

20-90-45. Definition of terms

Nursing Education Programs and Licensure Requirements General**20-90-45. Definition of terms**

As used in sections 20-90-45 to sections 20-90-56, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

- (1) "Academic Semester" means the semester length as established by policy by the parent institution;
- (2) "Accreditation" means a level of quality achieved by educational programs and clinical facilities which have participated in voluntary evaluation by recognized agencies using predetermined criteria;
- (3) "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) "Advanced levels of students" means students in the final year of study in a registered nursing education program;
- (7) "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) "Board" means the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing;
- (9) "Client" means the focus of nursing care, including individuals, families, groups, and communities;
- (10) "Collaborative judgment" means shared decision making;
- (11) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, or his or her designee;
- (12) "Contact hour" means a fifty (50) or sixty (60) minute period of time spent by students in the presence of program faculty;
- (13) "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;
- (14) "Direct client care experience" means student learning that involves the provision of primary nursing services to clients;
- (15) "Educational outcomes" means behaviors demonstrated by the graduate of a registered nurse or practical nurse education program;
- (16) "Laboratory experience" means student learning that involves the manipulation of concepts or materials within a controlled environment;
- (17) "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, with the consent of the department, such as an examination provided by the National Council of State' Boards of Nursing;
- (18) "Major curriculum changes" means significant deviations in content or length from a currently approved education program;
- (19) "Nursing education program" or "program" means a school of nursing;
- (20) "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;
- (21) "Observational experience" means a structured student learning experience in which learners observe but do not provide direct client care services;
- (22) "Parent institution" means the single agency or institution that administers the nursing

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- 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) "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) "Requirements" means the minimum standards which nursing education programs must meet in order to be approved;
- (26) "Simulated experience" means student learning that involves interaction with computer-generated or other lifelike models of clinical nursing situations;
- (27) "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) "Therapeutic nursing measures" means those actions taken to implement the plan of care for a client;
- (29) "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. (Effective November 29, 1983; Amended January 6, 1992; December 30, 1994; May 4, 2004.)

20-90-46. Types of programs

- (a) All programs that prepare the 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) College or university: A program conducted by an educational unit in nursing within the structure of a college or university approved pursuant to Section 10a-34 of the Connecticut General Statutes leading to an associate, baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing.
 - (2) Hospital: a program conducted by a hospital licensed pursuant to Chapter 368V of the Connecticut General Statutes leading to a diploma in nursing.
 - (3) External Degree Program in Nursing: A curriculum based on theory and clinical practice or assessment conducted by an educational unit 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 school: 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 the following requirements:
 - (A) Is approved by the State Commissioner 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 or university: A program conducted by an educational unit in nursing within the structure of a college or university approved pursuant to section 10a-

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34 of the Connecticut General Statutes preparing individuals for eligibility for licensure is a practical nurse.

- (4) Hospital: 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.

(Effective November 29, 1983; Amended December 30, 1994; May 4, 2004.)

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

- (a) Initial approval:
- (1) To be granted initial approval, the parent institution shall provide to the board:
 - (A) Written notice of intent to establish a program;
 - (B) A feasibility study for the planned program, which shall include discussion of at least the following:
 - (i) Applicant pool;
 - (ii) Graduate employment opportunities;
 - (iii) Educational and clinical facilities to be utilized;
 - (iv) Potential overlapping with other programs in the use of clinical facilities and the impact on both the proposed and existing programs;
 - (C) A timeline for employment of administration and nursing faculty. 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 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 self-evaluation;
 - (E) 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) The board shall:
 - (A) Upon receipt of all documents provided by the program, conduct a scheduled onsite visit to review the program;
 - (B) 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) 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 review the results and recommend either full approval, conditional approval, or program removal.
- (b) Full approval:
- (1) Full approval is granted by the board with the consent of the commissioner after the initial period of approval 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 mastery of nursing principles as evidenced by an average passing rate of at least 80% of students taking the licensing examination prescribed pursuant to Section 20-92 of the Connecticut General

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- Statutes, upon their first attempt after graduation, as reported from May 1 to April 30; and
- (B) 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 approval may be granted for one year to a program previously having initial or full approval if:
 - (A) the graduates of the program fail to achieve the standards prescribed in subsection (B) of this section; or
 - (B) the program has initiated a major curriculum change pursuant to subsection (D) of this section; or
 - (C) 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 progress reports or onsite visits, or both, shall be required for programs with conditional approval, at the discretion of the board.
 - (3) The outcome of the board's subsequent review of special progress reports or onsite visits or both may be:
 - (A) return of the program to full approval; or
 - (B) placement of the program on an additional one year of conditional approval; or
 - (C) recommendation of program removal from the list of approved nursing education programs.
- (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 shall include:
 - (A) rationale for the change;
 - (B) comparison of current versus proposed curriculum;
 - (C) explanation of the effects of the change on:
 - (i) currently enrolled students;
 - (ii) functions and role of graduates of the proposed program;
 - (D) timetable for implementation of the change; and
 - (E) plan for evaluation of the change.
 - (2) The previously approved curriculum must remain in effect until the proposed program is 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.
- (f) When a change of administration within a nursing education program is made, notice of the appointment of the new administrator shall be submitted to the board, accompanied by a summary of qualifications of the appointee. 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. The board, after a hearing, 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) 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 the date of such written notice, at which time representatives of the program shall have an opportunity for a prompt and fair hearing;

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- (3) 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) The commissioner approves the recommended action.
- (h) Program closure. When a decision is made to close a nursing education program, the program shall notify the board 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.
- (Effective November 29, 1983; Amended January 6, 1992; May 4, 2004.)