



Nursing Education Newsletter

Texas Board of Nursing

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Greetings from the Education Consultants

A word from the Editor, Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC (our FROG Expert)

Find, Reflect, Organize, & Generate news = FROG.



Just when I think I am right on target, somebody keeps moving my lily pads!

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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Publishing Statements about Board Approval and/or Accreditation

The approval of nursing education programs by the Board of Nursing is called "approval". Once your program has completed the approval process with the Texas Board of Nursing, you may indicate on your web page or official documents that your (Board approved) program "is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing."

If your program is accredited by either the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), you may indicate on your web page or official documents that your nursing program is "accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education" or "accredited by the Accreditation for Education in Nursing."

I hope this helps clarify the difference between APPROVAL and ACCREDITATION. It is important that any published information is correct.

Upcoming Events

Quarterly Board Meeting

The Next Quarterly Board Meeting is July 21-22, 2016 at the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. Board Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Texas Board of Nursing website under the News heading.

Deans, Directors and, Coordinators Orientation

The next Deans, Directors, and Coordinators Orientation is scheduled for Friday, June 24, 2016.

Please contact Jackie Ballesteros for more information at (512) 305-6850

Secrets of Effective Online Courses

Data from the 2015 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) shows the use of online education in nursing education in Texas.

Type of Program	Vocational (VN)	Professional (RN)
Entire didactic curriculum online	1 program	5 programs (2 LVN to ADN; 2 BSN)
Select courses online	19 programs	47 programs (19 ADN; 2 LVN to ADN; 26 BSN)
Web-enhanced or hybrid	26 programs	74 programs (1 diploma; 35 ADN; 3 LVN to ADN; 35 BSN)
No online courses	56 programs	28 programs

(Note: Programs may have answered twice if they have both select courses and web-enhanced courses.)

How can we evaluate the effectiveness of these models in nursing education? To fulfill a Texas Team Education Committee sub-goal "to develop a faculty student distance learning model using technology", Board Staff with the help of Dr. Kathryn Tart and Dr. Beth Mancini, and with input from the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board, developed a guideline for distance education in Texas Nursing Education Programs.

It can be found on the BON web page: www.bon.texas.gov under Education and Guidelines. It is at the very end of the list of guidelines and includes a slide presentation.

Basically, the criteria for excellence in distance education include:

- Institutional support;
- Established standards;
- Ongoing evaluation;
- Reliable technology that is easy to use;
- Student interaction;
- Prompt feedback from faculty to students;
- Student support, including an orientation;
- Comprehensive course materials;
- Online library resources;
- Agreement on deadlines;
- Accessible policies;
- Faculty tech support and resources; and
- Inclusion of distance education in the institutional evaluation plan.

Nursing Education Programs with High School Entry Tracks

The education consultants recently became aware of widespread interest in nursing education programs establishing high school entry options. A dual credit high school program leading to initial nursing licensure is different from other dual credit high school programs as the program is preparing graduates for eligibility to take the NCLEX examination for a nursing license. After gathering information about high school entry tracks and meeting with representatives from the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Texas Education Agency, the education consultants developed Education Guideline 3.7.5.a. Establishing a Dual Credit High School Track in Nursing. This document presents the required steps in planning a dual credit high school track in nursing as well as the essential elements for Board approval.

Essentials for Board Approval:

- The nursing program should control or participate in the admission criteria and selection.
- The dual credit program must comply with all requirements in Board Rule 214 Vocational Nursing Education and Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education.
- The basic Board-approved curriculum including clinical practice and clinical objectives shall be consistent with the main program.

Report of the NCLEX Regional Workshop

The Education Consultants thank Rachel Reichman and Nicole Williams for the presentation of the NCLEX Regional Workshop on April 1, 2016, in Austin, Texas. Additionally, the consultants thank the Board for supporting the event, and Jackie Ballesteros for planning and managing the day. This workshop is provided as a service by NCSBN and includes information about the development and scoring of the NCLEX examination, as well as tips on item writing in NCLEX style. The total attendance of nursing directors, faculty, and Board Staff was about 100.

Here are some of the comments from the workshop attendees:

- *Thank you ladies for a wonderful workshop. It was very enlightening and I can't wait to share with my staff*
- *Very effective program. Enjoyed interactive writing the items! Thanks*
- *The conference was excellent, especially being a new professor. I will definitely use the gained knowledge*
- *All information was very important to preparing students to be successful on the NCLEX exam*
- *Excellent as usual. Updates given relating to test plan changes were explained and confirmed*
- *Please have more of "Education courses" here in Texas! We really, really need this*

THECB Released Request for Application for Nursing Innovation Grant Program

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) announced a new Request for Applications (RFA) for the Nursing Innovation Grant Program (NIGP) on May 10, 2016. The grant competition, *Building Simulation and Skills Lab Capacity*, solicits applications that propose to develop simulation and skills labs to expand capacity of nursing programs that prepare students for initial licensure as registered nurses (RN). The overall goals of a proposed project are to shift clinical hours from traditional patient care clinical situations to simulation activities, to enhance students' readiness for hands-on patient care, and to increase student enrollment and retention.

An eligible applicant is a program, approved by the Texas Board of Nursing, that prepares students for initial licensure as RNs, including nursing programs at Texas public institutions of higher education and Texas independent higher education institutions, as defined in Texas Education Code 61.003. A nursing program currently designated as Conditional Approval by the Texas Board of Nursing is not an eligible applicant (Texas Administrative Code, Section 215.4).

Application deadline for the grant competition is August 15, 2016, 5:00 p.m. CDT. THECB anticipates announcing grant awards by November 1, 2016. The Grant Period will begin approximately on January 1, 2017 and conclude on December 31, 2018.

The RFA document and the Application forms (as Word documents) are available on the THECB website, <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/NIGPApp>. Questions about the grant competition should be emailed to the NIGP program contact at THECB, Dr. Fu-An Lin, Program Director, at Fu-An.Lin@thecb.state.tx.us.

2016: Year for Program Certificates of Board Approval

Contact Us

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Education FAQs

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Did you know. . .

*All Board-approved nursing programs received BON-approval certificates **following the April Board meeting**. These are official documents from the Board of Nursing and may be displayed in the nursing programs. Approval certificates are awarded on even-numbered years per rule requirement for a biennial approval schedule.*