

Report of the Advisory Committee on Education

Summary of Request:

Consider the report of the June 22, July 25, and September 25, 2017 meetings of the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE).

Historical Perspective:

At the April 2017 quarterly Board meeting, the Board issued three charges to ACE:

1. Advise on development of rules to define substantially equivalent education standards for the purpose of ensuring out-of-state nursing education programs are substantially equivalent to Board standards;
2. Advise on development of rules to provide a clear pathway to initial licensure for graduates of out-of-state programs the Board determines are not substantially equivalent to Board standards for Texas programs; and
3. Review the use of standardized exit examinations as a graduation requirement by approved prelicensure nursing education programs and advise the Board regarding policy recommendations.

Charges one and two were derived from the December 2016, the Sunset Advisory Commission adopted Recommendation 1.2, contained in HB 2950 by Representative Burkett that passed during the 75th Regular Legislative Session requiring the Board to develop rules with stakeholder input from ACE defining substantially equivalent standards to be used to recognize out-of-state programs and to provide a path to initial licensure for graduates of out-of-state programs that are determined not to be substantially equivalent to Board standards for Texas programs. Charge three was derived from numerous telephone calls and email communications from nursing education program stakeholders expressing concerns related to the use of standardized exit examinations as a high stakes graduation requirement despite the Board's [Education Guideline 3.7.4.a., Using Standardized Examinations](#) that prohibits this practice.

Following the June 22, 2017 ACE meeting, the committee requested the Board to issue a fourth charge. Subsequently, at the July 2017 quarterly Board meeting, the Board charged ACE to:

1. Develop a recommendation regarding changes to Board Rule 214.9(a)(1) related to specific requirements for classroom and clinical practice hours in vocational nursing education programs.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the June 22, July 25 and September 25, 2017 ACE meetings are attached for the Board's consideration in Attachments A, B, and C.

ACE Recommendations: Following continued discussion of the charges at the June, July 25, 2017 meetings, ACE recommends:

1. Approval of Board Staff's draft definition of substantially equivalent professional nursing education standards;
2. Approval of two options for initial licensure applicants who graduate from an out-of-state nursing education program not substantially equivalent to Texas Board approved programs:
 - a. An employment setting option whereby the facility develops a plan for the applicant to complete requirements; or
 - b. An education program setting option whereby the program establishes a plan similar to a refresher course for the applicant to complete requirements; and
3. Suggested revisions to Education Guideline 3.7.4.a., *Using Standardized Examinations*.

Recommendations one and two are presented for the Board's consideration in new business agenda item 7.11. *Consideration of Proposed Amendments to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §217.2, relating to Licensure by Examination for Graduates of Nursing Education Programs Within the United States, its Territories, or Possessions*. Updates to Education Guideline 3.7.4.a., *Using Standardized Examinations* are presented in Attachment D.

Following the September 25, 2017 meeting, ACE recommends:

4. Approval of Board Staff's draft definition of substantially equivalent vocational nursing education program.
5. Revisions to Board Rule 214.9 to remove the minimum number of required hours for vocational nursing education programs of study.

Recommendation four is presented for the Board's consideration in new business agenda item 7.11. *Consideration of Proposed Amendments to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §217.2, relating to Licensure by Examination for Graduates of Nursing Education Programs Within the United States, its Territories, or Possessions*. Recommendation five is presented for the Board's consideration in new business agenda item 7.12. *Consideration of Proposed Amendments to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §214.9, relating to Program of Study*.

Staff Recommendation: This item is for information purposes only. No action is required.

Texas Board of Nursing Advisory Committee on Education (ACE)

Thursday, June 22, 2017
10:00 a.m. -2:10 p.m.

333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225
Austin, Texas

Members Present:

Marla Erbin-Roesemann, PhD, RN, Chair

Alicia Anger, MSN, RN
Joan Becker, MA, RN
April Ernst, MSN, RN, CNE
Korbi Berryhill, RN, MSN, CRRN
Cheryl Livengood, MSN, RN

Cynthia Plonien, RN, DNP, CENP
Peggy Roberts, LVN
Stephanie Woods, PhD, RN

Representing:

Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education (TOBGNE)
Diploma Nursing Education
Texas Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (TOADN)
Texas Association for Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE at large)
TAVNE- Community College Programs
Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs (TADDPNP)
Texas Organization of Nurse Executives (TONE)
Licensed Vocational Nurses Association of Texas (LVNAT)
Texas Nurses Association (TNA)

Members Absent:

Pamela Brashears, LVN
Nancy Maebius, PhD, RN
Alyce Ashcraft, PhD, RN, CNE, FNGNA, ANEF
Texas League for Vocational Nurses (TLVN)
TAVNE- Career School Programs
Texas League for Nursing (TLN)

Guests:

Kathy Hutto, Jackson Walker, L.L.P.
Mary Lee Pollard, PhD, RN, Dean, Excelsior College School of Nursing
Ellen Martin, PhD, RN, CPHQ, Director of Practice, TNA

Board Liaisons:

Nina Almasy, MSN, RN
Allison Porter Edwards, Dr. PH, MS, RN, CNE

Staff Present:

Kristin Benton, DNP, RN, Director of Nursing
Janice Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, Lead Nursing Consultant for Education
Virginia Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, Nursing Consultant for Education
Susan Lee, PhD, RN, CNE, Nursing Consultant for Education
Marty Beth Thomas, PhD, RN, FAAN, Nursing Consultant
John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel
Ciara Williamson, Administrative Assistant

Charges:

- #1: Consideration of the definition of “substantially equivalent” education standards.
#2: Consideration of the pathway to initial licensure for graduates of out-of-state programs not meeting substantially equivalent education standards.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>REVIEW OF AGENDA</p>	<p>10:02 - M. Erbin-Roesemann called the meeting to order</p> <p>M. Erbin-Roesemann called roll. A quorum was met.</p> <p>Members introduced themselves and the organization they represent.</p> <p>N. Almasy read the Board’s mission statement.</p> <p>M. Erbin-Roesemann reviewed the agenda.</p>	<p>S. Woods moved to approve the agenda.</p> <p>Joan Becker seconded the motion.</p> <p>The committee voted unanimously to approve the agenda.</p> <p>Final Resolution: Motion carried.</p>
<p>REVIEW OF ROLE OF ACE</p>	<p>J. Vanderford:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the role of the advisory committee (Rule 211.6(f)(1)(B) and (2)-(12). • Reviewed the process of Robert’s Rules of Order. 	
<p>REVIEW OF SUNSET ADVISORY COMMITTEE DECISIONS RELATED TO EDUCATION</p>	<p>K. Benton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the Sunset decisions related to education. 	
<p>REVIEW OF 85TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION HOUSE BILL 2950 BY REPRESENTATIVE BURKETT</p>	<p>K. Benton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed HB 2950 related to the removal of the expiration date for Excelsior College’s exception to initial licensure requirements. • HB 2950 requires the Board to develop a path to initial licensure for graduates of out-of-state nursing programs that are determined not to be substantially equivalent to Texas programs • Referenced handout- “HB 2950 (Final) Language” 	
<p>REVIEW OF BOARD CHARGES TO ACE</p>	<p>V. Ayars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed Board charges 1-3 to ACE • Referenced handout- April 2017 Board report 	
<p>CHARGE #1 RELATED TO SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT</p>	<p>F. Rogers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the Exam Department process of confirming an out-of-state Exam applicant’s education requirements who is applying for initial 	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><i>QUESTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP</i></p> <p><i>ADJOURNMENT</i></p>	<p>Members continued to discuss a variety of pathways.</p> <p>M. Erbin-Roesemann:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested ACE members present the variety of pathways to their organizations for input and discussion. <p>K. Benton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered to gather comments on discussed pathways and send a summary to ACE members. Offered to bring an ACE request for a Board charge to review 214.9 (1) to the July quarterly Board meeting. <p>M.B. Thomas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered to research what other states do to offer remediation for applicants who don't meet education requirements in other states and send to ACE members. <p>J. Hooper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered for Education Consultants to start mapping out the variety of pathways discussed to be presented at the next ACE meeting <p>J. Vanderford:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested that ACE members look at the drafted definition of "substantially equivalent" and to determine what can be kept, removed, or included. <p>Members discussed.</p> <p>M. Erbin-Roesmann:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opened for questions and comments. <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.</p>	<p>A. Ernst moved to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>P. Roberts seconded the motion.</p> <p>Final Resolution: Motion carried.</p>

Handouts:

- Sunset Advisory Commission's Final Report of 2016-2017 Review of the Texas Board of Nursing
- Texas Board of Nursing Policy on Advisory Committees and Task Forces
- Substantially Equivalent Education Standards (Draft)
- HB 2950 (Final) Language
- April 2017 Board Report, Agenda Item 5.2.6.b.- Consideration of Request for Charges to the Advisory Committee on Education

Texas Board of Nursing Advisory Committee on Education (ACE)

July 25, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 2:58 p.m.
333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225
Austin, Texas 78701

Members Present:

Marla Erbin-Roesemann, PhD, RN, Chair

Alicia Anger, MSN, RN

Joan Becker, MA, RN

April Ernst, MSN, RN, CNE

Korbi Berryhill, RN, MSN, CRRN

Cheryl Livengood, MSN, RN

Cynthia Plonien, RN, DNP, CENP

Peggy Roberts, LVN

Stephanie Woods, PhD, RN

Nancy Maebius, PhD, RN

Mary Judith Yoho, PhD, RN, CNE

Representing:

Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate
Nursing Education (TOBGNE)

Diploma Nursing Education

Texas Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
(TOADN)

Texas Association for Vocational Nurse Educators
(TAVNE-at large)

TAVNE- Community College Programs

Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional
Nursing Programs (TADDPNP)

Texas Organization of Nurse Executives (TONE)

Licensed Vocational Nurses Association of Texas
(LVNAT)

Texas Nurses Association (TNA)

TAVNE- Career School Programs

Texas League for Nursing (TLN)

Members Absent:

Pamela Brashears, LVN

Texas League for Vocational Nurses (TLVN)

Guests:

John Brooks, Regional Vice President, Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI)

Cindy Clark, ATI

Kathy Hutto, Jackson-Walker, LLP

Mary Lee Pollard, PhD, RN, Dean, Excelsior College School of Nursing

Ellen Martin, PhD, RN, CPHQ, Director of Practice, TNA

Mara Taylor

Terry Throckmorton, Principal Researcher, Elsevier HESI

Board Liaison:

Doris Jackson, DHA, MSN, RN

Staff Present:

Kristin Benton, DNP, RN, Director of Nursing

Janice Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, Lead Nursing Consultant for Education

Virginia Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, Nursing Consultant for Education

Mary Beth Thomas, PhD, RN, FAAN, Nursing Consultant

John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel

Veronica Robertson, Supervisor, Operations Department

Francely Rogers, Program Supervisor, Exam Department

Ciara Williamson, Administrative Assistant

Charges:

#1: Consideration of the definition of “substantially equivalent” education standards.

#2: Consideration of the pathway to initial licensure for graduates of out-of-state programs not meeting substantially equivalent education standards.

#3: Consideration of the use of standardized exit examinations as a graduation requirement.

#4: Consideration of classroom and clinical hours requirements for VN programs.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
CALL TO ORDER	M. Erbin-Roesemann <ul style="list-style-type: none">Called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. M. Erbin-Roesemann <ul style="list-style-type: none">Called roll.A quorum was met. D. Jackson <ul style="list-style-type: none">Read the Board’s mission statement.	
REVIEW OF THE AGENDA	M. Erbin-Roesemann <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewed the agenda. ACE Members and BON staff <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.	
REVIEW OF THE MINUTES	ACE Members <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewed the minutes from the June 22, 2017 ACE meeting.	A. Ernst motioned to approve the minutes. C. Livengood seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes. Final Resolution: Motion carried.
REVIEW OF BOARD CHARGES TO ACE	M. Erbin-Roesemann <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewed Charges #1-4 of ACE.Asked guests to introduce themselves.Tabled Charge #1.	
REVIEW BOARD CHARGE RELATED TO CLASSROOM AND CLINICAL HOURS REQUIREMENTS	K. Benton <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presented background information related to Charge #4.Discussed the current Board rule related to hours required in VN education programs.	

**FOR VN
PROGRAMS**

- Referenced the handout related to pass rates and VN hours requirements of other Boards of Nursing.
- Opened for questions and discussion.

Members discussed.

N. Maebius

- Recommended ACE seek change for VN education hours requirements.

M.J. Yoho

- Requested more information regarding ratio hours in other states versus outcomes of pass rates.

K. Benton

- Suggested surveying TAVNE members regarding ratios.

J. Vanderford

- Advised that determining a VN regulatory base-line would be beneficial.

N. Maebius and A. Ernst

- Suggested surveying VN Program Directors for the information.

Members continued to discuss.

M. Erbin-Roesemann

- Clarified that ACE members want BON staff to develop and distribute a survey to VN Program Directors.
- Discussed possible survey to TAVNE members regarding the reduction of VN education hours.

Members discussed possible survey questions.

M. Erbin-Roesemann motioned for BON staff to generate a survey to be distributed to TAVNE members regarding a possible change to Rule

**REVIEW OF
BOARD CHARGE
RELATED TO
SUBSTANTIALLY
EQUIVALENT
EDUCATION
STANDARDS**

K. Benton

- Reviewed background information of Charge #1.

Members discussed

J. Vanderford

- Clarified that Charge #1 is to determine if there is an amount of hours that is considered “substantially equivalent.”

Members continued to discuss.

F. Rogers

- Summarized Exam Department’s process for examining in-state and out-of-state applicants’ education.

Members continued to discuss.

**REVIEW OF
BOARD CHARGE
RELATED TO**

M. Erbin-Roesemann

- Reviewed Charge #2.

214.9(a)(1) regarding VN clock hours for clinical practice with the questions discussed by ACE at the July 25, 2017 ACE meeting.

J. Becker seconded the motion.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Final Resolution: Motion carried.

K. Berryhill motioned in support of BON staff’s recommendation of the drafted language regarding the definition of “substantially equivalent” for professional nursing education.

J. Becker seconded the motion.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Final Resolution: The motion carried.

**PATHWAY TO
INITIAL
LICENSURE FOR
GRADUATES OF
OUT-OF-STATE
PROGRAMS NOT
MEETING
SUBSTANTIALLY
EQUIVALENT
EDUCATION
STANDARDS**

M.B. Thomas

- Presented an overview of what other states require of programs without supervised clinical learning experiences.

J. Hooper

- Presented an overview of four options for out-of-state programs not meeting substantially equivalent education requirements suggested at the ACE meeting held June 22, 2017.

V. Ayars

- Presented detailed information of the Virtual College of Texas Refresher Course model.

Members discussed.

K. Benton

- Discussed the KSTAR option further.

Members continued to discuss.

M. L. Pollard

- Discussed the state of Virginia's model for licensing students from Excelsior graduates.

J. Vanderford

- Clarified that "substantially equivalent" must apply to all programs, in all states, even if a course is missing.

Members continued to discuss.

M. Erbin-Roesemann motioned to recommend the BON perform individual assessments of each applicant coming from an out-of-state clinical competency program. The applicant would be allowed to sit for the NCLEX, and once he/she passes the individual plan developed for the applicant to obtain the necessary requirements may go into effect. The options of plans are: 1) Through a facility that hires and

**REVIEW OF
BOARD CHARGE
RELATED TO THE
USE OF
STANDARDIZED
EXIT
EXAMINATIONS
AS A
GRADUATION
REQUIREMENT**

J. Vanderford

- Clarified that the required number of clinical hours must be determined prior to motioning options for a pathway to initial licensure for graduates of out-of-state programs not meeting substantially equivalent education standards.

Members continued to discuss.

M. Erbin-Roesemann

- Reviewed Charge #3.

V. Ayars

- Presented an overview of a survey sent to VN programs regarding standardized exams.

J. Hooper

- Discussed recent in-house meetings with standardized exam

assigns preceptors. The preceptor of the facility signs off that the individual has met the requirements, and is then eligible to obtain a provisional license to gain full licensure. 2) A university or college based program is to establish a program similar to a refresher course for the student to complete supervised clinical hours.

C. Livengood motioned for an individual assessment of each applicant to allow him/her to sit for the NCLEX and obtain a provisional license to then execute their pathway to obtain initial licensure in Texas.

M.J. Yoho seconded the motion.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Final Resolution: The motion carried.

vendors to determine their position on “high-stakes testing.”

Members discussed.

K. Benton

- Discussed current national survey regarding standardized exams that prohibit progression.

Standardized test vendors welcomed to the table to participate in discussion.

M. Erbin-Roesemann

- Invited presentation by John Brooks, Regional Vice President, ATI, and Terry Throckmorton, Principal Researcher, Elsevier HESI, who each affirmed their products are not recommended for high stakes testing.

N. Maebius motioned to revise education guidelines and present to BON in response to Charge #4.

C. Plonien seconded the motion.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Final Resolution: The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Handouts:

- Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2017 ACE Meeting
- Feedback from ACE Member Organizations following June 22, 2017 ACE Meeting (TAVNE)
- Feedback from ACE Member Organizations following June 22, 2017 ACE Meeting (TADDPNP)
- Results of NCSBN Survey Regarding PN Hours
- Table of State Boards of Nursing PN Pass Rates Compared to Clinical Hours Requirements
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing Model Rules (2014)
- Substantially Equivalent Education Standards (Draft)
- Possible Options for a Pathway to Initial Licensure for Graduates of Out-of-State Programs Not Substantially Equivalent to Board Standards for Texas Programs
- Requirements for RN Licensure When Programs Have No Supervised Clinical Experiences (Updated June 2016)
- State Boards of Nursing: Requirements for Licensure for Excelsior College Graduates

- Verification of Successful Completion of Professional Registered Nursing Refresher Course/ Extensive Orientation/ Academic Nursing Course(s) for the Texas Board of Nursing
- Texas Board of Nursing 3.7.4.a Education Guideline Using Standardized Examinations (Revised: 5/25/2017)

Texas Board of Nursing Advisory Committee on Education (ACE)

September 25, 2017
9:05 a.m. – 9:58 a.m.
333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225
Austin, Texas 78701

Members Present:

Marla Erbin-Roesemann, PhD, RN, Chair

Alicia Anger, MSN, RN

Joan Becker, MA, RN

April Ernst, MSN, RN, CNE

Korbi Berryhill, RN, MSN, CRRN

Cheryl Livengood, MSN, RN

Peggy Roberts, LVN

Stephanie Woods, PhD, RN

Nancy Maebius, PhD, RN

Representing:

Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate
Nursing Education (TOBGNE)

Diploma Nursing Education

Texas Organization of Associate Degree Nursing
(TOADN)

Texas Association for Vocational Nurse Educators
(TAVNE-at large)

TAVNE- Community College Programs

Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional
Nursing Programs (TADDPNP)

Licensed Vocational Nurses Association of Texas
(LVNAT)

Texas Nurses Association (TNA)

TAVNE- Career School Programs

Members Absent:

Pamela Brashears, LVN

Cynthia Plonien, RN, DNP, CENP

Alyce Ashcraft, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF

Texas League of Vocational Nurses (TLVN)

Texas Organization of Nurse Executives (TONE)

Representing Texas League for Nursing (TLN)

Guests:

Kathy Hutto, Jackson Walker,

Mary Lee Pollard, PhD, RN, Dean, Excelsior College School of Nursing

Denise Rose, Jackson Walker

Monica Kidder, DNP, RN-BC, CNE, Covenant School of Nursing

Board Liaison:

none

Staff Present:

Kristin Benton, DNP, RN, Director of Nursing

Janice Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, Lead Nursing Consultant for Education

Virginia Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, Nursing Consultant for Education

Susan Lee, PhD, RN, CNE, Nursing Consultant for Education

Mary Beth Thomas, PhD, RN, FAAN, Nursing Consultant

John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel

Charges:

Review of Board Charge related to classroom and clinical hour requirements for VN programs

Review of Board Charge related to substantially equivalent education standards

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
CALL TO ORDER	<p>M. Erbin-Roesemann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. <p>M. Erbin-Roesemann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called roll. • A quorum was met. • Read the Board's mission statement. 	
REVIEW OF THE AGENDA	<p>M. Erbin-Roesemann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the agenda. 	<p>S. Woods motioned to approve the agenda.</p> <p>J. Becker seconded the motion.</p> <p>The committee voted unanimously to approve the agenda.</p> <p>Final Resolution: Motion carried.</p>
REVIEW OF THE MINUTES	<p>ACE Members and BON staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced themselves and the organizations they represent. <p>ACE Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the minutes from the July 25, 2017 ACE meeting. 	<p>N. Maebius motioned to approve the minutes.</p> <p>A. Ernst seconded the motion.</p> <p>The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.</p> <p>Final Resolution: Motion carried.</p>
REVIEW OF BOARD CHARGES TO ACE	<p>M. Erbin-Roesemann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed BON Charges to ACE. • Asked guests to introduce themselves. 	
REVIEW BOARD CHARGE	<p>K. Benton</p>	

**RELATED TO
CLASSROOM AND
CLINICAL HOURS
REQUIREMENTS
FOR VN
PROGRAMS**

- Presented background information related to Charge.
- Discussed the results of the survey, which was sent to VN programs.
- Referenced the handout related to survey and VN hours.
- Opened for questions and discussion.

Members discussed.

A.Ernst

- Presented TAVNE's suggestions for Proposed Changes to Board Rule 214.9 Program of Study.
- Suggested an Education Guideline be developed.

N. Maebius

- Reminded group that programs can elect to keep hours the same, if desired.

Members continued to discuss.

A.Ernst moved to recommend to the BON a rule change to Section 214.9 changing the required clinical instruction hours to a recommended ratio.

K. Berryhill seconded the motion.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Final Resolution: Motion carried.

**REVIEW OF
BOARD CHARGE
RELATED TO
SUBSTANTIALLY
EQUIVALENT
EDUCATION
STANDARDS**

K. Benton

- Reviewed draft of Substantially Equivalent Education Standards.

N. Maebius

- Requested definition of "general education courses".

Members discussed.

J. Vanderford

- Clarified that Charge #1 is to determine if there is an amount of hours that is considered “substantially equivalent.”

Members continued to discuss.

N. Maebius moved to recommend adoption of the definition provided by BON Staff with changes made by members of the ACE committee:

- Add diploma under first bullet.
- Change “general education” to “support” under second bullet.
- Delete “for” under third bullet.

K. Berryhill seconded the motion.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Final Resolution: The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.



Handouts:

- Meeting Minutes from July 25, 2017 ACE Meeting
- Substantially Equivalent Education Standards (Draft)
- Proposed change to Rule 214.9 Program of Study, TAVNE
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing Model Rules (2014)
- Vocational Nurse Educator Rule 214.9 Program Hours Survey

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
3.7.4.a. Education Guideline
The Use of Standardized Examinations in Nursing Education Programs
Revised: 09/28/2017

Many vocational and professional nursing education programs have incorporated the use of standardized examinations into the curriculum in various ways. Though the Texas Board of Nursing has no purview over a nursing program's decisions to utilize standardized examinations, Board Staff respond to numerous reports and questions from students, parents, and policy-makers about the use of standardized examinations, especially when they are used as a graduation requirement.

During 2017 Board Staff met with three vendors to clarify the intended purposes for standardized examinations and to assist nursing programs in their use. All agreed Standardized Examinations are one of many measures of program quality.

Suggested purposes for nursing programs to use standardized examinations include:

- an assessment tool of potential or enrolled students providing:
 - data serving as one component of the admission criteria;
 - a gauge of students' strengths and weaknesses for remediation purposes;
 - an indicator of the need for early remediation for students experiencing difficulties to assist in their success in the program; and/or
 - an assessment of readiness to take the NCLEX® examination.

- an assessment tool of the program's effectiveness providing:
 - trend data on cohort performance;
 - national comparison of student performance;
 - valid and reliable feedback of student knowledge in selected content areas;
 - data to monitor the effectiveness of specific course, level, and program curriculum revisions;
 - an assessment measure of student mastery of content; and/or
 - an evaluation of curriculum content for revision purposes.

- an assistive tool to familiarize students with computerized testing.

Based upon information from vendors who were interviewed, Board Staff recommend the following when standardized examinations are used by nursing programs.

- Individual examinations should be carefully placed across the curriculum with planned remediation as indicated. The correct placement of examinations is determined by the specific program of study.
- An academic progression policy should clarify the use, frequency, and points associated with standardized examinations and the use of the test results.
- The plan for the use of all standardized examinations should be reviewed with the school's legal counsel.

- The academic progression policy should be written and published in an accessible and public format.
- Any changes in policies regarding the use of standardized exams should be implemented when the student first enrolls in the program or at the beginning of a class or academic term.
- Policies should be consistently followed without exception.
- Students may be asked to sign their receipt of the academic progression policy.
- Faculty are encouraged to take advantage of information in reports in order to provide feedback that may be used to improve the curriculum and instructional strategies.

Note: Standardized examinations can be valuable tools to assist in the identification of student strengths and weaknesses but are not a replacement for faculty evaluation of student progress in meeting specific program objectives.

Cautions for the use of standardized examinations:

- The use of standardized examinations in a high stakes manner is not recommended. Performance on a standardized examination should not prevent students from progressing or graduating. If the score on a standardized examination prevents students from graduation, it is a “high stakes” test.
- Standardized examinations should be placed at appropriate points consistent with didactic content and clinical learning experiences.
- Programs should not pattern curriculum changes solely upon testing results but should consider multiple evaluation criteria in their curriculum evaluation.
- Programs should be aware of any security issues about the standardized examination test pool.

Evidence indicates that a remediation plan for nursing students is helpful in promoting success on the NCLEX® examination. Using standardized examinations as an indicator of the need for remediation is only one strategy to assist nursing students in successful preparation for licensure.