March 13, 2020

Deans and Directors,

A conference call with the Education Consultants and NCSBN was held on 3/12/20. Strategies related to possible school closures, clinical, and didactic education were discussed. During this unprecedented time, all Boards of Nursing and Nursing Programs must remain flexible and creative.

Each Board of Nursing has different rules and regulations for Nursing Programs. Some states designate clinical hours required in their rules and regulations.

*Nebraska does not designate the number of clinical hours a program must achieve for a program to graduate students.*

Each program will determine how students will successfully achieve end of program outcomes.

Ideas shared by other Education Consultants on the NCSBN call included:

- Prioritize clinical experiences for Senior graduating students
- Optimize online learning
- Allow greater than 50% simulation in any one course
- Students should not be considered “visitors” if the facility is accepting clinical
- Employ social distancing and limit simulation to 10 students at a time
- Some programs are awarding 2 clinical hours for every one hour spent in the simulation lab. (simulation study used 1:1)
- Front load theory with the hope that clinical can be pushed a few weeks out
- Front load clinical while students are still able to enter facilities
- Give an incomplete (not popular); however for Boards that have required hours designated, this may be necessary
- Allow student apprenticeship for clinical hours
- Use virtual simulation for clinical
- Table top simulation with clinical case studies, using Zoom

One Education Consultant (WA State) shared the experience of a nursing program who had 16 students exposed to COVID 19 and are now self-quarantined. Programs will be faced with many difficult decisions in the days ahead and we ask that you keep the department informed of the dates of school closings, clinical site closures and the number of students impacted.
If there is anything that we can do to assist you, please let us know.

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Websites

CDC Resources for Institutes of Higher Education

ACEN

CCNE

AACN
(Webservice call on 3/13/2020 was recorded) https://www.aacnnursing.org/Professional-Development/Online-Learning/Webinars

https://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/News/View/ArticleId/24590/AACN-Considerations-COVID19
https://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/COVID-19/AACN-Recommendations

Nebraska COVID-19
http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx

Local Health Departments in Nebraska
http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Local-Health-Departments.aspx

COVID-19 Maps & visuals (interesting information)
http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/maps-visuals