

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE
STATE BOARD OF NURSING**

LCB File No. R090-15

October 2, 2015

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [~~omitted-material~~] is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1-9, NRS 632.120, 632.430 and 632.440.

A REGULATION relating to nursing; authorizing the State Board of Nursing to approve certain innovative educational approaches by a program of nursing; authorizing a process by which a program of nursing may fulfill educational and contractual obligations to currently enrolled students before closing as the result of the Board's denial or withdrawal of full approval for the program; revising provisions relating to the approval of a program of nursing; revising provisions establishing the qualifications of an administrator of a program of nursing; revising provisions relating to the licensing of certain members of the faculty of a program of nursing; revising provisions relating to requirements for instruction in a program of nursing for practical and registered nurses; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the State Board of Nursing to approve and deny applications for a program of nursing to operate in this State and to prescribe standards and curricula for schools of practical and professional nursing. (NRS 632.430, 632.440) Existing regulations set forth the standards for programs of education of nurses. (NAC 632.600-632.711) **Section 3** of this regulation requires the qualified administrator of a program of nursing to meet with the Board before provisional approval of the program may be awarded. **Section 4** of this regulation authorizes the Board to permit a program of nursing for which full approval has been denied or withdrawn by the Board to administer a "teach out" of the program to fulfill educational and contractual obligations to currently enrolled students before the program closes. **Section 5** of this regulation requires a program of nursing to be accredited, or be in the process of obtaining accreditation, by a nationally recognized association approved by the Board before receiving approval to operate.

Section 1 of this regulation allows an approved program of nursing to apply to the Board to implement innovative educational approaches to prepare students for the practice of nursing. **Section 6** of this regulation requires the administrator of a program of nursing to have experience

in academic and professional administration. **Section 7** of this regulation revises provisions relating to the licensing requirements of a member of the faculty of a program of nursing. **Section 8** of this regulation revises provisions relating to the policies of a program of nursing by requiring the administrator of such a program to establish a policy of accountability for the professional behavior of students. **Section 9** of this regulation adds to the list of required areas of nursing that a program of nursing must include in the education of practical and registered nurses.

Section 1. Chapter 632 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

A program of nursing that has obtained full approval may apply to the Board to implement innovative educational approaches which prepare students to practice nursing safely, competently and ethically. The Board may establish guidelines for the application process for the consideration of such innovative educational approaches. A program of nursing must obtain Board approval for any innovative educational approach before implementing such an approach.

Sec. 2. NAC 632.600 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.600 As used in NAC 632.600 to 632.711, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Conditional approval" means approval, with conditions or restrictions, granted by the Board to a program of nursing which does not meet the standards for curriculum established by the Board.

2. "Full approval" means approval granted by the Board to a program of nursing if it meets the standards established by the Board and the requirements of law.

3. "Provisional approval" means approval granted by the Board to a program of nursing which has not graduated its first class and demonstrated eligibility for full approval.

4. *“Teach out” means a process by which a program of nursing may fulfill educational and contractual obligations to currently enrolled students before closing as the result of the Board’s denial or withdrawal of full approval for the program pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 of NAC 632.635.*

Sec. 3. NAC 632.615 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.615 1. A university or college may apply for provisional approval of a program of nursing offered by the university or college if:

~~{1-}~~ (a) A qualified administrator is at the site and there are sufficient qualified members of the faculty to begin the program;

~~{2-}~~ (b) A written proposal for the program, developed in accordance with the national curriculum and patient safety standards for nursing education approved by the Board, has been submitted to the Board; and

~~{3-}~~ (c) A visit to the facilities has been conducted by the Board.

2. *The provisional approval of a program of nursing may not be awarded until after the qualified administrator of the program has met with the Board to review the proposal for the program.*

Sec. 4. NAC 632.635 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.635 1. The Board will deny the approval of a program of nursing if it determines that the program fails to comply with the standards for nursing education approved by the Board or the requirements of the law.

2. The Board may withdraw the approval of a program of nursing if it determines that the administrator of the program has not provided sufficient evidence of the program's compliance with the standards for nursing education approved by the Board and the requirements of the law.

3. The Board may reinstate the approval of a program of nursing if the administrator of the program submits proof that the program has complied with the standards of nursing education approved by the Board and the requirements of the law.

4. The Board may permit a teach out by a program of nursing for which approval has been denied or withdrawn by the Board pursuant to subsection 1 or 2. A program of nursing which requests approval to conduct a teach out must submit a plan in writing acceptable to the Board to retain members of the faculty, provide sufficient clinical resources and enlist the services of a consultant who has been approved by the Board to monitor the progress of the teach out.

Sec. 5. NAC 632.640 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.640 1. A program of nursing offered by a university or college must:

(a) Be an integral part of the university or college or, if the program is a program for licensed practical nurses, be licensed by the Nevada Commission on Postsecondary Education;

(b) Adopt statements of purpose, philosophy and objectives which are consistent with those of the institution offering the program;

(c) Be organized with clearly defined lines of authority, areas of responsibility and channels of communication;

(d) Allow the members of the faculty to participate in the determination of academic policies and procedures and the development and evaluation of the curriculum; ~~and~~

(e) Allow students to participate in the evaluation of the curriculum and other aspects of the program to which they may be able to contribute ~~{-}~~; **and**

(f) Ensure that students are prepared for the safe and effective practice of nursing.

2. The policies and procedures of the program of nursing must be in writing and must include policies and procedures to ensure the safety of patients during clinical experiences.

3. A program of nursing must be accredited, or be in the process of obtaining accreditation, by a nationally recognized association approved by the Board or an agency authorized by law to accredit such programs.

Sec. 6. NAC 632.660 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.660 1. Each administrator of a program of nursing must:

(a) Be licensed to practice as a registered nurse in this State;

(b) Have at least 5 years of experience as a registered nurse, 3 years of which must be teaching in a program of nursing accredited by ~~{the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; and}~~ ***a nationally recognized association approved by the Board or an agency authorized by law to accredit such programs;***

(c) ***Have experience in academic and professional administration; and***

(d) If the administrator does not have experience in the administration of a program of nursing, develop and complete a plan for his or her own mentoring and development.

2. The administrator of a program of nursing which grants a bachelor's degree in nursing must have a master's degree with a major in nursing and a doctorate degree in nursing or a related field from an accredited school.

3. The administrator of a program of nursing which grants an associate degree in nursing must have a master's degree in nursing from an accredited school.

4. The administrator of a program of practical nursing must have a master's degree in nursing from an accredited school.

Sec. 7. NAC 632.670 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.670 1. A member of the faculty of a program of nursing *who teaches didactic or clinical nursing courses* must be licensed to practice as a registered nurse in this State.

2. *An interdisciplinary member of the faculty of a program of nursing who does not teach didactic or clinical nursing courses:*

(a) Must possess advanced knowledge appropriate for the content being taught; and

(b) Is not required to be licensed to practice as a registered nurse in this State.

Sec. 8. NAC 632.680 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.680 1. The requirements for admission to a program of nursing must be clearly stated. The number of students enrolled in the program of nursing must be determined by the number of members of the faculty and the availability of clinical learning experiences.

2. Students who seek admission to a program of nursing by transferring from a program of nursing from another accredited school of nursing or who seek readmission for the completion of a program must comply with the requirements for admission which are effective at the time of the transfer or readmission.

3. All policies concerning students must be in writing and must include, without limitation, processes for revision of the policies and requirements for providing notice of any revisions to the students.

4. The administrator of a program of nursing shall establish a policy for the resolution of complaints and disputes concerning students.

5. *The administrator of a program of nursing shall establish a policy of accountability for the professional behavior of students, including, without limitation, honesty and integrity.*

Sec. 9. NAC 632.690 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.690 1. A program of nursing which educates practical nurses must include instruction in the following areas of nursing:

(a) Care provided to persons who require medical and surgical care;

(b) *Evidence-based patient safety;*

(c) *Geriatric care;*

(d) Maternal and child health; ~~and~~

~~(e)~~ (e) Mental health ~~[-]~~; *and*

(f) *Patient care in community settings.*

2. A program of nursing which educates registered nurses must include instruction relating to:

(a) Basic principles of biology, microbiology, psychology, sociology, mathematics and therapeutic communication;

(b) The theory and practice of nursing, including, without limitation, the attainment, intervention and maintenance of physical and mental health and the prevention of illness across the life span of patients, in a variety of clinical settings, and must include, without limitation, instruction in evidence-based nursing practice and technological skills commensurate with safely delivering patient care;

(c) Professional values, boundaries and ethics, including, without limitation, the appropriate use of social media;

(d) *The maintenance of physical and mental health in patients of diverse cultures, ethnicities and social and economic backgrounds;*

(e) The provisions of this chapter and chapter 632 of NRS; and

~~{(e)}~~ (f) The role of regulation and accreditation in the provision of health care and patient safety.

3. Courses relating to theory and clinical experience must ~~{be}~~ :

(a) *Be* taught in a concurrent or sequential manner ~~{-}~~ ; *and*

(b) *Include, without limitation, principles relating to national patient safety standards and bioethics.*

4. The administrator of a program of nursing shall prepare and maintain records of the evaluation of the curriculum by members of the faculty and students enrolled in the program.