

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING  
3.7.1.a. EDUCATION GUIDELINE  
Proposals for Curriculum Changes**

**Revised: 03/19/19**

Rule 214.9 *Program of Study* sets forth the requirements for vocational nursing education programs planning to implement a major curriculum change. Rule 215.9 *Program of Study* sets forth the requirements for professional pre-licensure nursing education programs (diploma, associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or entry-level master's degree) planning to implement a major curriculum change.

<p>Rule 214.9(i) Curriculum changes shall be developed by the faculty according to Board standards and shall include information outlined in the Board Education Guideline 3.7.1.a. Proposals for Curriculum Changes. The two (2) types of curriculum changes are:</p> <p>(1) Minor curriculum changes not requiring prior Board Staff approval, which may include:</p> <p>(A) Editorial updates of philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes; or</p> <p>(B) Redistribution of course content or course hours; and</p> <p>(2) Major curriculum changes requiring Board Staff approval prior to implementation, which may include:</p> <p>(A) Changes in program philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes which result in a reorganization or re-conceptualization of the entire curriculum, including but not limited to, changing from a block to an integrated curriculum or changing the approved delivery method of the curriculum to methods consistent with distance education/learning;</p> <p>(B) the addition of tracks or alternate programs of study including advanced placement or Dual-Credit High School programs that provide educational mobility;</p> <p>(C) Revisions in program hours; and</p> <p>(D) Addition/reduction of course(s) in the program of study.</p>	<p>Rule 215.9(i) Curriculum changes shall be developed by the faculty according to Board standards and shall include information outlined in the Board Education Guideline 3.7.1.a. Proposals for Curriculum Changes. The two (2) types of curriculum changes are:</p> <p>(1) Minor curriculum changes not requiring prior Board Staff approval include:</p> <p>(A) Editorial updates of philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes; or</p> <p>(B) Redistribution of course content or course hours; and</p> <p>(2) Major curriculum changes requiring Board Staff approval prior to implementation, which may include:</p> <p>(A) Changes in program philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes which result in a reorganization or re-conceptualization of the entire curriculum, including but not limited to, changing from a block to an integrated curriculum, or from a traditional to concept-based curriculum, or changing the approved delivery method of the curriculum to methods consistent with distance education/learning;</p> <p>(B) The addition of transition course(s), tracks/alternative programs of study, including MEEP and Dual-Credit High School programs that provide educational mobility;</p> <p>(C) Revisions in program hours; and</p> <p>(D) Addition/reduction of course(s) in the program of study.</p>
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Nursing education programs planning major curriculum changes shall submit a curriculum change proposal, as outlined in Board Education Guideline 3.7.1.a., to the Board office for approval at least four months prior to implementation.

All nursing education programs implementing any curriculum change shall submit to Board Staff an evaluation of the outcomes of the implemented curriculum change through the first graduating class under the new curriculum.

Important: Please note that references to Rule 214 and Rule 215 are not all inclusive.

## **I. Information to be included in a Curriculum Change Proposal For a Major Curriculum Revision of the Entire Curriculum**

### **Examples:**

- reorganization or reconceptualization of the entire curriculum,
- changing from a block to an integrated curriculum,
- changing from a traditional to a concept-based curriculum
- revisions in program hours, or
- addition/reduction of course(s) in the program of study.

### **Required Information in Proposal:**

1. an introduction giving a brief overview of the proposed changes;
2. date of implementation of change;
3. rationale for the curriculum changes;
4. new and old philosophy/mission, major concepts, program objectives/outcomes, course objectives/outcomes;
5. tables showing new and old curriculum plans;
6. table indicating hours required in clinical learning experiences (see pages 5-6);
7. time line for implementation of changes with teach-out plan for old curriculum;
8. sample syllabi, if syllabi are being changed;
9. clinical evaluation tools for each clinical course;
10. effects on students and faculty;
11. resources needed to implement the change;
12. additional information, as requested, in order to provide clarity; and
13. plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum change.

## **II. Information to be included in a Change in Format of Delivery for Curriculum**

### **Example: changing from face-to-face to hybrid or total online delivery**

### **Required Information in Proposal:**

1. an introduction giving a brief overview of the proposed changes;
2. start date and graduation of first cohort from this track;
3. rationale for the curriculum changes;
4. changes in philosophy and program objectives;
5. tables showing new and old curriculum plans, labeling online courses;
6. will students join traditional classes at a point in the curriculum?
7. table indicating hours required in clinical learning experiences (see pages 5-6);
8. time line for teach-out of students in old curriculum;
9. sample syllabi for online courses; (Are courses different from the traditional model?)
10. clinical evaluation tools, if changed;
11. projected effects on students and faculty;
12. resources need to implement change;
13. a plan for IT support for faculty and students;
14. additional information as requested; and
15. plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the online curriculum model.

### III. Addition of Tracks or Alternate Programs of Study

#### Examples:

- advanced placement tracks;
- alternate programs of study; or
- Dual-Credit High-School (separate guideline; see below)

#### Required Information in Proposal:

1. an introduction giving a brief overview of the new track or alternate program;
2. start date and graduation of first cohort from this track or program;
3. rationale for the additional track or program;
4. changes in philosophy and program objectives with addition of track or program;
5. tables showing traditional and new track/program curriculum plans;
6. will admission criteria be different for students in the new track or program?
7. plan for advanced placement or transferred courses;
8. will applicants be evaluated for their knowledge and skills upon admission?
9. what are the enrollment caps and plans for admission points?
10. will students be exempt from any required courses?
11. will students join traditional classes at a point in the curriculum?
12. table indicating hours required in clinical learning experiences (see pages 5-6);
13. sample syllabi for courses in new track or program; transition courses, if added;
14. schedule for classes and clinicals for the first year;
15. clinical evaluation tools, if different from traditional program;
16. projected effects on students and faculty;
17. resources need to implement change;
18. additional information as requested; and
19. plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the new track or program.

**Dual Credit High School Program:** Please follow Education Guideline 3.7.5.a.

### IV. Changing Class/Clinical Hours in Vocational Nursing Programs (related to Rule changes):

#### Background:

The Board of Nursing approved rule changes to Rule 214.9 in October 2017 aligning class and clinical hour requirements in Rule 214 with Rule 215 for Professional Nursing Education Programs stating: *Hours in clinical experiences shall be sufficient to meet program of study requirements. There shall be a rationale for the ratio of contact hours assigned to classroom and clinical learning experiences. The suggested ratio is one (1) contact hour of didactic to three (3) contact hours of related clinical learning experience.*"

VN programs planning to make revisions in program hours related to these rule changes are required to submit a major curriculum change proposal for Board staff approval at least four months prior to implementation of the change [Rule 214.9(i)(2)(C)]. This supplement focuses specifically on changes in program hours.

**Required Information in Proposal:**

1. description of proposed changes in hours;
2. rationale for change in hours;
3. table showing old curriculum plan and new curriculum plan;
4. indication of changes in courses (course names, credit hours, content, objectives);
5. clinical experiences for each clinical area (medical-surgical, geriatric, adult, maternal-child, pediatric);
6. clinical objectives for each clinical course;
7. clinical evaluation tools for each clinical course;
8. plan to evaluate the effectiveness of changes; and
9. description of effects of changes on teaching workloads.

**Note for all changes:**

The director and faculty shall determine that the proposed curriculum changes comply with all requirements in Rules 214.9 or 215.9 *Program of Study*.

Please consider whether the curriculum change must be approved by other regulators (national nursing accreditation organizations, the Texas Workforce Commission, or the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board). If so, approval documents should be included and will be considered in the Board approval process.

## Proposed Curriculum Chart

**Name of Program/School:**

**Type of Program:**

(See definitions below the table for classification of hours)

First Level or Semester	Course Number/Title	Semester Credit Hours	Classroom Instruction Hours	Computer Activities – Hours	Nursing Skills Lab Hours	Simulation Lab Hours	Hands-on Clinical Practice with Patients
<b>Total</b>							

Second Level or Semester	Course Number/Title	Semester Credit Hours	Classroom Instruction Hours	Computer Activities – Hours	Nursing Skills Lab Hours	Simulation Lab Hours	Hands-on Clinical Practice with Patients
<b>Total</b>							

Third Level or Semester	Course Number/Title	Semester Credit Hours	Classroom Instruction Hours	Computer Activities – Hours	Nursing Skills Lab Hours	Simulation Lab Hours	Hands-on Clinical Practice with Patients
<b>Total</b>							

Fourth Level or Semester	Course Number/Title	Semester Credit Hours	Classroom Instruction Hours	Computer Activities – Hours	Nursing Skills Lab Hours	Simulation Lab Hours	Hands-on Clinical Practice with Patients
<b>Total</b>							

Fifth Level or Semester	Course Number/Title	Semester Credit Hours	Classroom Instruction Hours	Computer Activities – Hours	Nursing Skills Lab Hours	Simulation Lab Hours	Hands-on Clinical Practice with Patients
<b>Total</b>							

Sixth Level or Semester	Course Number/Title	Semester Credit Hours	Classroom Instruction Hours	Computer Activities – Hours	Nursing Skills Lab Hours	Simulation Lab Hours	Hands-on Clinical Practice with Patients
<b>Total</b>							

**Definitions from the NEPIS Survey Form:**

Computer Activities: computer activities with planned clinical objectives which may include virtual clinical excursions or VCEs, interactive tutorials, and learning modules that are carried out as student assignments; separate from didactic.

Nursing Skills Lab: includes low- and medium-fidelity situations that include skill sets, task training, and return demonstration, and may mimic the clinical environment.

Simulation Lab: high-fidelity simulated clinical situations that include orientation, learning objectives, and simulation experiences in a realistic patient scenario guided by trained faculty and followed by a debriefing and evaluation of student performance.

Hands-on Clinical Practice with Actual Patients in a Clinical Setting: includes all faculty-supervised activities in the clinical setting, observational experiences, and clinical conferences.