

NCSBN Annual Meeting · Chicago · August 19 – 21, 2015



A United Mission

For Regulatory Excellence

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National Council of State Boards of Nursing



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Chicago - August 19-21, 2015

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APRN Distance Learning Education Committee

Cynthia Gustafson, PhD, RN, Chair
2015 Delegate Assembly, Chicago, IL
August 19th, 3:00 – 4:00 (20 minutes)

APRN Distance Learning Education Committee

- Cynthia Gustafson, MT, EO, Chair
- Ann O'Sullivan, PA, Board member, Board Liaison
- Mindy Schaffner, WA, Board member
- Sarah Wickenhagen, OR, Board staff
- Jean M. Mau, IL, Board member
- Stacey Pfenning, ND, Board staff
- Pamela C. Hagan, KY, Board staff
- Jill Hasley, AR, Board staff
- Valerie Fuller, ME, Board member
- Nancy Spector, NCSBN staff
- Maureen Cahill, NCSBN staff



2014-15 Charge

Develop regulatory guidelines for APRN distance education programs based on the regulatory guidelines for pre-licensure distance education programs.



Background

- Recommendation from the Prelicensure Distance Learning Education Committee
- Growing numbers of graduate distance education programs
- BON and educator issues
- Need for quality clinical placements



Activities

- 3 in-face & 2 conference call meetings; meeting at midyear
- Survey to members
- Literature review
- Calls with members, accreditors, certifiers and NC-SARA





Activities

- Established guidelines in line with prelicensure distance education guidelines
- Wrote model act language to include APRN programs
- Developed Part II of the 2014 White Paper on Distance Education



APRN Distance Education Guidelines

1. Distance education in APRN nursing programs shall meet the same standards as traditional educational approaches in APRN nursing programs.

Rationale: The mode of curricular delivery should not affect the regulatory guidelines for nursing education, including distance education.



APRN Distance Education Guidelines

2. Only one state/jurisdiction should approve an APRN nursing education program, and that approval should be done by the BON in the home state.

Rationale: BONs should rely on the approval status granted by other BONs.



APRN Distance Education Guidelines

3. APRN distance education nursing programs in the home state/jurisdiction provide oversight over students in the host states and are responsible for students' supervision.

Rationale: Student supervision should be the same for host and home state students. This is also an accreditation requirement.



APRN Distance Education Guidelines

Licensure guidelines include:

4. (a) APRN students shall hold an active RN license or privilege to practice, which is not encumbered, and meet licensure requirements in the state/jurisdiction where the patient is located.



APRN Distance Education Guidelines

Licensure guidelines (continued):

4. (b) Preceptors who teach direct clinical experiences for an APRN distance education program shall hold an active license or privilege to practice, which is not encumbered, at or above the level of licensure that the student is seeking, and meet licensure requirements in the state/jurisdiction where the patient is located.



APRN Distance Education Guidelines

Licensure guidelines (continued):

Rationale for 4. (a and b): The APRN students and their preceptors should be licensed where patient care is located for public protection. If a practice complaint occurs, this allows the host state to investigate.



APRN Distance Education Guidelines

Licensure guidelines (continued):

4. (c) Faculty who only teach didactic content for an APRN distance education program or who provide programmatic oversight (but no patient contact) shall hold an active license or privilege to practice, which is not encumbered, and meet licensure requirements in the home state is regulated or accredited.



APRN Distance Education Guidelines

Licensure guidelines (continued):

Rationale for 4. (c): Faculty who only teach didactic courses or who have programmatic oversight but no involvement with patient care should be licensed where the APRN program is regulated or accredited.



APRN Distance Education Guidelines

5. BONs will specify their APRN distance education requirements to NCSBN, and NCSBN will post them on its website.

Rationale: Until there is consistency among the BONs, this will allow educators easy access to the requirements of all BONs so that they can comply with their laws.



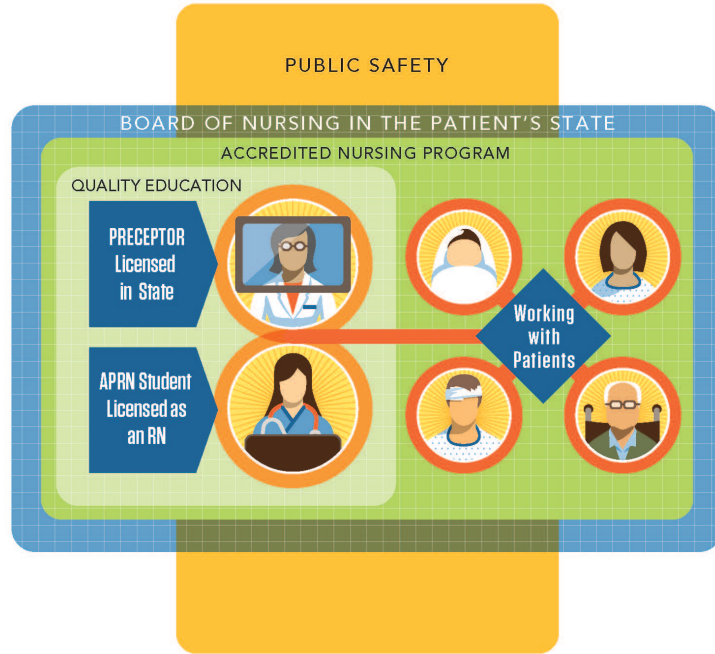
APRN Distance Education Guidelines

Proposed Model Act change to support guideline 4. (c):
ARTICLE V. RN AND LPN LICENSURE EXEMPTIONS, SECTION 10. E.
3. The individual is engaging in activities associated with teaching in this state as a guest lecturer at a nursing education program, continuing nursing education program or in-service presentation, or the individual is teaching didactic content **or is engaged in other programmatic activities not involving patient contact**, via distance education, for ~~a an approved prelicensure program~~ **approved by a BON or accredited by a national nursing accrediting agency.**

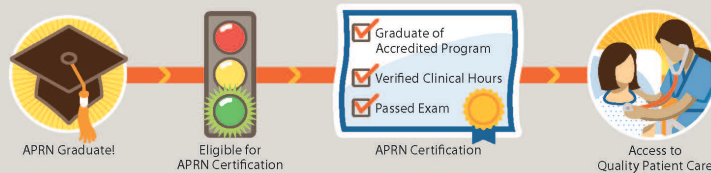


Collaboration Leads to Quality APRN Education

APRN Distance Education Regulation Guidelines



APRN Consensus Model



Committee Recommendations to the Board

1. NCSBN's Board of Directors should consider establishing an APRN Committee to explore the pros and cons of BON oversight over APRN programs and to make recommendations.
2. NCSBN should continue discussions with Licensure, Accreditation, Certification and Education (LACE).



“The question is no longer IF the internet can transform learning in powerful ways.”

- The Web-Based Education Commission

