ACEN Compliance with U.S. Department of Education Standards for Prelicensure Nursing Education

This is a brief summary of the elements of nursing education that ACEN reviews when accrediting programs.

**Student Achievement:** Must address attainment of student learning outcomes. Program outcomes are focused on first time passing of NCLEX®, program completion, placement, employee and graduate satisfaction.

**Curriculum:** Must incorporate professional standards, clear student learning outcomes and program outcomes. Evaluation methodologies may be varied. There must be appropriate practice learning environments.

**Faculty:** Baccalaureate, associate degree and diploma program faculty members (full time and part time) are academically and experientially qualified with expertise in their areas of responsibility; and must be credentialed with a minimum of a master's degree with a major in nursing. Rationale for acceptance of other than the minimum required graduate credential is considered.

Practical nursing faculty members (full time and part time) are academically and experientially qualified with expertise in their areas of responsibility. Majority (at least 50 percent) of full-time nursing faculty engaged in didactic teaching are credentialed with a minimum of a master's degree in nursing. Other faculty must have a baccalaureate in nursing degree.

**Facilities:** Must be adequate to ensure achievement of program outcomes.

**Fiscal and Administrative Capacity:** Baccalaureate program administrator must have a graduate degree with a major in nursing and an earned doctorate. Program administrators of associate degree, diploma and practical/vocational nurse programs must have a minimum of a graduate degree in nursing. There must be sufficient time and authority to administer, and the communities of interest must have input.

**Student Support:** There must be clear information regarding policies and they are congruent with governing organization. There must also be an orientation to technology. Any changes must be clearly communicated.

**Student Complaints:** Must have records documenting due process and resolution.

**Compliance with Title IV:** Must clearly address Title IV eligibility with written, comprehensive student loan repayment program. Maintain compliance with Title IV. They are the gatekeepers for Title IV.

**References**

Personal Communication with Sharon Tanner, executive director, ACEN.