

Accreditation for Nurse Practitioner Programs

Katherine Townsend
and
Deborah Rice



BRN Approval Process

- Program of study preparing a nurse practitioner shall meet the following criteria:
 1. Purpose, Philosophy and Objectives
 2. Administration
 3. Faculty
 4. Curriculum

Objectives

- Must reflect the program philosophy
- Describe the theoretical knowledge and clinical competencies of the graduate for each specialty

Administration

- Conducted in an institution of higher education offering a baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing, medicine, or public health
- Have clearly written policies
- Maintain systematic, retrievable program records

Faculty

- Adequate number of qualified faculty
- Implements program to achieve stated objectives
- Demonstrates current competency in area he/she teaches
- Clinical instructors must hold an active license to practice profession in their respective area of expertise

Curriculum Content

- Provides essential theoretical and clinical instruction for each specialty
- Program content will enable graduate to provide primary health care within their specialty area
- A minimum of 30 semester units required with at least 12 units in clinic practice

BRN Approval

- Approval is provided to NP Program for eight years
- To maintain continuing approval, self-study is submitted and site visits are made every eight years
- Site visit may occur sooner if formal complaint is received

Site Visits

- Recommendations can occur within any areas being evaluated as outlined in Title 16, Article 8, Sections 1480 through 1485
- Recommendations can lead to non-compliance if not corrected
- Must be corrected within timeline provided by Education/Licensing Committee

Non-Compliance

- Any area in non-compliance must be corrected within a stated time-line
- If not corrected program is placed on warning
- Warning status means that areas of non-compliance must be resolved by the next BRN Board Meeting (usually 2 months)
- Lack of resolution results in revocation of program's approval

Recommendations

- Program must be compliant in all areas identified in the approval documents
- No one area is more important than another
- No set number of recommendations indicates program has serious problems
- All recommendations must be resolved or they can become non-compliance issues

Recommendations (continued)

- All areas within a criterion must be met or criterion is in non-compliance
- Any material misrepresentation of fact by a nursing program of any required information is grounds for revocation of approval

CCNE or NLNAC Accreditation

- Two national accrediting bodies
- CCNE accredits NP programs for 10 years
- NLNAC accredits post-graduate programs for 8 years
- Both evaluate six Criteria or Standards that contain several sub-sets

Accreditation Standards

- Faculty, Curriculum, Evaluation, Students, Organization, and Administration
- Clinical Resources/Experiences
- Program Outcomes
- Competencies for various specialties

Certification

- Two National Certification Exams:
 1. American Nurses Credentialing Center Exam (ANCC)
 2. America Academy of Nurse Practitioners Exam (AANP)