

**Co-Regulation of Nursing Education Programs - 2015**  
**Texas Board of Nursing (BON) and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**

The co-regulation of nursing education programs in Texas provides a collaborative approach to ensuring that the nursing programs adhere to workforce regulations and nursing requirements, thus strengthening both approval processes. The education rules support the mission of the BON is to protect the public by ensuring that graduates will be safe, competent nurses.

Nursing education programs that require TWC approval are those housed in

- Career schools
- Out-of-state nursing programs seeking to provide nursing education with a physical presence in Texas

**Review Processes:**

| <b>Review Area</b>                            | <b>TWC</b>   | <b>BON</b>   |
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| Considerations for Initial Approval           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-TWC focuses on the School with less focus on details of specific programs within the school.</li> <li>-TWC defers to BON on curriculum content and nursing requirements.</li> <li>-Exemptions apply – If a school is exempted by TWC, no monitoring will occur.</li> <li>-Approval fee applies.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Prior TWC approval is necessary before the proposal will be considered by the BON.</li> <li>-BON approves nursing programs, not the governing entity. The governing entity will be considered for their administrative oversight and financial support.</li> <li>-No exemptions are made by the BON.</li> <li>-If a school is exempt by TWC, BON must scrutinize all criteria since they are not being monitored by another agency.</li> <li>-Approval fee applies.</li> <li>-The BON proposal process must be followed.</li> <li>-The Board approves new programs at scheduled Board meetings.</li> </ul> |
| Evidence of Need for Program                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Retrospective Employment rates of graduates in the occupation for which they were trained (&gt;60%) are examined (outcome based).</li> <li>-Need agreements and sufficient sites for clinical practice are reviewed.</li> <li>-TWC considers workforce demands.</li> </ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Community support for the program, especially in clinical areas and job opportunities following graduation are required.</li> <li>-Evidence of opportunities for program success are evaluated: adequate qualified faculty and director, physical spaces that provide a positive work and learning environment, available clinical learning experiences for students, job opportunities for graduates.</li> </ul>  |
| Standards for Administration and Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TWC reviews:</li> <li>-Ownership qualifications</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-BON requires the author of proposal and program director to</li> </ul>   |

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|                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Structure of the organization</li> <li>-Business tax and corporate status</li> <li>-Financial stability (current assets to meet current liabilities; positive equity)</li> <li>-Qualifications of school representatives – school director NOT nursing program director</li> <li>-Accreditation status – means?</li> <li>-School catalog, advertising, enrollment materials</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>meet specific qualifications.</li> <li>-Program director must be in place at least 6 months prior to presentation to the Board and be actively engaged in developing the program.</li> <li>-There must be financial stability to effectively conduct the program.</li> </ul>  |
| Standards for Nursing Faculty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-All instructors must be approved based upon TWC criteria and process for hiring.</li> <li>-TWC defers to BON for nursing faculty qualifications.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Nursing faculty must meet rule-specific requirements.</li> <li>-Specific nursing faculty policies must be in place including faculty orientation, development, organization, and evaluation.</li> <li>-There must be assurance that the nursing faculty will be responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating the curriculum.</li> <li>-Adequate faculty for clinical supervision and teaching responsibilities are available.</li> <li>-There must be a plan for nursing faculty to be responsible for supervision and evaluation of students in clinical practice.</li> </ul>           |
| Standards for Students        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student policies must be in place including academic progress standards, cancellation and refund policies, and complaint policies.</li> <li>-Classroom size is limited to 30 students.</li> <li>-TWC reviews admission requirements and school catalog.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of students to be admitted annually is regulated by the Board for new programs.</li> <li>-BON requires pretesting of all students.</li> <li>-Student policies must be in place including admission, dismissal, progression, graduation, articulation, evaluation of courses and faculty.</li> <li>-Student input into department governance must be planned.</li> <li>-Faculty to student ratio in the clinical area will be 1:10 to promote patient safety.</li> <li>-BON requires that students are provided with eligibility information evidenced by a signed student receipt.</li> </ul> |
| Standard for Program of Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Programs of study must meet minimum TWC criteria.</li> <li>-TWC requires program outlines and class schedules.</li> <li>--Clear occupational objectives,</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Nursing content must include nursing care of children, maternal and newborn, aged, adults, individuals with mental health problems, palliative and end of</li> </ul>   |

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|   | <p>program outlines, and course descriptions must be in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-TWC reviews contact hours and length of program, skill sets, and externships.</li> </ul> | <p>life care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Curriculum must include content to prepare graduates' competencies described in the <i>Differentiated Essential Competencies</i>.</li> <li>-Content specific to Texas nursing laws and rules must be included.</li> <li>-Faculty supervised hand-on clinical learning experiences to meet clinical objectives shall be included.</li> <li>-Appropriate clinical and classroom hours must be included to total 1,398 clock hours for VN programs.</li> </ul> |
| Standards for Clinical Learning Experiences       |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Signed clinical affiliating agreements with appropriate agencies must be included to meet clinical objectives</li> <li>-Faculty-supervised clinical learning experiences acceptable for each required clinical area must be planned.</li> <li>-Faculty to student ratios in clinical areas shall be 1:10 except where preceptors are used.</li> <li>-Clinical evaluation tools which measure student progression across program shall be included.</li> </ul>                 |
| Standards for Facilities, Resources, and Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Facilities and equipment must meet TWC requirements.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Facilities and nursing skills labs and equipment must be adequate to meet program objectives and scope of practice.</li> <li>-Offices, lounges, and classrooms for a conducive learning environment are required.</li> <li>-Current information technology and library access must be available.</li> </ul>   |
| Standards for Records and Reports                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Records are reviewed at each site visit.</li> <li>-Properly-completed TWC forms are required for review.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Safe and secure storage for all formal documents must be provided.</li> <li>-Complete and organized student files shall be in place.</li> </ul>   |

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| Standards for Total Program Evaluation          |  | -TPE shall follow BON requirements.  |
| Standards for Expansion and for Extension Sites | -Each extension site shall be viewed as a separate site and will be evaluated as such.   | -Extension sites with same curriculum are seen as a part of main campus.<br>-New extension sites need BON approval based upon criteria in the rule.  |
| Continuing Approval                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Annual license renewal is required.</li> <li>-Fees apply.</li> <li>-Annual site visits are made, typically unannounced.</li> <li>-Complaints are investigated and potential refunds may be ordered.</li> <li>-Sanctions for noncompliance up to and including loss of license may occur.</li> <li>-Some protection for students in jeopardy of losing tuition is available.</li> <li>-Unlicensed schools are investigated, possibly followed by cease and desist orders.</li> <li>-Graduate employment rates must be sustained at least 60% in the occupation for which the student was prepared.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The program's NCLEX examination pass rate must be at least 80%.</li> <li>-There must be evidence of compliance with Board rules.</li> <li>-Annual Data Reports shall provide required information.</li> <li>-Investigations of complaints and noncompliance will be made.</li> <li>-Approval status may be changed to warning or conditional, or approval may be withdrawn if noncompliance issues warrant such actions.</li> <li>-Monitoring fees may apply.</li> </ul> |