



DISTANCE EDUCATION

POSITION STATEMENT
for RN and LPN Practice

A Position Statement does not carry the force and effect of law and rules but 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.

ISSUE

The North Carolina Board of Nursing (BON) approves prelicensure nursing education programs as part of its mission of public protection. The use of distance education technology in nursing education programs located within and outside of NC has proliferated. This statement provides guidance for nurses in both the education and practice communities.

DEFINITIONS

1. Distance education (DE) – Instruction offered by any means where the student and faculty member are in separate physical locations.
2. Home state – Where the pre-licensure nursing education program has legal domicile.
3. Host state – State/jurisdiction outside the home state where prelicensure nursing students participate in clinical experiences and/or didactic courses.

GUIDELINES FOR DE IN PRELICENSURE NURSING PROGRAMS

1. DE prelicensure nursing education programs shall meet the same BON approval requirements as any other prelicensure nursing education program in the home state.
2. The home state/jurisdiction BON approves all prelicensure nursing education programs with legal domicile in that state, including distance education programs.
3. Prelicensure nursing education programs approved in the home state provide oversight over the students in the distant host states and are responsible for the students' supervision.
4. Faculty
 - a. Faculty who teach and supervise clinical experiences for a prelicensure nursing program by means of distance education shall hold a current, active, and unencumbered Registered Nurse (RN) NC license or multistate privilege to practice, and meet licensure and scope of practice requirements in the state/jurisdiction where the patient is located.
 - b. Faculty who only teach didactic content for prelicensure nursing education programs by means of distance education shall hold a current, active, and unencumbered RN NC nursing license or multistate privilege to practice, and meet licensure requirements in the home state where the program is BON-approved. These didactic faculty must maintain knowledge of host- state scope of practice differences.
 - c. Note: Through the prelicensure nursing program annual report process, the NCBON will collect and report data about NC-approved prelicensure nursing education programs that have students enrolled in clinical experiences in distant host states.

MODEL FOR DE IN PRELICENSURE NURSING PROGRAMS



REFERENCES

- G.S. 90-171.20 (5), (7) & (8) – Nursing Practice Act
- G.S. 90-171.38. Standards for Nursing Programs
- G.S. 90-171.39. Approval
- G.S. 90-171.40. Ongoing Approval
- 21 NCAC 36 .0233 Out of State Students

Approved: 5/2016