



Nursing Education Newsletter

Fall 2019

Texas Board of Nursing

Volume 7 Number 2

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Greetings from the Education Consultants

Editor: Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, APRN, 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.

Our Colleagues at the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies



From left to right are: Pamela Lauer, MPH, TCNWS; Amanda Ingram, MPH, TCNWS; Cate Campbell, MPH, TCNWS; Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, FAAN, ANEF, Lead Nursing Consultant for Education; Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, Nursing Consultant for Education; Ann Amaefule, MSN, RN, Nursing Consultant for Education.

BON education consultants meet with Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) Staff every spring to review the Nursing Education Program Information Survey or NEPIS, documents and make any revisions or additions. TCNWS staff in the photo are the ones who review the NEPIS and analyze the data. An Advisory Committee reviews the forms and data during regular meetings. The data are available online at www.dshs.state.tx.us under Nursing Education Program data. The reports are also used by the Legislature as evidence in considering the passage of new bills.

Upcoming Events

2020 Quarterly Board Meetings

January 23-24, 2020

April 23-24, 2020

July 23-24, 2020

October 22-23, 2020

All Board Meetings are held 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.

Contact Information

Nursing Education
PH: (512) 305-6816

Education Guidelines

Education FAQs

Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe
Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701

www.bon.texas.gov

Program Director Turnover

Since September 2018, Board Staff have approved **65** new program directors for VN and RN nursing programs. The Education Consultants maintain a log listing new directors and their approval dates. New directors are required to review a New Director Module and attend a New Director Orientation Workshop in Austin. Being a nursing program director is a challenging position and turnover is common. A new section on leadership has been added to the New Director Orientation.

New Program Director Approval Process

Program Directors for nursing programs must be approved by Board Staff before they can assume the position. Education Guideline 3.4.1.a. provides instructions for the application process. The outgoing director should provide a letter of resignation to the Education Consultants. The required documents to be submitted to the Education Consultants are:

- New Director Qualification Form completed by the proposed director
- Curriculum Vitae of the proposed director
- Copies of transcripts
- Letter from administration advising of the plan to appoint the new director and effective date of change

When the new director is approved by Board Staff, an official approval letter is provided to the administration and the new director receives information leading to an assignment of an official code to sign Affidavits of Graduation and other formal documents.

Contact information is changed on the BON web site and the new director receives the New Director Orientation Module. The new director is expected to attend the next New Director Orientation Workshop in Austin. Orientation sessions are held three times a year and are usually in February, July, and September.

Invitation to Administrators:

The Education Consultants extend an invitation to administrators of schools/colleges where there are nursing programs to attend a New Director Orientation Workshop. Three orientations are scheduled in Austin each year. This is an excellent way for us to get to meet program representatives, answer their questions, and familiarize them with the education rules. When you are attending one of the workshops, extend the invitation to your administrators.

Reminder!



Board Rule 215.6 Administration and Organization, Section (f) sets forth that “Each professional nursing education program shall be administered by a qualified individual who is accountable for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the professional nursing education program. The dean or director shall . . . not carry a teaching load of more than three clock hours per week if required to teach.” Therefore, it would be a violation of Board rule if an

individual were to be employed as a Nursing Program Director at one educational entity while employed as a nursing faculty member at another educational entity. The Education Consultants have encountered these situations and allegation of violation(s) of the Nursing Practice Act or Board rules and regulations mandate that Board Staff report to the Enforcement Division.

NCSBN Offers Online Courses for Nursing Faculty

NCSBN offers online continuing education courses with three specific for nursing educators:



- Understanding the NCLEX – A Guide for Nursing Educators
- Test Development and Item Writing
- Assessment of Critical Thinking

You can access these and many other courses on the NCSBN web site (www.ncsbn.org) under Resources. There is a modest fee but continuing education credits are awarded.

Task Force Meeting, July 15, 2019

The second meeting of the Task Force (TF) to Study Implications of Growth in Nursing Education Programs in Texas met on July 15, 2019, in the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas, to continue working on the official Board charge to “create a dialogue between nursing education and clinical partners to facilitate optimal clinical learning experiences for all constituents.” The meeting was well attended by both education and practice.

During the meeting, discussion continued about using a world café format. The process was explained and the group participated in a mock world café. Afterwards, the group agreed to collaborate with the Texas Organization of Nurse Executives (TONE) in planning a larger world café in 2020 as part of a workshop. This meeting will allow education and practice to discuss strategies and best practices in clinical learning experiences that would be beneficial to students, nurses, clinical settings, and patients/families. The Title for the planned World Café is ***The Future of Nursing in Texas: Achieving Alignment in Academia and Practice***. Participants will be invited guests who represent nursing education, nursing organizations, advanced practice, and clinical partners. Expect a future publication that documents the outcomes of this event.

Did you know? . . .



During the 86th Regular Texas Legislative Session, the passage of House Bill 2059 amended the Nursing Practice Act by adding Section 301.308. Subsection (a) requires a license holder who provides direct patient care, as part of a continuing competency program under Section 301.303 (Continuing Competency), to complete a human trafficking prevention course. This new requirement for continuing education related to human tracking prevention becomes effective for licensure renewal on or after September 1, 2020. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will develop a continuing education program or review and approve existing programs. Once the courses are provided, the Board will offer a direct link to the HHSC website to access further information.

Special Accommodation for Taking the NCLEX

Board Staff receive many questions about accommodations for students, especially accommodations allowed during the NCLEX examination. Testing accommodations for qualified candidates will only be approved for the NCLEX after authorization from the individual board of nursing in the state where the program is located.

The Texas Board of Nursing web page states that:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) provides reasonable accommodations for candidates with disabilities that may interfere with their performance on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®) or the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN®). Disability is defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act as a “physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment.” Major life activities mean “functions such as caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working.” (28CFR35.104 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government)

Many programs allow students extra time, the use of dictionaries during tests, or other specific helps that students may request. All of the accommodations that programs allow may not be approved accommodations when the student takes the NCLEX examination. The documents required by the Texas BON when students apply for accommodations for the NCLEX include a Professional Documentation of Disability form completed by a qualified professional within the last three years. A Consent to Release information must accompany the Professional Documentation of Disability to enable to Board and NCSBN to obtain additional information as needed to process the request.

Students applying for accommodations are encouraged to submit their requests and documents as early as possible in the application process to facilitate the review. For additional questions, please contact BON staff at 512-305-7400.

The Next Generation NCLEX (NGN)

The NGN is a measurement model and has been proven to measure the competencies of new graduates to identify and analyze patient cues (assessment plus), form and test hypotheses (plan nursing care based upon the cues), take action (implement care based upon cues and hypotheses), and evaluate the effectiveness of the care. It is not a linear model but a circular, cylindrical, zig-zag model based upon the context and the changing patient dynamics. Please read the information on the NCSBN web site under NCLEX and NGN including regular Next Generation NCLEX News. It is not important to worry about how to write the questions, but to teach students to use critical thinking and clinical reasoning!

What is DACA?

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an immigration option for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States before the age of 16. Although DACA does not provide a pathway to lawful permanent residence, it does provide temporary protection from deportation, work authorization, and the ability to apply for a social security number.

The Education Consultants are receiving increased numbers of telephone and e-mail inquiries about DACA and implications for NCLEX candidates. As each state's Nursing Practice Act is different, so may be the state's requirements for NCLEX eligibility. The Board does not require United States citizenship or a social security number for the NCLEX application process. According to Francely Rogers, Program Supervisor, Examination Department, the Board does not ask for a copy of the identification (ID) documents at the time the candidate submits the NCLEX application. However, Board Staff may request an ID if a discrepancy is noted in the name or date of birth and Staff need to confirm the information before making an update or correction.

When the candidate goes to their NCLEX appointment, the ID must be government-issued, not expired, and include the name in Roman characters. The candidate must also provide a recent photo and signature.

Examples of acceptable forms of identification for domestic test centers are:

- passport books and cards
- driver's license
- provincial/territorial or state identification card
- permanent residence card
- military identification card

The only identifications acceptable for international test centers, including Puerto Rico, include:

- passport books and passport card

Further information is available at the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) website at: <https://www.ncsbn.org/1221.htm>.

Nursing education programs in Texas are given the authority by Board Rule 214/215.6 Administration and Organization to direct the nursing education program in all its phases, including . . . admission, progression, probation, dismissal of students, and enforcement of student policies. Consequently, admission criteria may vary among the Board approved programs.

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

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

Upcoming Workshops

Protecting Your Patients and Your Practice, Nursing Jurisprudence & Ethics @ #

\$109 – pre-registration / \$125 – walk-in, if space available

This workshop has been approved for 8.6 contact hours

Wed, Nov 6, 2020	DoubleTree by Hilton Hobby Airport	Houston, TX
Tues, March 10, 2020	University of Texas Commons Conference Center	Austin, TX
Wed, June 10, 2020	Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Waco	Waco, TX
Wed, Sept 16, 2020	Hilton Arlington	Arlington, TX
Wed, Nov 4, 2020	DoubleTree by Hilton Houston Hobby	Houston, TX
Tues, Nov 10, 2020	Omni Corpus Christi Hotel	Corpus Christi, TX

Online Courses

Determining APRN Scope of Practice # 1.4 contact hour (\$25)

Documentation: So Let It Be Said . . . In Writing That Is # 1.4 contact hour (\$25)

Nursing Regulation for Safe Practice @ # 2.0 contact hours (\$25)

Prescriptive Authority for APRNs # 1.2 contact hour (\$25)

Please review our [system requirements](#).

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.

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