

AGENDA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT
September 12, 2022 - 1:00 PM

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Regulation Changes for Nursing Education Programs and Licensure Requirements

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Sec. 20-90-45. [Definition of terms] Definitions. As used in sections 20-90-45 to sections 20-90-56, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

[(1)] (1) "Academic Semester" means the semester length as established by policy by the parent institution;]

[(2)] (1) "Accreditation" means a level of quality achieved by educational programs and clinical facilities which have participated in voluntary evaluation by [recognized agencies] an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education using predetermined criteria;

[(3)] (2) "Administrator" means the registered nurse educator responsible for policies, contracts, curriculum, and overall administration of a nursing education program;

[(4)] "Admission with advanced standing" means academic credit for previous education or experience is given to a student;]

[(5)] "Advanced degree in nursing" means a master's or doctoral degree in nursing;]

[(6)] (3) "Advanced levels of students" means students in the final year of study in a registered nursing education program or a practical nursing education program;

[(7)] (4) "Approval" means those nursing education programs and clinical facilities that are approved by the Board of Examiners for Nursing with the consent of the commissioner;

[(8)] (5) "Board" means the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing;

[(9)] (6) "Client" means the focus of nursing care, including individuals, families, groups, and communities;

[(10)] "Collaborative judgment" means shared decision making;]

[(11)] (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, or [his or her] the commissioner's designee;

[(12)] (8) "Contact hour" means a fifty [(50)] or sixty [(60)] minute period of time spent by students in the presence of program faculty;

[(13)] (9) "Data collection" means the process of collecting information, observing the client, recording, and reporting to the appropriate person signs, symptoms, and other pertinent data which may indicate that the client's condition deviates from normal or that there is a change in the client's condition;

(10) "Department" means the Department of Public Health

[(14)] (11) "Direct client care experience" means student learning that involves the provision of [primary] nursing services to clients;

[(15)] (12) "Educational outcomes" means knowledge, skills and attitudes [behaviors] demonstrated by the graduate of a registered nurse or practical nurse education program;

[(16)] (13) "Laboratory experience" means student learning that involves the manipulation of concepts or materials within a controlled environment;

[(17)] (14) "Licensing examination" means the examination for the licensure of registered nurses or practical nurses and shall be an examination approved by the [board of examiners for nursing] Board of Examiners for Nursing, with the consent of the department, such as an examination provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing;

[(18)] (15) "Major curriculum changes" means significant deviations in content or length from a currently approved education program;

[(19)] (16) "Nursing education program" or "nursing program" means a school of nursing;

[(20)] (17) "Nursing process" [is a problem-solving approach consisting of five sequential and interrelated phases: assessment, which involves the gathering of data related to a client's health needs; diagnosis, which involves the analysis of the data obtained; planning, which involves the design of nursing interventions to address client needs; implementation, which involves performing the interventions; and evaluation, which involves determining whether the diagnosis was accurate, the plan appropriate, and the interventions effective in addressing the client's needs] means an interactive decision-making process that uses nursing knowledge to observe and evaluate or assess presenting situations, identify a prioritized client concern, generate the best possible evidence-based solutions in order to deliver safe client care;

[(21)] (18) "Observational experience" means a structured student learning experience in which learners observe but do not provide direct client care services;

[(22)] (19) "Parent institution" means the single agency or institution that administers the nursing education program in its entirety;

[(23)] "Precepted clinical experience" means student learning that involves the provision of primary nursing services to clients under the guidance and direction of a preceptor in collaboration with nursing education program faculty;]

[(24)] (20) "Preceptor" means a registered nurse who guides and directs students in the provision of nursing services to clients and who meets the requirements of section 20-90-51(f) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

[(25)] (21) "Requirements" means the minimum standards which nursing education programs must meet in order to be approved;

[(26)] (22) "Simulated experience" means student learning that involves interaction with in person or virtual educational learning programs, computer-generated or [other] lifelike models of clinical nursing situations;

[(27)] (23) "Supervision" means the acceptance by a registered nurse educator of the responsibility and accountability for the health care delivered to clients by students under his or her onsite direction;

[(28)] (24) "Therapeutic nursing measures" means those actions taken to implement the plan of care for a client;

[(29)] (25) "Transfer" means a student with post-secondary coursework who seeks admission to a program; and

[(30)] "Unexpected resignation" means an unanticipated resignation effective within an academic year or after hiring [of] faculty for an academic year has been completed.]

Sec. 20-90-46. Types of programs.

(a) All programs that prepare [the] a graduate for licensure by examination as a registered nurse shall be approved by the board [with the consent of the commissioner]. Only those programs within one of the following types of organizations are eligible for approval:

(1) A College or university[: A] with an education program [conducted by an educational unit] in nursing within the structure of [a] the college or university and approved for such program pursuant to Section 10a-34 of the Connecticut General Statutes leading to an associate, baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing.

(2) A Hospital[:] with a program conducted by a hospital licensed pursuant to Chapter 368V of the Connecticut General Statutes leading to a diploma in nursing.

(3) An External Degree Program in Nursing[:A] with a curriculum based on theory and clinical practice or assessment conducted by an [educational unit] education program in nursing leading to an associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree in nursing.

(b) All programs that prepare the graduate for licensure by examination as a licensed practical nurse shall be approved by the board [with the consent of the commissioner]. Only those programs within one of the following types of organizations shall be eligible for approval:

[(1) Vocational-Technical: A program conducted by the State Department of Education pursuant to Section 10-95 of the Connecticut General Statutes, in cooperation with affiliating health agencies, which prepares individuals for eligibility for licensure as practical nurses.]

[(2) Private] (1) A private school[: A] with a program conducted and operated by a person, board, organization, association or other entity, which prepares individuals for eligibility for licensure as practical nurses and [meet] meets the following requirements:

(A) Is approved by the [State Commissioner of Higher Education] Office of Higher Education as a private occupational school pursuant to Section 10a-22b of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

(B) Current accreditation by the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools or appropriate national accrediting association.

[(3) College] (2) A college or university[: A] with an education program program [conducted by an educational unit] in nursing within the structure of a college or university and approved for such program pursuant to section 10a-34 of the Connecticut General Statutes preparing individuals for eligibility for licensure as a practical nurse.

[(4)] (3) A Hospital[:] with a program conducted by a hospital licensed pursuant to Chapter 368V of the Connecticut General Statutes preparing individuals for eligibility for licensure as practical nurses.

Sec. 20-90-47. Program approval.

[A Board approval, with the consent of the commissioner, shall be administered as follows:]

(a) Initial approval[:].

(1) A request for the initial approval of a nursing program shall be submitted to the board by the program's administrator. Such request shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

[(1) To be granted initial approval, the parent institution shall provide to the board:]

(A) [written] Written notice of intent to establish a program;

(B) A feasibility study for the planned program, which shall include [discussion of at least], but not be limited to the following:

(i) [applicant] Applicant pool;

(ii) [graduate] Graduate employment opportunities;

(iii) [educational] Educational and clinical facilities to be utilized;

(iv) The program's organizational chart; and

~~[(iv) potential]~~ (v) Potential overlapping with other programs in the use of clinical facilities and the impact on both the proposed and existing programs;

(C) ~~[a]~~ A timeline for employment of administration and nursing faculty. The administrator shall be actively employed at least six months prior to the proposed starting date. Initial hiring of the faculty shall be completed at least two ~~[(2)]~~ months prior to the proposed starting date. ~~[The administrator shall be actively employed at least six (6) months prior to the proposed starting date].~~ The timeline shall also identify projected future staffing needs;

(D) ~~[a]~~ A comprehensive plan for the development and implementation of the education program, including philosophy and educational outcomes, curricula, course outlines with plans for student evaluation, resource needs, timelines, and a systematic plan of self-evaluation; and

(E) ~~[any]~~ Any other information that the board may reasonably request.

~~[(2) Proposed programs significantly different from current approved programs shall provide detailed information relative to activities which provide the student with opportunities to attain defined competencies and demonstrate in ongoing evaluations that students are meeting defined educational outcomes on schedule.]~~

~~[(3)]~~ (2) The board shall:

(A) ~~[upon receipt of all documents provided by the program, conduct a scheduled onsite visit to review the program]~~ Send notice to the department to request that the department schedule an onsite visit to review the program upon receipt of all documentation required pursuant to this subsection; and

(B) ~~[upon]~~ Either extend initial approval of or deny initial approval of the program upon determination that the documents and results of the onsite review were acceptable[, extend initial approval to the program, with the consent of the commissioner].

~~[(4)]~~ (3) Pending satisfactory board review of the program's educational standards, such initial approval shall remain in effect until the results of the first licensing examination for program graduates are available. At that time the board ~~[will]~~ shall review the results and recommend either full approval, conditional approval, or program removal.

(b) Full approval.

(1) ~~[Full]~~ The board shall grant full approval of a nursing program, [is granted by the board with the consent of] upon notification from the commissioner of the results of the onsite inspection, after the initial period of approval. Such approval shall be based on evidence that the program is meeting its educational outcomes as demonstrated by an acceptable level of graduates' performance, as defined in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) An acceptable level of a program's graduates' performance shall be defined as:

(A) ~~[demonstrated]~~ Demonstrated mastery of nursing principles as evidenced by an average passing rate of at least ~~[80%]~~ eighty percent of students taking the licensing examination prescribed pursuant to Section 20-92 of the Connecticut General Statutes, upon their first attempt after graduation, as reported from May 1 to April 30. When determining the first attempt passing rate, the board may take into consideration data reported from the school that includes, but is not limited to, the time frame from when a student graduates the program, to when a candidate takes the test for licensure; and

(B) ~~[demonstrated]~~ Demonstrated mastery of nursing practice as evidenced by an evaluation of graduates' achievement of the educational outcomes required by Section 20-

90-53 or 20-90-56, as applicable, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, in a manner approved by the board.

(c) Conditional approval.

(1) **[Conditional]** The board may grant conditional approval [may be granted] of a nursing program for one year to a program previously having initial or full approval if:

(A) **[the]** The graduates of the program fail to achieve the standards prescribed in subsection **[(B)]** (b) of this section; or

(B) **[the]** The program has initiated a major curriculum change pursuant to subsection **[(D)]** (d) of this section; or

(C) **[conditions]** Conditions previously identified in violation of these regulations or the board's recommendations continue to be unresolved and pose a risk to public health or safety, as determined by the board.

(2) **[Special]** The program provides progress reports or onsite visits, or both, [shall be required] for programs with conditional approval, [at the discretion of] as requested by the board.

(3) The outcome of the board's subsequent review of special progress reports or onsite visits or both may be:

(A) **[return]** Return of the program to full approval; or

(B) **[placement]** Placement of the program on only an additional one year of conditional approval; or

(C) **[recommendation]** Recommendation of program removal from the list of approved nursing education programs.

(4) The board may place a program on conditional approval if they fail to notify the board of administrative changes within thirty days of the change as outlined in subsection (f) of this section.

(d) Major curriculum changes[;].

(1) When a program proposes major curriculum changes, the administrator shall present a comprehensive plan to the board for approval [with the consent of the commissioner] prior to implementation. [Plans] The comprehensive plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) The rationale for the change;

(B) A comparison of current versus proposed curriculum;

(C) An explanation of the effects of the change on [:

(i)] the currently enrolled students[;] and

[(ii)] the functions and role of graduates of the proposed program;

(D) A timetable for implementation of the change; and

(E) The program's plan for evaluation of the change.

(2) The previously approved curriculum **[must]** shall remain in effect until the proposed **[program is]** curriculum changes are approved by the board.

(e) **[Periodically, the board shall review each nursing education program and shall conduct onsite visits to a program when it deems necessary]** The board shall review each nursing education program, that has not been granted accreditation, not less than every five years, and shall request the department conduct onsite visits if the board deems it necessary.

(f) **[When]** The Administrator or Parent Organization shall notify the board, not less than thirty business days before a change of administration within a nursing education program is [made,] expected. Such notice [of the appointment of the] shall include an appointment letter for the new administrator, [shall be submitted to the board, accompanied by] a summary of qualifications of the appointee, the appointee's official school transcript and a revised organizational chart. [The] Not more than thirty business days after receiving the appointment letter and other required documents, the board shall verify that the appointee meets the qualifications of Section 20-90-51(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(g) Program removal.

(1) The board, after a hearing, held in accordance with chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and section 19a-9-1 through 19a-9-29, inclusive of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies may remove a program from the list of approved programs, and the program must suspend the enrollment of students, when:

[(1) The program has been on conditional approval for at least two years and has failed to correct the identified deficiencies which caused them to be placed on conditional approval;]

[(2) (A) The board provides written notice of such hearing to the administrator of the program setting forth the particular reasons for the proposed action and fixing a date, not less than thirty days [from] after the date of such written notice, at which time representatives of the program shall have an opportunity for a prompt and fair hearing;

[(3) (B) Upon completion of the hearing the board shall make a recommendation to the commissioner regarding what action should be taken regarding the program; and

[(4) (C) [The commissioner approves the recommended action] The commissioner may accept the recommendations of the board or may deny the recommendations and provide documentation to the board with reasons for the denial of the recommendation.

(h) Program closure.

(1) When a decision is made to close a nursing education program, the program shall notify the board, not more than thirty days after the decision to close the program and submit a written plan and timetable for termination. All requirements and standards for students shall be maintained until the last student is transferred or graduated from the program. The parent institution shall develop and implement a policy providing for the safe storage of vital program records, including transcripts of all graduates and of students who fail to graduate. The program shall notify the board of the person, by title, name and address, responsible for providing transcripts and references for students.

Sec. 20-90-48. Administration or parent organization.

(a) School organization.

(1) The authority of, and administrative responsibility for, the nursing education program shall be vested in the program administrator, who is responsible to the controlling body of the program either directly or indirectly through administrative channels. Each nursing education program shall have its own administrator.

(2) **[There]** The authority of and administrative responsibility for the nursing education program shall [be] ensure the program has sufficient faculty [sufficient] to meet the educational outcomes

of the program, the learning needs of the students, and the safety of the recipients of **[Health Care Services]** healthcare services. Such nursing education program shall provide the following:

(A) The overall faculty/student ratio shall be [no less than] one **[(1)]** clinical faculty member for [every] a maximum of ten **[(10)]** students engaged in direct client care experiences.

(B) The preceptor to student ratio shall be no less than one **[(1)]** preceptor for every two **[(2)]** students. Preceptors shall work in collaboration with program faculty, who retain responsibility for student evaluation. The ratio of faculty to precepted students shall be no less than one **[(1)]** faculty member for every sixteen **[(16)]** students.

(C) Upon written request from the program [director] administrator, the board may, within its discretion and after reviewing the merits of the request, provide a temporary exception from the mandated faculty/student ratio.

(3) The authority of and administrative responsibility for the nursing education program **[There]** shall ensure the **[be]** clerical and maintenance staff are sufficient to meet the needs of the administration, students and instructional personnel.

(4) **[Planning]** The faculty shall be responsible for the planning, selecting, directing, and evaluating of student learning experiences **[shall be the responsibility of the faculty]**. Planning of the clinical experience, including consideration of the appropriate faculty to student ratio and use of preceptors for the specific settings being utilized, shall be done in cooperation with the administrator of nursing service or the appropriate nursing personnel of cooperating health care entities.

(b) Contractual agreements.

(1) There shall be signed contractual agreements between the nursing education program and cooperating health care entities when the program and the entities are independent.

(2) Contracts shall be developed by the program and shall be reviewed annually by the cooperating health care entity. The nursing education program shall document such review with verification that the parties met to discuss the arrangement and they agree it should remain in place. Contracts shall be renewed **[at least]** not more than every **[third year]** five years.

(c) Philosophy and educational outcomes.

(1) The philosophy and educational outcomes of the nursing education program shall:

[(1)] (A) Be developed by the nursing program administrator and faculty;

[(2)] (B) Be consistent with the philosophy and objectives of the parent institution;

[(3)] (C) Describe the competencies of the graduate; and

[(4)] (D) Provide the framework for the development, implementation and periodic evaluation of the program.

(d) Students.

(1) **[There]** The parent organization shall **[be]** develop and implement written policies for admission, promotion and graduation of students **[which]** that shall appear in at least one official publication of the program and **[which]** shall comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

(2) The **[nursing education program]** parent organization shall be responsible for verifying the satisfactory completion of a secondary school educational program, or its equivalent, for each applicant before admission.

(3) Previous education shall be established by the [program] parent organization from transcripts obtained and kept on file. Graduation from an accredited or approved prior educational program shall be recorded.

(4) Readmission and transfer. The program shall establish and adhere to written policies for transfer and readmission. The program shall determine the remaining educational experiences necessary for the student to meet the educational outcomes of the nursing education program.

(5) Admission with advanced standing. Applicants with previous experience or courses of study relating to nursing may be admitted to a program preparing for registered nurse licensure or practical nurse licensure with advanced standing after an evaluation has been made by the nursing education program.

(6) There shall be written policies that are implemented for safeguarding the health and well being of the students [which] that shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for counseling and guidance and admission physical examinations and [which] shall comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

Sec. 20-90-49. Records.

The nursing education program shall maintain a system of administrative records that shall include current course outlines and evaluation instruments, faculty personnel records, faculty meeting and committee meeting reports, student records, pertinent correspondence, pertinent reports, and official publications of the nursing education program.

Sec. 20-90-50. Facilities.

(a) The parent institution responsible for the nursing education program shall provide facilities including: [a] an in person or online library offering resources and services, office space, conference rooms, classrooms, and nursing laboratories sufficient to meet the needs of the program.

(b) Health care entities utilized by a nursing education program [must] shall provide the range of clinical nursing experiences appropriate to course objectives.

Sec. 20-90-51. Nursing administrator and faculty.

(a) The nursing administrator and faculty [and administrator must] shall maintain an active [R.N. licensure in Connecticut] registered nurse license pursuant to chapter 378 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(b) [Faculty Education and Experience] Nursing Administrator and faculty education and experience shall include the following: [.]

(1) [Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the] The administrator of the program shall be a registered nurse and shall have [an earned advanced] a masters or doctoral degree in nursing, teaching experience in a program in nursing, and administrative experience.

(2) [Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, nurse] Nurse faculty members in programs preparing registered nurses shall have earned an advanced [degrees] degree in nursing

and shall have appropriate nursing education or experience in their teaching ~~[area(s)]~~ area or areas.

(3) Nurse faculty members in programs preparing practical nurses shall have earned baccalaureate and master's degrees, one of which shall be in nursing, and shall have appropriate nursing education or experience in their teaching ~~[area(s)]~~ area or areas except, ~~[:]~~

~~[(A) faculty who meet the requirement in subsection (c) of this section; or]~~

~~[(B)]~~ faculty members who do not have an earned master's degree [must] shall complete a master's degree within four ~~[(4)]~~ years ~~[of hire]~~, but shall hold a minimum of an earned baccalaureate degree in nursing upon hire and shall have three ~~[(3)]~~ years of clinical experience in nursing~~[: and]~~.

~~[(C) faculty members in nursing education programs requiring state teacher certification will have an additional two (2) years to complete the master's degree.]~~

~~[(c) Grandfathering.]~~

~~(1) Any faculty member or program administrator employed by a nursing education program approved by the board who was employed as such on the effective date of this section, shall be determined to have met the educational degree requirements in subsection (b) of this section provided such person holds the minimum of an earned master's degree.~~

~~(2) This provision shall apply even if the individual changes his or her place of employment provided that such individual remains employed in a faculty or administrative capacity in a nursing education program approved by the board.]~~

~~[(d)]~~ (c) Temporary Waiver.

(1) The board, in its discretion, may grant a temporary waiver of the educational requirements of subdivision (b)(2) or (b)(3) of this section to address emergency situations. Such waiver shall be granted for an individual up to a maximum of two years. Emergency situations shall include but ~~[are]~~ not be limited to:

(A) ~~[the]~~ The discharge or unexpected resignation of a faculty member;

(B) ~~[the]~~ The death of a faculty member or extended illness of a faculty member that prevents the performance of teaching or clinical responsibilities;

(C) ~~[the]~~ The inability to obtain faculty who satisfy the requirements of sections 20-90-45 to 20-90-56, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, even after advertising for faculty qualified as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(2) The administrator of the program shall submit a request for a temporary waiver to the board, in a form and manner as prescribed by the board, for their review and determination. Such request shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(A) A current resume, which clearly identifies the individuals clinical experience or appropriate education in each area of employment;

(B) A letter from the nursing education program submitting the request that clearly identifies the courses the individual will teach, clinical areas the individual will work in, level of students the individual will be teaching;

(C) Proof that the individual has matriculated in an Master of Science in nursing program;
and

(D) The assignment of a mentor and an orientation which includes the philosophy, curriculum, clinical sites, orientation to teaching methodologies, and any other areas deemed necessary.

(3) [In evaluating an application for a temporary waiver requested by a nursing education program, the board may consider the following] The board shall take the following information into consideration during their evaluation and final determination to grant or deny a nursing education program's request for a temporary waiver:

(A) Whether the program demonstrates an acceptable level of graduates' performance as defined in subsection (b) of section 20-90-47 [(b)] of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; and

(B) Whether the faculty member to be hired possesses qualifications [which] that include:

(i) [competence] Competence and experience as a registered nurse in the clinical area in which the faculty member will be teaching;

(ii) Competence and academic experience teaching at the student's degree level;

[(ii)] (iii) a bachelor of science degree in nursing; and

[(iii)] (iv) matriculation in a master of science in nursing program.

[(3)] (4) No waiver shall be granted unless at least [90%] seventy-five percent of full and part-time faculty members are in compliance with subsection (b)[, (c)] or (e) of this section.

[(4)] (5) A temporary waiver may be renewed if deemed appropriate by the board, based on consideration of the conditions in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection, except that no waiver shall be renewed unless the faculty member [is] remains matriculated in a master of science in nursing program.

[(e)] (d) Permanent Waiver

(1) The board, in its discretion, may grant a permanent individual waiver of subsection (b)(2) of this section for faculty holding an advanced degree in a field other than nursing.

(2) The administrator of the program shall submit a request for a permanent waiver to the board, in a form and manner as prescribed by the board, for their review and determination. Such request shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(A) An up-to-date resume, which clearly identifies the individuals clinical experience or appropriate education in each area of employment;

(B) The clinical area teaching content, and the level of student the individual will be assigned;

(C) An explanation as to how the individual's advanced degree is appropriate for the clinical areas assigned;

(D) An explanation as to how the individual's advanced degree is appropriate for the teaching areas assigned;

(E) A copy of the document identifying the advanced degree

(F) Documentation of recent clinical experience in the areas assigned and appropriate education;

(G) Timelines of the clinical and educational experience; and

(H) The assignment of a mentor and an orientation which includes the philosophy, curriculum, clinical sites, orientation to teaching methodologies, and any other areas deemed necessary;

[(2)] (3) [In evaluating a request by a nursing education program for a permanent waiver, the board shall consider the appropriateness of the advanced degree for the particular course work the faculty member engages in] The board shall take the following information into consideration during their evaluation and final determination to grant or deny a nursing education program's request for a permanent waiver:

(A) The appropriateness of the advanced degree for the particular course work and work experience the faculty member engages in; and

(B) If the prospective instructor's clinical area of expertise will not be utilized or if a number of years have passed since this experience, the board may request a plan of orientation for this instructor in an effort to prepare the instructor for teaching or clinical area proposed. Protocols for this orientation would be forthcoming at a board meeting if the board requests this information

[(f)] (e) Preceptors used to guide and direct advanced levels of students, as determined by the program, in [registered] nursing education programs shall hold an active license as a registered nurse in Connecticut or in the state in which precepting occurs. __[, a baccalaureate degree in nursing, and a minimum of two [(2)] The program and institution where the precepting is occurring shall determine the appropriate years of experience in the role or specialty being experienced by the student.

Sec. 20-90-52. Curriculum for registered nurse education program.

(a) The curriculum shall meet the requirements of the parent institution in which the Nursing Education Program is housed and the state requirements for eligibility of the graduate for admission to the registered nurse licensing examination prescribed pursuant to Section 20-92 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(b) The curriculum shall integrate theory and clinical practice in a manner that shall cause the Nursing Education Program graduates to meet the educational outcomes for registered nursing described in Section 20-90-53 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(c) The semester length shall be established in a policy by the parent institution. The minimum length of the nursing component of the program must be equivalent to four ~~[(4)]~~ fifteen ~~[(15)]~~ week academic semesters and contain a minimum of thirty-five ~~[(35)]~~ semester hours of credit in nursing. Fifty percent ~~[(50%)]~~ of contact hours shall be in supervised direct client care experiences, observational experiences, virtual learning experiences, and simulated experiences appropriate to the program's educational outcomes, and laboratory experiences for the acquisition and practice of clinical nursing skills.

Sec. 20-90-53. Educational outcomes for a registered nurse education program.

(a) A graduate of a registered Nursing Education Program shall be able to:

(1) Perform the duties and responsibilities of the registered nurse within the framework of the nurse practice Act, Chapter 378 of the Connecticut General Statutes;

- (2) Synthesize knowledge from nursing theory and the biological, physical, social, and behavioral sciences in providing health care to clients;
- (3) Exercise critical thinking, ethical decision making, and independent clinical judgment in using the nursing process to provide care to clients;
- (4) Apply the nursing process to design, implement, and evaluate care for clients using a variety of technologies. The scope of care shall include preventive, curative, supportive, and restorative nursing interventions in both institutional and community-based settings;
- (5) Develop and implement a variety of teaching and learning strategies in the provision of health teaching for clients in a variety of settings, using a variety of technologies;
- (6) Identify the scientific basis for assessments and therapeutic nursing measures;
- (7) Manage information and resources, contributing to the achievement of optimum client outcomes in a cost effective manner;
- (8) Use leadership, management, delegation and collaborative skills as a member of a multidisciplinary team within the health care delivery system to develop, implement, and evaluate health care provided to clients; and
- (9) Demonstrate professional accountability by acting as an advocate for clients and by maintaining accepted standards of nursing care for a registered nurse.

Sec. 20-90-55. Curriculum for a practical nursing education program.

- (a) The curriculum shall meet the requirements of the parent institution in which the program is housed and state requirements for eligibility of the graduate for admission to the practical nurse licensing examination prescribed pursuant to Section 20-92 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (b) The curriculum shall integrate theory and clinical practice in a manner that shall cause the Nursing Education Program graduates to meet the educational outcomes for practical nursing described in Section 20-90-56 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- (c) The curriculum shall integrate laboratory experiences for the acquisition and practice of clinical nursing skills, virtual learning and simulated experiences appropriate to the program's educational outcomes.

[(c)] (d) The length of the program shall be established in a policy by the parent institution. The program shall include [be] a minimum of thirteen hundred and fifty [fifteen hundred (1500)] hours attended over no less than ten [(10)] months. Fifty percent [(50%)] of contact hours shall be in supervised direct client care experiences, [and] observational experiences, and not more than twenty five percent of the contact hours shall be in virtual learning or simulated experiences appropriate to the Program's Educational Outcomes. The program may apply to the board for approval to increase the contact hours related to virtual learning or simulated experience.

Sec. 20-90-56. Educational outcomes for a practical nursing education program.

- (a) A graduate of a practical nursing education program shall be able to:
 - (1) Perform the duties and responsibilities of the licensed practical nurse within the framework of **[the Nurse Practice Act,]** Chapter 378 of the Connecticut General Statutes;

- (2) Apply nursing principles and theories in the implementation of the plan of care for clients under the direction of and in collaboration with the registered nurse by:
- (A) **[collecting]** Collecting data concerning the biologic and psychosocial needs of individual clients along the wellness/illness continuum;
 - (B) **[implementing]** Implementing therapeutic nursing measures to maintain, promote, and restore optimum health to clients within the established plan of care;
 - (C) **[performing]** Performing therapeutic nursing interventions based on principles from the biophysical and behavioral sciences, adapting these to the individual needs of clients as members of families and community systems;
 - (D) **[using]** Using ethical decision making and judgment in providing care;
- (3) Assist in evaluating the effectiveness of nursing interventions, using observations and data collection and clinical judgement to recommend changes in the plan of care;
- (4) Perform appropriate data collection to monitor client status in response to alterations in health, treatment of health problems, and therapeutic nursing interventions;
- (5) Recognize and report deviations from expected responses to alterations in health status or in the treatment of health problems;
- (6) Intervene appropriately in emergency situations;
- (7) Interact effectively with clients, families, and health team members through appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written communications;
- (8) Implement the care of groups of clients, using appropriate principles of priority setting, time management, and delegation;
- (9) Utilize resources and the environment of care effectively to meet client needs and attain expected outcomes of care; and
- (10) Demonstrate individual accountability by acting as an advocate for health care consumers and by maintaining accepted standards of care for a practical nurse.

Sec. 20-90-57. Endorsement.

(a) Graduate nurses from a nursing education external degree program who are licensed in another state of the United States on the basis of standards which meet or exceed the requirements of this state, shall be eligible for licensure without examination in Connecticut.

(b) Nurses educated outside of the United States and that have successfully completed the NCLEX examination, and who meet the current educational requirements of Connecticut may be licensed without examination if the NCLEX examination was in English. If the NCLEX examination was not in English, then such nurse shall demonstrate proficiency in English by taking an examination, prescribed by the commissioner.

(c) Persons seeking endorsement who were graduated from an educational program which is shorter in length than the minimum length for Connecticut educational programs shall provide documentation of clinical work experience. Such work experience, when combined with their educational program, shall equal the minimum program length for nursing education programs approved in Connecticut. Such work experience must be under the supervision of a licensed registered nurse and occur after completion of the basic educational program.

[(c)] (d) Nurses trained and licensed in Canada prior to 1970 who meet the current educational requirements of Connecticut shall take the licensing examination prescribed pursuant to Section 20-92 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

[(d)] (e) Nurses trained and licensed in Canada in or after 1970 who meet the current educational requirements of Connecticut may be licensed without examination if their Canadian licensing examination was in English. If their Canadian examination was not in English, then they must demonstrate proficiency in English pursuant to section 20-90-57[(d)](b).

[(e)] (f) Nurses licensed in Canada on the basis of an examination in a language other than English who are seeking licensure by examination in Connecticut [must] shall demonstrate proficiency in English on an examination, as prescribed in 20-90-58 [and at a level, prescribed by the Commissioner with the consent of the Board].

[(f)] (g) Persons licensed pursuant to section 20-90-57[(d)](b) shall have attained a passing score on the Canadian licensing examination [prescribed by the Commissioner with the consent of the Board. The prescribed passing score shall be one deemed by the Commissioner to be equivalent to passing scores on comparable licensing examinations used in the United States].

Sec. 20-90-58. Foreign-trained.

Persons educated in nursing in a foreign country must successfully complete the examination offered by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools prior to being accepted for examination and licensure as a Registered Nurse in Connecticut.

Sec. 20-90-59. Out-of-state programs.

(a) A program in nursing located in another state or territory of the United States shall be deemed approved pursuant to section 20-90 of the Connecticut General Statutes, provided that:

- (1) [said] Such program, if a registered nursing education program, complies with the provisions of section 20-90-52 of the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies[:];
- (2) [said] Such program is approved by the duly authorized nurse licensure board or agency of the state or territory in which it is located or has obtained accreditation[:] ; and
- (3) [said] Such state or territory maintains licensure requirements substantially similar to or higher than those of this state.

(b) A program in nursing located in another state or territory of the United States which provides clinical experience to students in cooperating health care agencies in this state shall comply with [the provisions] section 20-90-48 (a)(2) and (b) of the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies [contained in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 20-90-48 and subsection (b) of section 20-90-48]. Faculty providing on-site clinical supervision to students in cooperating health care agencies in this state shall:

- (1) [maintain] Maintain an active registered nurse license in this state[:];
- (2) [have] Have earned baccalaureate and master's degrees, one of which [must] shall be in nursing[:]; and
- (3) [have] Have clinical experience in their teaching area.