



Nursing Education Newsletter

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Texas Board of Nursing

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Greetings from the Education Consultants

Editor: Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC (our FROG Expert)



Find, Reflect, Organize, & Generate news = FROG

The Texas Board of Nursing Education Consultants have prepared this newsletter for information purposes for programs. Please share with the nursing faculty in your school.

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Did you know? . . .

On April 4, 2018, NCSBN Board President Katherine Thomas presented a special donation of \$140,000 to the Foundation of the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) to provide scholarships to qualified undergraduate nursing students. The check was presented during the NSNA Annual Convention in Nashville.



The Blue Card



As Texas nurse educators are aware, prospective students must undergo a criminal background check (CBC) completed through the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) based on a set of fingerprints provided to Identogo prior to entering a nursing education program. Five outcomes resultant to the CBC application are possibilities, with the Blue Card the most desirable.

- 1) Blue Card - Individuals whose CBC comes back completely clear are mailed a Blue Card within 10 business days of the Board receiving the DPS and FBI results.
- 2) Operations Outcome Letter - If an individual has an issue and it can be resolved without an in-depth Enforcement Department investigation, no fee is required and an Operations Outcome Letter is mailed to the applicant within 30 days.
- 3) Enforcement Outcome Letter - If the issue requires an in-depth Enforcement Department investigation, a Declaratory Order and a \$150 review fee are required. Within 10 business days of receipt of the Declaratory Order and fee, the file will be transferred to the Enforcement Department for review. An Enforcement Outcome Letter will be sent within 30 days.
- 4) Eligibility Order - The time needed to complete an eligibility review by the Enforcement Department varies on a case-by-case basis. The process generally takes an average of 90 days to make a recommendation, provided the file contains all the needed information. If additional information is required, the Enforcement Staff will notify the individual.
- 5) Denial – Petitioners who are denied can re-petition the Board at a later date. To determine the time frame, petitioners are advised to communicate with the Enforcement or Legal Department. Petitioners may also request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the State Office of Administrative Hearings by filing a written request with the Board, addressed to the General Counsel, within 60 dates of the denial date.

Meet our New Education Consultant

Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN is a Nursing Consultant for Education for the Texas Board of Nursing. Her 30 years of nursing experience have been dedicated to administration, management, and direct care with 12 of these years in nursing education as program director, student development coordinator, and faculty. Previously, Beverly served as Program Director for the Geriatric Behavioral Unit at Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen, Texas, five years as Corporate Director of Nursing for Origins Behavioral Health Care, South Padre Island, Texas and West Palm Beach, Florida, and 17 years in various roles at Valley Baptist, including Administrative Director of Nursing Education. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas at Tyler and a Master of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. In her spare time, she enjoys walking on the beach, fishing, boating, and dancing—all with her husband Ervin.



A Sampling from the 2017 NEPIS on Clinical Hours

A Sampling of Clinical Hours from the VN NEPIS

Twenty VN programs' NEPIS Reports were selected from the VN program data in the state to provide a description of ranges of clinical hours currently being used in VN education. All of these programs are functioning effectively with total enrollments between 10 and 198 in each program. The four areas for information in the NEPIS indicates the following ranges in hours for each:

Clinical learning activity	Range of Hours	Median Hours	Mean Hours
Computer activities	0 to 242	32	49
Skills lab	50 to 432	176	202
Simulation	0 to 122	42	45
Hands-on Patient Care	415 to 720	554	610

- Hours for **computer activities** that provide clinical practice had great variability with 13 of the 20 programs utilizing between 0 and 48 hours, the next six between 56 and 110 hours, and an outlier of 242 hours.
- Only three of the 20 programs require less than 100 hours in **skills labs**. Half of the programs required more than 200 hours in skills lab practice.
- Simulation** hours are used judiciously with 13 programs using less than 50 hours with one outlier of 122 hours.
- Hours in **hands-on** practice with actual patients clearly took the lead in the number of hours with most hands-on hours hovering between 500 and 700 hours. Across the country, there is a common feeling that hands-on supervised clinical practice with real patients should require around 500 hours for VN education.

A Sampling of Clinical Hours from the RN NEPIS

Twenty-five programs' NEPIS Reports were selected from the RN program data in the state to provide a description of ranges of clinical hours currently being used in RN education. The programs are active with total enrollments of 33 to 383 students each. The four areas for information in the NEPIS were reported as:

Clinical learning activity	Range of Hours		Median Hours		Mean Hours	
	ADN	BSN	ADN	BSN	ADN	BSN
Computer activities	0 to 153	0 to 128	30	30	35	40
Skills lab	64 to 400	76 to 291	144	140	170	157
Simulation	20 to 256	32 to 278	84	112	102	121
Hands-on Patient Care	420 to 706	400 to 1012	514	620	539	647
Totals ADN + BSN				557		582

- Hours for **computer activities** seemed more conservative for RN programs, perhaps because RN programs were not held to a specific number of clinical hours whereas VN programs were having to add computer activities to reach the desired number.
- All of the reports indicated that **skills labs** were a regular part of the curriculum plan with a few outliers indicating up to 400 hours were spent in skills lab practice.
- All of the 25 programs included **simulation** experiences in their clinical activities, though more were reported on the lower end of the spectrum. Without studying this area more closely, the effectiveness of simulation cannot be explored.
- Hands-on patient care** hours remains the largest part of clinical learning because the dimension of context is added with real patients creating the highest level in learning for nursing students. In a scan of clinical affiliating agencies, most of clinical practice by nursing students continues to be in the acute care setting. BSN programs tend to plan more activities in community settings.



The Next Generation NCLEX

For updates and news about the next generation NCLEX (NGN), you may subscribe to a free newsletter from NCSBN on their web site: www.ncsbn.org using the link for NCLEX.

Research on the new items is underway. Graduates taking the NCLEX-RN examination have the opportunity to take some of the new items when they finish taking the NCLEX examination through July 2018. The data will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the new items in measuring **Clinical Judgment**. Research is also underway for the design of new items for the NCLEX-PN examination.

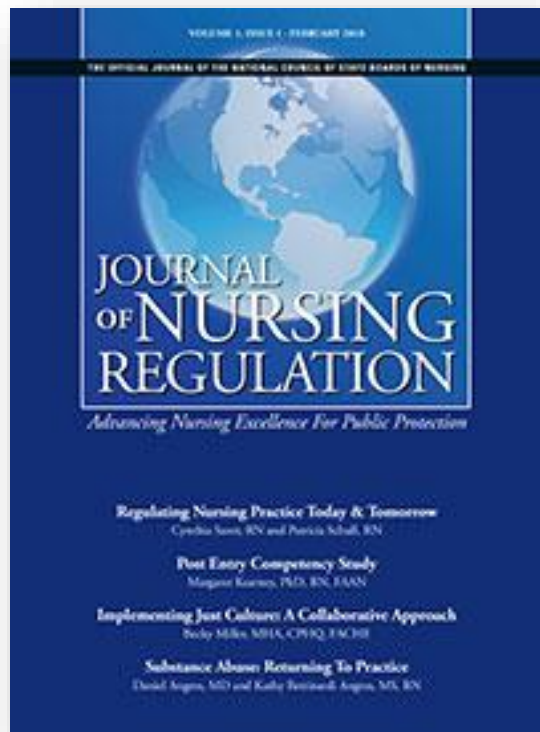
You are invited to email questions about the NGN to Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov to be used in an FAQ section of a future education newsletter.

October 2017 JNR Article about Texas Programs

Virginia Ayars and Jan Hooper have published an article in the October 2017 *Journal of Nursing Regulation* entitled "How Texas Nursing Education Programs Increased NCLEX Pass Rates and Improved Programming" – FOCUSED ON YOU, the Texas programs. The article provides findings from 27 VN and 61 RN nursing programs' Self Study Reports, and identifies common program factors and planned interventions to improve pass rates. The most frequently mentioned areas for improvement included:

- revising admission and readmission criteria;
- identifying at-risk students and providing study helps and remediation;
- revising and reinforcing program policies;
- updating curriculum;
- basing program decisions on program evaluation data; and
- evaluating the use of standardized examinations in the program.

You can access this article on the NCSBN website: www.ncsbn.org by searching for the *Journal of Nursing Regulation*.



Changes to Rule 214 Regarding Clinical/Classroom Hours

Because of a need to develop standard definitions for both vocational nursing (VN) and professional nursing (RN) education in Texas, the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) studied the required clinical and class hours in Rule 214. Considering the concern that lessening the hours might affect NCLEX pass rates, ACE found that 25 state boards do not specify the numbers for hours in nursing programs and 16 states experience pass rates in the 90s. VN programs were surveyed with about half of respondents "liking" fewer required hours, especially due to clinical scarcities across the state. At the October Board meeting, ACE recommended changing the language in Rule 214 to match Rule 215 stating that hours in clinical learning experiences should be sufficient to meet program of study requirements. Programs shall develop a rationale for the ratio of contact hours assigned to classroom and clinical learning experiences, the suggested ratio being one contact hour of didactic to three contact hours of related clinical learning experiences.

Clinical practice learning experiences shall include actual hours of practice in nursing skills and computer laboratories; simulated clinical experiences; faculty supervised hands-on clinical care; clinical conferences; and observation experiences. Observation experiences provide supplemental learning experiences that meet specific learning objectives.

The focus during clinical practice time in all nursing programs should be placed on providing or offering optimal experiences with carefully planned quality activities that meet clinical objectives and allow growth in clinical decision-making.

The following Education Guidelines will assist programs in making decisions about clinical hours:

- Education Guideline 3.7.2.a. Meeting Program of Study Objectives through Clinical Learning Experiences
- Education Guideline 3.8.7.a. Faculty Guide to Promoting Optimal Clinical Instruction

The change in the rules does not mean that programs have to change their hours but gives flexibility for change to meet the needs of the current environment.

However, revisions in program hours does constitute a MAJOR CURRICULUM CHANGE and requires Board Staff approval.

Do LVN-to-RN Students need to retake the Jurisprudence Exam?

The following question was submitted to the education consultants by Dr. Dianna Miller, Director of the Laredo Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program and Vocational Nursing Program:

In our Capstone Course we expect the students to take the Jurisprudence Exam. However, some of the LVN students stated that they were told "you can only take it once" yet others don't have a problem taking it again. We want to make sure they are still up to par on the Rules & Regulations. Please advise.

We contacted the Exam Department for clarification and the response follows:

*The NJE is a one-time requirement, and the BON can/will transfer the results from one application type to another application type. If a person attempts to take the NJE a second time **for the same application type** they should receive a system error. However, if a person took it once as an LVN applicant, and then submits an application for an RN exam, then the system will recognize that as being a different application type and let them through again.*

Upcoming Education Events

Quarterly Board Meeting

The next Quarterly Board Meeting is

July 20 & 21, 2018 at the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas.

Board Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Board of Nursing website under the **News** heading.

Deans & Directors Orientation

June 22, 2018 from 8:00 to 4:00 at the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas,

Contact Us

Education Questions
(512) 305-6816

Education FAQs

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Nursing
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Choosing an RN-to-BSN Program

If your program is an Associate Degree Nursing Education Program, your students will probably be interested in proceeding to an RN-to-BSN program. The growth in RN-to-BSN education has been explosive and as you encourage your students to move ahead, offer them guidance in choosing the best program for them.

In an FAQ on the BON website, Board Staff suggest that nurses consider the following criteria when choosing an RN-to-BSN program:

- Is the RN-to-BSN program located in an accredited institution?
- Is the program accredited by a national nursing accreditation agency?
- Will the curriculum advance the student's nursing knowledge and skills?
- Does the curriculum match the nurse's career goals?
- Are the courses scheduled in a fashion that will enhance the educational experience?
- How many qualified faculty participate in the teaching? What are the faculty credentials and contributions to nursing scholarship?
- Does the program include clinical practice?

It is helpful to speak with a current or previous student of a program for the student perspective. Board Staff encourage all nurses to further their education and advise students to make choices that will optimize their careers.

RN-to-BSN Programs in Public Community Colleges

The Texas Legislative Session 85(R) passed Senate Bill 2118 authorizing the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to approve certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs, including a BSN in nursing. The public junior colleges must meet the requirements in SB 2118 and seek approval from THECB and from the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) [Sec. 130.308(b)(2)]. Sec. 130.308(b)(2) requires that *A baccalaureate degree program offered under this subchapter by a public junior college in the field of nursing must . . . meet the standards and criteria the Texas Board of Nursing uses to approve pre-licensure degree programs at general academic institutions . . .*

Staff from the BON and THECB have worked collaboratively on a process to handle applications from community colleges interested in establishing a baccalaureate degree program.

THECB staff have established rules and an application for implementation of SB 2118, and BON Staff have developed Education Guideline 3.1.1.g. for a proposal addressing requirements for a baccalaureate program based upon Rule 215 *Professional Nursing Education*. Each of the documents is cross-referenced to the other agency's complimentary instructions and forms.

If you have further questions, please contact the education consultants at the BON or THECB Staff.

Texas Board of Nursing Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) Offerings:

Please visit the CNE Course Catalog at <https://www.bon.texas.gov/catalog/> for more information regarding continuing education activities.

<p>Upcoming Workshops</p>	<p>Protecting Your Patients and Your Practice, Nursing Jurisprudence & Ethics @ # This workshop has been approved for 8.4 contact hours (\$109 – pre-registration / \$125 – walk-in, if space available)</p> <p>Wed., June 13, 2018 DoubleTree by Hilton, Houston, TX</p> <p>Wed., Aug. 15, 2018 Hilton Arlington, Arlington, TX</p> <p>Wed., Nov. 7, 2018 Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Airport, Corpus Christi, TX</p> <p>Wed., Nov. 14, 2018 Embassy Suites, San Marcos, TX</p>
<p>Online Courses</p>	<p>Nursing Regulation for Safe Practice @ # – 2.0 contact hours (\$25)</p> <p>Documentation: So Let It Be Said . . . In Writing That Is # – 1.4 contact hour (\$25)</p> <p>Prescriptive Authority for APRNs – ^ 1.0 contact hour (\$25)</p> <p>Determining APRN Scope of Practice # – 1.0 contact hour (\$25)</p>

Legend

- @ This course meets the 2-Hour CNE requirement for nursing jurisprudence and ethics established during the 2013 Legislative Session.
- # This continuing nursing education offering was approved by the Texas Board of Nursing. The Texas Board of Nursing is an approved provider of continuing education by the Alabama Board of Nursing, ABNP1509, expiration date August 17, 2020.
- ^ This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the Texas Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation through May 12, 2018. From May 12, 2018 to May 12, 2020, approved by the Texas Board of Nursing is an approved provider of continuing education by the Alabama Board of Nursing, ABNP1509, expiration date August 17, 2020.

We welcome any and all feedback concerning our newsletter. If there is anything that you are interested in learning about, please let us know. We are here to assist you and look forward to hearing from you.
