

**Request for Charge to APNAC to Review Minimum Educational Requirements for Licensure for  
Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists  
Rule 221.3, Education**

**Summary of Request:** Consider a request from the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee (APNAC) to charge the APNAC with examination of the minimum educational requirements for licensure in the advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) roles of clinical nurse specialist and nurse practitioner.

**Historical Perspective:** As applications from nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists from programs outside the state of Texas have been reviewed by staff, staff have noted variations with regard to the didactic content of nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist education programs. A few of the broader issues were shared verbally with APNAC members.

One of the issues noted involved a graduate from a clinical nurse specialist education program from outside the state of Texas. The program is located in a state that does not recognize clinical nurse specialists as advanced practice registered nurses. Staff noted an apparent lack of balance between the didactic and clinical content in the population focus area—the program included the required 500 clinical hours but provided more limited didactic content in the population focus area. Although Board rules specify the minimum number of clinical hours required for advanced practice licensure, there are no specifications with regard to the minimum number of didactic hours that are required.

The committee is requesting that the Board charge the APNAC with reviewing the minimum educational requirements for APRN licensure for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists. This would allow the committee to consider the issue of didactic and clinical content for both categories of APRNs. It would also allow the committee to ensure that the requirements in board rule are consistent with the education requirements specified in the *Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification and Education*.

**Pros:** The committee's review of the educational requirements for advanced practice licensure will provide the Board with an opportunity to gain input from APRN educators regarding the current standards in education as well as APRNs in practice who can address the effectiveness of new APRNs entering the practice arena. The committee's recommendation can help to assure the Board that the educational requirements for APRN licensure continue to include the necessary content to ensure that APRNs licensed in Texas are safe, competent practitioners.

**Cons:** None noted.

**Staff Recommendation:** Move to charge the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee with reviewing the educational requirements for advanced practice licensure for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists. The committee's recommendations shall be presented for the Board's consideration at a future Board meeting.