

REQUEST FOR CHARGES FROM THE BOARD TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (ACE)

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider board staff's request to the Board to issue charges to ACE related to (1) review and revision of the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELIC), (2) study and recommendations regarding the issues involved with permitting a student who has partially completed a professional nursing educational program or graduated from a professional nursing educational program and then failed the NCLEX-RN® examination, to apply for licensure as a vocational nurse in Texas by taking NCLEX-PN® examination, and (3) the addition of clinical requirements for programs outside Texas' jurisdiction that do not require clinical learning experiences to be included in the program of study and are wanting their graduates to be eligible for nursing licensure in Texas.

(1) Review and Revision of the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELIC)

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- In January 2000, the Board charged ACE to review and revise the *Essential Competencies of Texas Graduates of Education Programs in Nursing* (BNE, 1993).
- In August 2000, the ACE began the extensive process of review and revision and the resulting document, *Differentiated Entry Level Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs, Vocational (VN); Diploma/Associate Degree (DIP/ADN); Baccalaureate Degree (BSN), (DELIC)* was approved by the Board in April 2002 and published in September 2002.
- At the time that the DELIC was approved by the Board, the ACE recommended that periodic reviews and revisions needed to be conducted to ensure that the competencies reflect changes in nursing practice, education, and research.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- It has been six (6) years since the DELIC was approved and published and significant changes have occurred in nursing practice, education, and research.
- Competency expectations for graduate nurses have also changed and health care facilities desire a higher level of performance from new graduate nurses than in the past.
- An updated DELIC will provide uniform basic, entry-level competencies for all new graduate nurses from Texas nursing educational programs and guidelines for employers regarding the utilization of new graduate nurses.

Cons:

None noted.

(2) Study and Recommendations Regarding the Issues Involved with Permitting a Student Who Has Partially Completed a Professional Nursing Educational Program or Graduated from a Professional Nursing Educational Program and then Failed the NCLEX-RN® Examination, to Apply for Licensure as a Vocational Nurse in Texas by Taking NCLEX-PN® Examination

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- Currently, Texas Board of Nursing (BON) Rule 217 permits individuals who have attended a professional nursing education program and who meet all of the requirements for licensure by examination as stated in Rule 217, to substitute completion of an acceptable level of a board-approved professional nursing education program as determined by the board, and apply to take the NCLEX-PN® examination.

- The Texas BON is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact and one of the general purposes of this compact is to “ensure and encourage the cooperation of party states in the areas of nurse licensing and regulation.”
- Most other states who are parties in the Nurse Licensure Compact do not offer the option for individuals who have attended a professional nursing education program and who meet all of the requirements for licensure by examination, to substitute completion of an acceptable level of a board-approved professional nursing education program as determined by the board, and apply to take the NCLEX-PN® examination and will not allow these individuals to be licensed by endorsement.
- Concerns have been voiced that the nurses who become licensed vocational nurses (LVN) in Texas by means of utilizing the above option often lack education in the areas of role performance and scope of practice appropriate for an LVN.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- A study of the issues involved with permitting individuals who have attended a professional nursing education program and who meet all of the requirements for licensure by examination as stated in Rule 217, to substitute completion of an acceptable level of a board-approved professional nursing education program as determined by the board, and apply to take the NCLEX-PN® examination, will result in a clearer understanding for the Board to determine the implications of allowing this process.
- Recommendations to the Board from ACE will provide direction for the Board when determining the method of address for this issue, including, but not limited to, recommendations for new rules and regulations.

Cons:

- Any change in the current process will affect possible licensure options for those students or graduates who are not successful in a professional nursing educational program.

(3) Addition of Clinical Requirements for Programs Outside Texas’ Jurisdiction that Do Not Require Clinical Learning Experiences to be Included in the Program of Study and Want Their Graduates to be Eligible for Nursing Licensure in Texas

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- The issues surrounding nursing education programs that do not require that clinical learning experiences be included in the program of study have become a cause for discussion nationwide.
- Several state boards of nursing deny licensure by examination or endorsement outright to graduates from these types of nursing education programs and some state boards of nursing require the completion of a specified amount of clinical learning experiences before allowing these graduates to apply for licensure by examination or endorsement.
- Currently, Texas BON rules require that Texas nursing educational programs include clinical learning experiences in the program of study.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- Requiring that individuals seeking a nursing license in Texas complete clinical learning experiences prior to nursing licensure in Texas would insure that individuals who have graduated from programs outside of Texas have equitable clinical preparation as graduates from Texas programs.
- Requiring the same or substantially equivalent clinical practice expectations of graduates from programs in other states would insure a higher level of patient safety when these graduates begin to practice nursing in Texas.

Cons:

- The addition of requirements for a minimum amount of clinical learning experiences will require monitoring of the licensure by examination applications or endorsement applications to determine that this area of educational preparation has been met by applicants who have graduated from nursing educational programs in other states.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to issue charges to ACE related to:

- (1) review and revision of the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELIC);
- (2) study and recommendations regarding the issues involved with permitting a student who has partially completed a professional nursing educational program or graduated from a professional nursing educational program and then failed the NCLEX-RN® examination, to apply for licensure as a vocational nurse in Texas by taking NCLEX-PN® examination; and
- (3) the addition of clinical requirements for programs outside Texas' jurisdiction that do not require clinical learning experiences to be included in the program of study.