community College, Spruce Pine – ADN – additional 22 students for a total of 80 beginning in Fall 2013

ACEN/CCNE Accreditation Decisions

- Catawba Valley Community College, Hickory – ADN – ACEN continuing accreditation
- Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte – ADN – Application for ACEN candidacy accepted
- Davidson County Community College, Lexington – ADN – ACEN continuing accreditation
- Randolph Community College, Asheboro – ADN – ACEN continuing accreditation
- Sampson Community College, Clinton – ADN – granted initial accreditation from ACEN
- Sampson Community College, Clinton – PNE – granted initial accreditation from ACEN
- UNC-Greensboro, Greensboro – BSN – CCNE continuing accreditation
- Wayne Community College, Goldsboro – ADN – ACEN continuing accreditation
- Wayne Community College, Goldsboro – PNE – ACEN continuing accreditation

Next Board Meeting: January 23-24, 2014

2014 Board Officers

The Board elected its officers for 2014. The Board Chair will continue to be Dr. Peggy Walters, RN-ADN/Diploma Nurse Educator and the Vice Chair will be Martha Ann Harrell, Public Member.

Thanks to all who voted in this important election!

PLEASE NOTE: NEW EDUCATION FAQs ON THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW!

REMEMBER: the Education Communiqué is archived on the Education page of our website.

Suggestions/Comments/Topics for future newsletters

Send to charris@ncbon.com

New Education FAQs

1. What nursing education programs are approved by the Board?

NCBON approves **only** those leading to initial RN or LPN licensure. NCBON maintains a list of currently approved nursing education programs by law. This list is currently available on our web site under [Programs in North Carolina](#).

Applicants can link to the education institutions from our web site to obtain both contact information and requirements for the programs.

2. Does the Board approve pre-licensure (Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse) out-of-state programs/online programs/correspondence courses?

The North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON) approves and regulates pre-licensure nursing education programs in the State of NC. At this time, the Board does not approve nursing education programs which are outside of NC jurisdiction, including out-of-state online programs/correspondence courses.

The NCBON does recognize graduates from pre-licensure nursing education programs that are approved/accredited by other State Boards of Nursing as eligible to apply to take the NCLEX examination(s) and apply for licensure in NC.

For example, Excelsior College is approved by the New York State Board of Nursing and graduates from that program may apply to take the NCLEX-RN Examination in NC and apply for licensure as a registered nurse in NC. The NCBON encourages you to contact out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education programs directly for information and specific questions about the program and the program's approval/accreditation status in their state. It is recommended that individuals research the approval/accreditation status and credibility of any nursing education program before enrolling in individual courses or the entire program of study. In addition, offers to prepare students to more easily pass specific programs should be discussed directly with the nursing program before enrollment.

3. What specific courses are required to be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN Exam?

To be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN® examination, the student must have completed an approved program for educating practical nurses. Correlated theory and clinical practice shall have been completed in the following areas: nursing care of children; maternity nursing; nursing care of the aged; nursing care of adults; and nursing care of individuals with mental health problems.

To be eligible to take the NCLEX-RN® examination, the student must have completed a Board approved professional nursing education program (associate degree program, baccalaureate degree program, or diploma program).

4. Can I take the NCLEX-PN Exam if I have been a paramedic, Navy Corpsman or Air Force Medic?

North Carolina has no provision to allow challenge of the licensure examination based on alternate education and/or experience. The requirement is that one be a graduate of an approved practical nursing program to apply for licensure. The only approved military practical nursing program is the Army Practical Nurse Course (formerly 91C). If you have taken college courses or have health occupation experience, you could inquire at a local practical nursing education program to learn about transfer credit or advanced placement. They may give credit for previous courses, but that is the decision of each nursing program.

5. Will the Board help me with a problem in my school of nursing?

The NCBON is interested in ensuring that nursing education programs are in compliance with Law and Rules in order to protect the public through safe nursing care. The Board will consider written and signed complaints about nursing education programs which reflect upon the quality of nursing education and addresses issues of non-compliance with education rules.

(Question 5 continued)

However, the NCBON has no authority over school policies, grades, or conflicts between students and faculty. Each program is required to have processes in place for dealing with grievances and students and faculty are encouraged to follow appropriate procedures in the institution. Consult the nursing program handbook, college handbook, and student services for the proper procedure to follow.

6. Does a nursing student “work under the faculty or preceptor’s license”?

A nursing student who is in a clinical area as part of an approved nursing education program is working as an “unlicensed provider”. The authority to practice or “student status” is granted in The Nursing Practice Act Article 90-171.43 (2) License required.

Note: A student is held to the same standard of care as any licensed nurse.

Only the person named on the nursing license has the authority to practice nursing.

The faculty member and /or preceptor is responsible for “appropriate supervision and delegation.” The law allows a licensed nurse to delegate certain nursing responsibilities to individuals who are competent to perform the assignment. Persons caring for the patient are responsible for knowing the boundaries of their role and for knowing if they have the knowledge/skills/abilities to provide for the client’s needs. It is up to each nurse to decide what activities can safely be assigned or delegated to another individual based upon the agency policies/procedures, the education/training of the individual, and the validated competency of the individual. When the nurse has delegated appropriately he/she is not accountable for the actions/errors of the individual assigned the task.

7. Does the NCBON approve nursing graduate-level (masters and doctoral) out-of-state programs/online programs/correspondence courses?

The NCBON does not approve or disapprove graduate-level nursing programs, in-state, nor out-of-state, regardless of teaching methodologies used. Programs over which the NCBON does NOT have jurisdiction include: RN-BSN, masters, and doctoral programs. While some states do have jurisdiction over programs beyond those leading to initial licensure, the NCBON does not. The NCBON has jurisdiction only over pre-licensure nursing programs located in NC that prepare graduates to take the initial LPN or RN licensure examination.

If I attend a nursing education program in another state, am I able to complete my student clinical experiences in NC?

a) Prelicensure (RN or LPN) students who are attending out-of-state programs and wish to complete clinical experiences in North Carolina must contact the NCBON by email at education@ncbon.com to obtain information regarding requirements.

b) Graduate (master's or doctoral) students who do not hold a NC or multistate nursing license must contact the NCBON by email at practice@ncbon.com to obtain information regarding requirements for the completion of clinical experiences in NC.

c) Graduate (master's or doctoral) students who hold a NC or multistate nursing license may seek clinical experiences in NC without NCBON notification or approval.

(NOTE: The UNC System requires that all out-of-state degree granting institutions be licensed as described in the above question. Although not an NCBON requirement, all students are urged to ascertain their institution's NC licensure status.)

8. Is the NCBON imposing restrictions on out-of-state nursing education programs? I am being told by an out-of-state program that the NCBON is preventing them from admitting NC residents as students.

The NCBON is not imposing restrictions on out-of state nursing education programs. There is, however, a law in NC which requires ANY out-of-state program that conducts ANY educational activities in NC (including on-line programs, correspondence courses, and student clinical experiences) to be licensed by the University of North Carolina (UNC) System General Administration/Board of Governors. This is required by a law not associated with the NC Board of Nursing, but rather with the UNC System. When considering enrollment in ANY out-of-state nursing program, individuals should check with the UNC System to verify licensure status by calling 919-962-4558 or on the UNC System website at: http://www.northcarolina.edu/aa_planning/licensure/licensed.htm

9. If I attend a nursing education program in another state, am I able to complete my student clinical experiences in NC?

The out-of-state degree granting institution must be licensed by the UNC System as described in question #8 *BEFORE* the NCBON will consider any requests from students who are attending out-of-state programs for clinical experiences in NC.

10. Will my employer accept a graduate out-of-state program?

Determination of what programs to accept is the purview of each employer. When considering an out-of-state program it is always best to talk with your employer to make sure the college/university under consideration is accepted by your employer. Federal ruling requires any educational institution requesting to provide education in another state, to first receive approval from the state being considered. This ruling includes all areas of education and is not limited to nursing education.

11. Does the NCBON require a facility to accept additional clinical experience requests from new or existing programs?

It is the facility, not the NCBON, which determines when a facility is at the maximum capacity for additional clinical experience requests. There are many factors which must be considered for additional clinical requests. Factors such as staff and patient fatigue, the level of the student, any special projects/accreditation that a facility is undergoing, and the number of days/shifts students are already in the facility. A facility should only agree to provide clinical experiences when patient safety can be maintained, adequate faculty availability is assured for the experience, and the learning experiences available for the students are aligned with the learning objectives for the course in which the student is enrolled for that semester.

12. Does the NCBON promote other contact hour programs/continuing education courses in their materials or on the NCBON website?

No. The NCBON is a regulatory agency whose mission is protection of the public. The NCBON includes information only related to the NCBON mission, or NCBON sponsored programs.

13. What constitutes a clinical experience?

Nursing is a practice profession and requires clinical practice with “hands-on” clinical experiences, in order for nursing students to become proficient with integrating nursing knowledge and skills. Clinical experiences need to be designed based on the learning objective/outcomes for the course in which the student is enrolled, and need to provide adequate time for the student to apply theory concepts learned to patient care situations. The nursing program’s advisory committee can provide some guidance for the program related to the performance expectations for new graduates. While the NCBON does not specify percentages or hours for clinical experiences, the expectation is that students will have adequate clinical time throughout the program to apply concepts learned in class to patient care experiences in a clinical setting.

In 2010, [Educating Nurses: A Call for Radical Transformation](#) reported the outcomes and recommendations of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Preparation for the Professions study by Benner, Sutphen, Leonard, and Day. The following statement from their study

report provides evidence of the essential nature of “hands-on” clinical experiences in nursing education: “Clinical practice assignments provide powerful learning experiences, especially in those programs where educators integrate clinical and classroom teaching” (p.12).

“One strength of U.S. nursing education is that students work directly with patients and the health care team” (p.12).

“As students progress through their programs, they are given ever increasing responsibilities in clinical situations” (p.12).

“Nursing, like all practice disciplines, relies on situated cognition and action” (p.13).

“...today’s practitioner must be able to draw on all they learn in each of the professional apprenticeships (cognitive, skilled know-how ethical comportment) and integrate them in practice” (p.29).

“At the heart of learning in any practice discipline...lies the need for situated cognition (Lave & Wenger, 1991), or the chance to think in particular clinical situations” (p.30).

“Clinical reasoning is the ability to reason about a clinical situation as it unfolds, as well as about patient and family concerns and context” (p.46).

STATEMENT

Innovation Guideline

The NCBON supports innovative strategies in nursing programs. In order to assure that the nursing program curriculum meets the NCBON Education Rules governing Nursing Education Programs, any innovative teaching strategies for nursing education must be reviewed by a NCBON Education Consultant, and may receive Board notification and/or approval prior to implementation. The proposed innovation must include evidence and/or best practice information in the supporting documentation. The assigned program consultant is available to respond to questions related to nursing program innovations.