

21 NCAC 36 .0120 is amended with changes, as published in NCR 31:01, pages 25-27, as follows:

## **21 NCAC 36 .0120        DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions apply throughout this chapter unless the context indicates otherwise:

- (1) "Academic term" means one semester of a school year.
- (2) "Accountability/Responsibility" means being answerable for action or inaction of self, and of others in the context of delegation or assignment.
- (3) "Accredited institution" means an institution accredited by a United States Department of Education approved institutional accrediting body.
- (4) "Active Practice" means activities that are performed, either for compensation or without compensation, consistent with the scope of practice for each level of licensee as defined in G.S. 90-171.20(4), (7) and (8).
- (5) "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)" means a nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, nurse-midwife or clinical nurse specialist.
- (6) "Assigning" means designating responsibility for implementation of a specific activity or set of activities to a person licensed and competent to perform such activities.
- (7) "Clinical experience" means application of nursing knowledge in demonstrating clinical ~~judgment.~~  
judgment in a current or evolving practice setting where the student provides care to clients under the  
[guidance] supervision of [an instructor] faculty or a preceptor.
- (8) "Clinical judgment" means the application of the nursing ~~student's~~ knowledge, skills, ~~abilities~~ abilities, and experience in making decisions about client care.
- (9) "Competent" means having the knowledge, skills skills, and ability to safely perform an activity or role.
- (10) "Continuing Competence" means the on-going acquisition and application of knowledge and the decision-making, psychomotor, and interpersonal skills expected of the licensed nurse resulting in nursing care that contributes to the health and welfare of clients served.
- (11) "Contact Hour" means 60 minutes of an organized learning experience.
- (12) "Continuing Education Activity" means a planned, organized learning experience that is related to the practice of nursing or contributes to the competency of ~~the a~~ nurse as ~~defined~~ outlined in 21 NCAC 36 .0223 Subparagraph (a)(2).
- (13) "Controlling institution" means the degree-granting organization or hospital under which the nursing education program is operating.
- (14) "Curriculum" means an organized system of teaching and learning activities directed toward the achievement of specified learning ~~objectives/outcomes.~~ objectives and outcomes.
- (15) "Delegation" means transferring to a competent individual the authority to perform a selected nursing activity in a selected situation. The nurse retains ~~accountability~~ accountability/responsibility for the delegation.

- (16) "Debriefing" means an activity that follows a clinical or simulated experience and is led by a trained faculty facilitator. Students' reflective thinking is encouraged, and feedback is provided regarding the students' performance [while] during discussion of various aspects of the completed [experiences are discussed.] experiences.
- ~~(16)~~(17) "Dimensions of Practice" means those aspects of nursing practice that include professional responsibility, knowledge-based practice, legal/ethical ethical and legal practice practice, and collaborating with others, consistent with G.S. 90-171.20(4), (7) and (8).
- ~~(17)~~(18) "Distance education" means the teaching and learning strategies used to meet the learning needs of students, students when the students and faculty are separate from each other, not in the same location.
- (19) "External standardized [examinations"] examination" means a commercially available standardized predictive test that provides individual student scores that are linked to a probability of passing the NCLEX™ examination.
- ~~(18)~~(20) "Faculty directed clinical practice" means clinical experiences provided under the accountability/responsibility and direction of the responsibility of nursing program faculty in overseeing student learning including the utilization of preceptors, faculty.
- ~~(19)~~(21) "Focused client care experience" means a clinical experience that simulates emulates an entry-level work experience, experience in nursing. The intent is to assist the student to transition to an entry-level nursing practice. There is no specific setting requirement. Supervision may be by faculty and preceptor dyad or direct faculty supervision.
- ~~(20)~~(22) "Interdisciplinary faculty" means faculty from professions other than nursing.
- ~~(21)~~(23) "Interdisciplinary team" means all individuals involved in providing a client's care who cooperate, collaborate, communicate communicate, and integrate care to ensure that care is continuous and reliable.
- (24) "Learning resources" means [a variety of instrumental] materials that faculty use to assist students [to meet] in meeting the expectations for learning defined by the curriculum.
- ~~(22)~~(25) "Level of Licensure" means practice of nursing by either a Licensed Practice Practical Nurse or a Registered Nurse as defined in G.S. 90-171.20(7) and (8).
- ~~(23)~~(26) "Level of student" means the point in the program to which the student has progressed.
- ~~(24)~~(27) "Maximum enrollment" means the total number of pre-licensure students that can be enrolled in the nursing program at any one time. The number reflects the capacity of the nursing program based on demonstrated resources sufficient to implement the curriculum.
- ~~(25)~~(28) "Methods of Instruction" means the planned process through which teacher and student interact with selected environment and content so that the response of the student gives evidence that learning has taken place. It is based upon stated course objectives and outcomes for learning experiences in classroom, laboratory laboratory, simulation and clinical settings.
- ~~(26)~~(29) "National Credentialing Body" means a credentialing body that offers certification or re-certification in the licensed nurse's or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse's specialty area of practice.

- ~~(27)~~(30) "NCLEX-PN™" means the National Council Licensure Examinations for Practical Nurses.
- ~~(28)~~(31) "NCLEX-RN™" means the National Council Licensure Examinations for Registered Nurses.
- ~~(29)~~(32) "Nursing Accreditation body" means a national nursing accrediting body, recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- ~~(30)~~(33) "Nursing program faculty" means individuals employed full or ~~part-time~~ **part-time** by academic institution responsible for developing, implementing, evaluation and updating nursing curricula.
- ~~(31)~~(34) "Nursing project" means a project or research study of a topic related to nursing practice that includes a problem statement, objectives, methodology and summary of findings.
- ~~(32)~~(35) "Participating in" means to have a part in or contribute to the elements of the nursing process.
- ~~(33)~~(36) "Pattern of noncompliance" means episodes of recurring non-compliance with one or more Rules in Section .0300.
- ~~(34)~~(37) "Preceptor" means a registered nurse at or above the level of licensure that an assigned student is seeking, who may serve as a teacher, mentor, role model and supervisor for a faculty directed clinical experience.
- ~~(35)~~(38) "Prescribing Authority" means the legal permission granted by the Board of Nursing and Medical Board for the nurse practitioner and nurse midwife to procure and prescribe legend and controlled pharmacological agents and devices to a client in compliance with Board of Nursing rules and other applicable federal and state law and regulations.
- ~~(36)~~(39) "Program Closure" means to cease operation of a nursing program.
- ~~(37)~~(40) **"Program Type"** **"Program"** means a course of study that prepares an individual to function as an entry-level practitioner of nursing. The three ~~program types~~ **"Program Types"** are:
- (a) BSN - Curriculum components for Bachelor of Science in Nursing provides for the attainment of knowledge and skill sets in the current practice in nursing, nursing theory, nursing research, community and public health, health care policy, health care delivery and finance, communications, therapeutic interventions and current trends in health care. For this program type, the client is the individual, family, group, and community.
  - (b) Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)/Diploma in Registered Nursing - Curriculum components for the ADN/Diploma in Registered Nursing provides for the attainment of knowledge and skill sets in the current practice in nursing, community concepts, health care delivery, communications, therapeutic interventions and current trends in health care. For this program type, client is the individual, group of individuals, and family.
  - (c) Practical Nurse Diploma - Curriculum prepares for ~~functioning in a dependent role in~~ providing direct nursing care under the ~~direction~~ **supervision** of a registered nurse or other health care provider as defined by the Nursing Practice Act. Curriculum components provide for the attainment of knowledge and skill sets in the current practice of practical nursing, communications, therapeutic interventions, including pharmacology, growth and

- 1                   ~~development~~ development, and current trends in health care. For this program type client is  
2                   the ~~individual, individual~~ or group of individuals.
- 3   (38)(41) "Review" means collecting and analyzing information to assess compliance with Section .0300 of this  
4                   Chapter. Information may be collected by multiple ~~methods~~ methods, including review of written  
5                   reports and materials, on-site ~~observations~~ observations and review of ~~documents~~ documents, ~~or and in~~  
6                   ~~person in-person~~ or telephone interview(s) and conference(s).
- 7   (39)(42) "Rescind Approval" means a Board action that removes the approval status previously ~~granted.~~  
8                   granted by the Board.
- 9   (40)(43) "Self Assessment" means the process whereby ~~the an~~ individual reviews her or his own nursing  
10                  practice and identifies the knowledge and skills ~~possessed, possessed~~ as well as those skills to be  
11                  ~~strengthened.~~ strengthened or acquired.
- 12   (44)   "Simulation" means a technique, not a technology, to replace or amplify clinical experiences with  
13                  guided experiences that evoke or replicate substantial aspects of the real world of nursing practice in a  
14                  fully interactive manner.
- 15   (41)(45) "Specialty" means a broad, population-based focus of study encompassing the common health-related  
16                  problems of ~~that a particular~~ group of patients and the likely co-morbidities, ~~interventions~~  
17                  interventions, and responses to those problems.
- 18   (42)(46) "Supervision" means the provision of guidance or direction, ~~evaluation~~ evaluation, and follow-up by  
19                  ~~the a~~ licensed nurse ~~for accomplishment of~~ to accomplish an assigned or delegated nursing activity or  
20                  set of activities.
- 21   (43)(47) "Survey" means an on-site visit for the purpose of gathering data in relation to reviewing ~~a~~ nursing  
22                  ~~programs~~ program's compliance with Section .0300 of this Chapter.

24   History Note:   Authority G.S. 90-171.23; 90-171.38;

25                   Eff. April 1, 2003;

26                   Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; July 1, 2012; November 1, 2008; May 1, 2006; December 1, 2005;

27                   August 1, 2005.

21 NCAC 36 .0302 is amended with changes, as published in NCR 31:01, pages 27-28, as follows:

**21 NCAC 36 .0302 ESTABLISHMENT OF A NURSING PROGRAM - INITIAL APPROVAL**

(a) At least six months prior to the proposed enrollment of students in a nursing program, an institution seeking approval to operate a nursing program shall employ a program director qualified pursuant to 21 NCAC 36 .0317(c) to develop the an application documenting the following:

- (1) a narrative description of the organizational structure of the program and its relationship to the controlling institution, including accreditation status. The controlling institution must shall be an accredited institution;
- (2) a general overview of the entire proposed total curriculum that includes:
  - (A) the program philosophy, purposes, and objectives;
  - (B) a master plan of the curriculum, indicating the sequence for both nursing and non-nursing courses, as well as prerequisites and corequisites;
  - (C) course descriptions and course objectives for all courses; and
  - (D) course syllabi pursuant to 21 NCAC 36. 0321(i) for all first-year nursing courses;
- (3) the proposed student population;
- (4) the projected student enrollment;
- (5) evidence of learning resources and clinical experiences available to implement and maintain the program;
- (6) financial resources adequate to begin and maintain the program;
- (7) physical facilities adequate to house the program;
- (8) support services available to the program from the controlling institution;
- (9) approval of the program by the governing body of the parent controlling institution; and
- (10) a plan with a specified time frame for:
  - (A) availability of qualified faculty as specified in 21 NCAC 36 .0318;
  - (B) course syllabi as specified in 21 NCAC 36. 0321(h) of this Section for all nursing courses;
  - (C) student policies for admission, progression, and graduation of students, pursuant to 21 NCAC 36 .0320 of this Section for admission, progression, and graduation of students; Section; and
  - (D) total comprehensive program evaluation pursuant to 21 NCAC 36 ~~.0317(e).~~ .0317(d).

(b) The application to establish a nursing program must shall be on a Board form, contain current and accurate information, information required in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, be complete, and be signed by the program director and the chief executive officer of the controlling institution.

(c) The completed application shall be received by the Board not less than ~~90~~ 120 days prior to a regular meeting of the Board to be considered for placement on the agenda of that meeting.

(d) The Board shall conduct an on-site survey of the proposed program ~~and agencies after the application meets all the~~ rule requirements set forth in this Rule, shall prepare a survey report, and afford the petitioning institution an opportunity to respond to the survey, survey report.

(e) The Board shall consider all evidence, including the application, the survey report, ~~and any testimony comments~~ from representatives of the petitioning ~~institution~~ institution, public comments, and the status of other nursing programs at the institution in determining ~~approval status. whether to approve the application.~~

(f) If the Board finds, from the evidence presented, that the resources and plans meet all ~~rules~~ [rule] requirements set forth in this Rule for establishing a new nursing program, the Board shall grant Initial ~~Approval~~ Approval, and shall establish including a maximum enrollment and implementation date.

(g) If the Board determines that a proposed program does not comply with all rules, ~~initial approval~~ Initial Approval shall be denied.

(h) The Board shall rescind the Initial Approval of a program if ~~Failure of~~ the controlling institution fails to submit documentation consistent with the time specified as set forth in the plan of required by Subparagraph (a)(10) of this Rule shall result in Initial Approval being rescinded. Rule.

(i) ~~Following~~ The Board shall rescind the Initial ~~Approval~~ Approval of a program if the first class of students are is not enrolled in the program within one year, year after issuing the approval shall be rescinded. Initial Approval.

(j) For 12 months following ~~rescinded~~ rescission of approval, the controlling institution shall not submit an application for establishing a nursing program.

(k) A program may shall retain Initial Approval Status for the time necessary for full implementation of the curriculum. curriculum provided that the program complies with Section .0300 of this Chapter.

(l) Programs with Initial Approval shall be surveyed:

- (1) during the final term of curriculum implementation of the program; and
- (2) ~~when there is~~ upon receipt by the Board of information that the program may not be complying with Section .0300.

(m) If at any time it comes to the attention of the Board that a program on ~~initial approval~~ Initial Approval is not complying with Section .0300 of this Chapter, the program, upon written notification, shall:

- (1) correct the area of noncompliance and submit written evidence of this correction to the Board; or
- (2) submit and implement a plan for correction to the Board.

(n) ~~If the~~ The Board shall rescind the Initial Approval of a program if the Board determines that the program does not comply with Paragraph (m) of this Rule, Initial Approval shall be rescinded. Rule.

(o) If, following the survey and during the final term for curriculum implementation, the Boards finds that the program is complying with Section .0300 of this Chapter, the Board shall place the program on Full Approval status.

(p) If, following the survey and during the final term for curriculum implementation implementation, the Board finds that the program does not comply with the Section .0300 of this Chapter, the Board shall rescind the program's Initial Approval and provide the program with written notice of the Board's decision.

(q) Upon written request from the program submitted within 10 business days of the Board's written ~~notice, notice of~~ rescinding the Initial Approval, the Board shall schedule a hearing within 30 business days from the date on which the request was received.

1 (r) Following the hearing and consideration of all evidence provided, the Board shall assign the program Full Approval  
2 status or shall enter an Order rescinding the Initial Approval status, which shall constitute **program** closure ~~of the~~  
3 **program** pursuant to 21 NCAC 36 .0309.

4  
5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-171.23(b)(8); 90-171.38;*  
6 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
7 *Amended Eff. June 1, 1992; January 1, 1989; November 1, 1984; May 1, 1982;*  
8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 2001;*  
9 *Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; January 1, 2009; December 1, 2005; August 1, 2002.*

21 NCAC 36 .0303 is amended, with changes, as published in NCR 31:01, pages 28-29, as follows:

**21 NCAC 36 .0303        EXISTING NURSING PROGRAM**

(a) All nursing programs under the authority of the Board may obtain national program accreditation by a nursing accreditation body as defined in 21 NCAC 36 .0120(29).

(b) Full Approval

(1) The Board shall review approved programs at least every eight years as specified in G.S. 90-171.40. Reviews of individual programs shall be conducted at shorter intervals upon request from the individual institution or as considered necessary by the Board. National accreditation self-study self-study reports shall provide a basis for review for accredited programs.

(2) The Board shall send a written report of the review no more than 20 business days following the completion of the review process. Responses from a nursing education program regarding a review report or Board Warning Status as referenced in Paragraph (c) of this Rule shall be received in the Board office by the deadline date specified in the letter accompanying the report or notification of Warning Status. If no materials or documents are received by the specified deadline date, the Board shall act upon the findings in the review report and the testimony of the Board staff.

(3) If the Board determines that a program has complied with the rules in this Section, the program shall be continued on Full Approval status.

(4) If the Board determines a pattern of noncompliance with one or more rules in this Section, a review shall be conducted. The program shall submit to the Board a plan of compliance to correct the identified pattern. Failure to comply with the correction plan shall result in withdrawal of approval, constituting program closure, consistent with 21 NCAC 36 .0309.

(c) Warning Status

(1) If the Board determines that a program is not complying with the rules in this Section, the Board shall assign the program Warning Status, Status and shall give written notice by certified mail to the program specifying:

(A) the areas in which there is noncompliance;

(B) the date of notice by which the program must comply, comply with the rules in this Section. The maximum timeframe time for compliance is two years; years after issuance of the written notice; and

(C) the opportunity to schedule a hearing. Any request for a hearing regarding the program Warning Status shall be submitted to the Board. A hearing shall be afforded pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 150B, Article 3A.

(2) On or before the required date of compliance identified in this Paragraph, if the Board determines that the program is complying with the rules in this Section, the Board shall assign the program Full Approval Status.

- 1 (3) If the Board finds the program is not in compliance with the rules in this Section by the date specified  
2 in Part (c)(1)(B) of this Rule, ~~the Board shall withdraw approval constituting closure consistent with~~  
3 ~~21 NCAC 36 .0309; the program shall remain on Warning Status; and,~~  
4 (A) a review by the Board shall be conducted during that time;  
5 (B) following review, the Board may continue the program on Warning Status; or  
6 (C) the Board may withdraw ~~[approval]~~ approval, constituting ~~program~~ closure consistent with  
7 ~~[21 NCAC 36 .0309.] Paragraph (b)(4) of this Rule.~~
- 8 (4) Upon written request from the ~~program;~~ ~~program~~ submitted within 10 business days of the Board's  
9 written notice of Warning Status, the Board shall schedule a hearing within 30 business days ~~from~~  
10 ~~after~~ the date on which the request was received.
- 11 (5) When a hearing is held at the request of the program and the Board determines ~~that:~~  
12 (A) —the program is in compliance with the rules in this Section, the Board shall assign the  
13 program Full Approval ~~status; or~~ Status.
- 14 ~~(B)(6)~~ (6) When a hearing is held at the request of the program and the Board determines ~~that~~ the program is not  
15 in compliance with the rules in this Section, the program shall remain on Warning ~~Status; Status; and,~~  
16 (A) a review by the Board shall be conducted during that ~~time.~~ time;  
17 (B) following review, the Board may continue the program on Warning Status; or  
18 (C) the Board may withdraw ~~[approval]~~ approval, constituting ~~program~~ closure consistent with  
19 ~~[21 NCAC 36 .0309.] Paragraph (b)(b) of this Rule.~~

20 ~~NOTE: The Board recommends but does not require that all nursing programs under the authority of the Board pursue~~  
21 ~~and maintain national nursing accreditation.~~

22

23 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 90-171.23(b); 90-171.38; 90-171.39; 90-171.40;  
24 Eff. February 1, 1976;  
25 Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; August 1, 2011; July 3, 2008; March 1, 2006; January 1, 2004; June  
26 1, 1992; January 1, 1989.

21 NCAC 36 .0309 is amended, with changes, as published in NCR 31:01, page 29 as follows:

**21 NCAC 36 .0309      PROCESS FOR ~~CLOSURE OF A~~ PROGRAM CLOSURE**

(a) When the controlling institution makes the decision to close a nursing program, the Administration of the institution shall submit a written plan for the discontinuation of the program to the ~~Board~~. Board and shall include the reason(s) for [the closing of the program,] program closure, the date of intended closure, and a plan for students to complete this or another approved program.

(b) When the Board closes a nursing program, the program director ~~shall develop and submit to the Board a plan, for discontinuation of the program including the transfer of students to approved programs. Closure shall take place after the transfer of students to approved programs, shall, within 30 days, develop and submit a plan for discontinuation of the program for Board approval. The plan shall address transfer of students to approved programs.~~

(c) The controlling institution shall notify the Board of the arrangement for secure storage of permanent records, and access to academic records and transcripts.

*History Note:      Authority G.S. 90-171.38; 90-171.39; 90-171.40;  
                             Eff. June 1, 1992;  
                             Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; December 1, 2005.*

21 NCAC 36 .0317 is amended, with changes, as published in NCR 31:01, pages 29-30, as follows:

**21 NCAC 36 .0317            ADMINISTRATION**

(a) The controlling institution of a nursing program shall provide those human, physical, technical, and financial resources and services essential to support program ~~processes,~~ processes and outcomes, including those listed in (d) and (e) of this Rule, and maintain compliance with Section .0300 of this Chapter.

(b) A full-time full-time registered nurse qualified pursuant to Paragraph (c) of this Rule shall have the authority for the direction of the nursing program. This authority shall encompass responsibilities for maintaining compliance with rules and other legal requirements in all areas of the program. The program director shall have non-teaching time sufficient to allow for program organization, administration, continuous review, planning, and development.

(c) Program director in a program preparing students for initial nurse licensure shall satisfy the following requirements:

- (1) hold a current ~~unrestricted~~ unrestricted license or multistate licensure privilege to practice as a registered nurse in North Carolina;
- (2) have two years of full-time experience as a faculty member in a ~~board-approved~~ Board-approved nursing program;
- (3) be experientially qualified to lead the program to accomplish the mission, goals, and expected program outcomes;
- (4) hold either a baccalaureate in nursing or a graduate degree in nursing from an accredited institution. If newly employed on or after January 1, 2016, hold a graduate degree from an accredited institution. If newly employed on or after January 1, 2021, hold a graduate degree in nursing from an accredited institution;
- (5) prior to or within the first three years of employment, have preparation education in teaching and learning principles for adult education, including curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation, appropriate to ~~assignment.~~ the program director role. This preparation education may be demonstrated by one of the following:
  - (A) completion of 45 contact hours of Board approved continuing education courses;
  - (B) completion of a certificate program in nursing education;
  - (C) nine semester hours of graduate course ~~work;~~ work in adult learning and learning principles;
  - (D) national certification in nursing education; or
  - (E) documentation of successful completion of structured, individualized development activities of at least 45 contact hours approved by the Board. Criteria for approval include content in the faculty role within the curriculum implementation, curricular objectives to be met and evaluated, review of strategies for identified student population population. and expectations of student and faculty performance;
- (6) maintain competence in the areas of assigned responsibility; and

- 1 (7) have current knowledge of nursing practice for the registered nurse and the licensed practical  
2 nurse.
- 3 (d) The nursing education program shall implement, for quality improvement, a comprehensive program evaluation  
4 that shall include the following:
- 5 (1) students' achievement of program outcomes;
- 6 (2) evidence of program ~~resources~~ resources, including fiscal, physical, human, clinical, and technical  
7 learning resources; student support ~~services~~ services; and the availability of clinical sites and the  
8 viability of those sites adequate to meet the objectives of the program;
- 9 (3) measures of program outcomes for graduates;
- 10 (4) evidence that accurate program information for ~~consumers~~ the public is available;
- 11 (5) evidence that the ~~head of the academic~~ controlling institution and ~~the~~ its administration support  
12 program outcomes;
- 13 (6) evidence that program director and program faculty meet ~~board~~ Board qualifications and are  
14 sufficient in number to achieve program outcomes;
- 15 (7) evidence that the academic institution assures security of student information;
- 16 (8) evidence that collected evaluative data is utilized in implementing quality improvement activities;  
17 and
- 18 (9) evidence of student participation in program planning, implementation, evaluation, and continuous  
19 improvement.
- 20 (e) The controlling institution and the nursing education program shall communicate information describing the  
21 nursing education program that is accurate, complete, consistent across mediums, and accessible by the public. The  
22 following shall be accessible to all applicants and students:
- 23 (1) admission policies and practices;
- 24 (2) policy on advanced ~~placement~~ placement and transfer of credits;
- 25 (3) ~~the~~ the number of credits required for completion of the program;
- 26 (4) tuition, fees, and other program costs;
- 27 (5) policies and procedures for withdrawal, including refund of tuition or fees;
- 28 (6) ~~the~~ the grievance procedure;
- 29 (7) criteria for successful progression in the ~~program~~ program, including graduation requirements; and  
30 (8) policies for clinical performance.

31

32 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 90-171.23(b)(8); 90-171.38;  
33 Eff. June 1, 1992;  
34 Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; January 1, 2015; April 1, 2008; March 1, 2006.

21 NCAC 36 .0318 is amended, with changes, as published in NCR 31:01, pages 30-31, as follows:

**21 NCAC 36 .0318 FACULTY**

(a) Nursing program faculty shall include full-time and part-time faculty members. Part-time faculty shall participate in curriculum implementation and evaluation.

(b) Policies for nursing program faculty members shall be consistent with those for other faculty of the institution. Variations in these policies may be necessary due to the nature of the nursing curriculum.

(c) Fifty percent or more of the nursing faculty shall hold a graduate degree.

(d) As of January 1, 2021, at least 80 percent of the full-time full-time faculty shall hold a graduate degree in nursing.

(e) As of January 1, 2021, at least 50 percent of the part-time part-time faculty shall hold a graduate degree in nursing.

(f) Hold All faculty shall hold a current unrestricted license or multistate licensure privilege to practice as a registered nurse in North Carolina.

(g) Nurses licensed pursuant to this Chapter who are Full-time full-time and part-time nurse faculty and who teach in a program leading to initial licensure as a nurse shall:

(1) hold either a baccalaureate in nursing or a graduate degree in nursing from an accredited institution;

(2) have two calendar years or the equivalent of full-time full-time clinical experience as a registered nurse;

(3) if newly employed in a full-time full-time faculty position on or after January 1, 2016, hold a graduate degree from an accredited institution, institution or obtain a graduate degree in nursing from an accredited institution within five years of initial full-time full-time employment;

(4) prior to or within the first three years of employment, have preparation education in teaching and learning principles for adult education, including curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation, appropriate to faculty assignment. This preparation may be demonstrated by one of the following:

(A) completion of 45 contact hours of [Board-approved] Board-approved continuing education courses;

(B) completion of a certificate program in nursing education;

(C) nine semester hours of graduate course work; work in adult learning and learning principles;

(D) national certification in nursing education; or

(E) documentation of successful completion of structured, individualized development activities of at least 45 contact hours approved by the Board. Criteria for approval include content in the faculty role within in the curriculum implementation, curricular objectives to be met and evaluated, review of strategies for identified student population population, and expectations of student and faculty performance;

- 1 (5) maintain competence in the areas of assigned responsibility; and
- 2 (6) have current knowledge of nursing practice for the registered nurse and the licensed practical
- 3 nurse.
- 4 (h) Interdisciplinary faculty who teach in nursing program courses shall have academic preparation in the content
- 5 area they are teaching.
- 6 (i) Clinical preceptors shall have competencies, assessed by the nursing program, related to the area of assigned
- 7 clinical teaching responsibilities and ~~shall~~ serve as role models to ~~the student.~~ students. Clinical preceptors may be
- 8 used to enhance faculty-directed clinical learning experiences after a student has received basic instruction for that
- 9 specific learning experience. Clinical preceptors shall hold a current, unrestricted license to practice as a registered
- 10 nurse in North Carolina.
- 11 (j) Nurse faculty members shall have the authority and responsibility for:
- 12 (1) student admission, progression, and graduation requirements; and
- 13 (2) the development, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum.
- 14 (k) Nurse faculty members shall be academically qualified and sufficient in number to implement the curriculum as
- 15 ~~demanded~~ required by the course objectives, the levels of the students, the nature of the learning environment, and to
- 16 provide for teaching, ~~supervision~~ supervision, and evaluation.
- 17 (l) The faculty-student ratio for ~~faculty-directed~~ faculty-directed preceptor clinical experiences shall be no larger
- 18 than 1:15. The faculty-student ratio for all other clinical experiences shall be no larger than 1:10.
- 19

20 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-171.23(b)(8); 90-171.38; 90-171.83;*

21 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

22 *Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; January 1, 2015; August 1, 2011; November 1, 2008; July 1,*

23 *2006; July 1, 2000; January 1, 1996; June 1, 1992; January 1, 1989; January 1, 1984.*

21 NCAC 36 .0320 is amended with changes, as published in NCR 31:01, page 31, as follows:

**21 NCAC 36 .0320 STUDENTS**

(a) Students in nursing programs shall meet requirements established by the controlling institution. Additional requirements may be stipulated by the nursing program for students because of the nature and legal responsibilities of nursing education and nursing practice.

(b) Admission requirements and practices shall be stated and published in the controlling institution's publications and shall include assessment of:

- (1) record of high school graduation, high-school equivalent, or earned credits from a post-secondary institution;
- (2) achievement potential through the use of previous academic records and pre-entrance examination cut-off scores that are consistent with curriculum demands and scholastic expectations; and
- (3) physical and emotional health that would provide evidence that is indicative of the applicant's ability to provide safe nursing care to the public.

(c) The number of students enrolled in nursing courses shall not exceed by more than 10 students the maximum number approved by the Board Board, as defined in established pursuant to 21 NCAC 36 .0302(f) and 21 NCAC 36 .0321(k) by more than 10 students. .0321(k).

(d) The nursing program shall publish policies in nursing student handbook and college catalog that provide for identification and dismissal of students who:

- (1) present physical or emotional problems which conflict with the safety essential to nursing practice and do not respond to treatment or counseling within a timeframe that enables meeting program ~~objectives.~~ objectives;
- (2) demonstrate behavior which conflicts with the safety essential to nursing ~~practice.~~ practice; or
- (3) fail to demonstrate professional behavior, including honesty, integrity, and appropriate use of ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ social [media] media, while in the nursing program of study.

(e) The nursing program shall maintain a three year three-year average at or above 95 percent of the national pass rate for licensure level pass rate on first writing of the licensure examination for calendar years ending December 31.

(f) The controlling institution shall publish policies in nursing student handbook and college catalog for transfer of credits or for admission to advanced placement placement and the nursing program shall determine the total number of nursing courses or credits awarded for advanced placement.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-171.23(b)(8); 90-171.38; 90-171.43;*

*Eff. February 1, 1976;*

*Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; January 1, 2006; August 1, 1998; January 1, 1996; June 1, 1992;*

*January 1, 1989; January 1, 1984.*

21 NCAC 36 .0321 is amended, with changes, as published in NCR 31:01, pages 31-32, as follows:

## **21 NCAC 36 .0321 CURRICULUM**

(a) Nursing ~~The nursing~~ program curriculum shall:

- (1) be planned by nursing program faculty;
- (2) reflect the stated program philosophy, purposes, and objectives pursuant to 21 NCAC 36 .0302(a)(2);
- (3) be consistent with the Statutes Article 9A of G.S. 90 and the Rules in this Chapter governing the practice of nursing;
- (4) define the level of performance required to pass each course in the curriculum;
- (5) enable the student to develop the nursing knowledge, skills and ~~competencies~~ abilities necessary for ~~the level, scope and competent practice consistent with the level of licensure and scope [in] all applicable Rules as defined set forth in 21 NCAC 36 .0221, .0224, .0225, and .0231 consistent with the level of licensure; and .0231;~~
- (6) include content in the biological, physical, social social, and behavioral sciences to provide a foundation for safe and effective nursing ~~practice, practice;~~
- (7) ~~provide students the opportunity to acquire and demonstrate, through [theory] didactic content and clinical experience under faculty supervision, the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for safe, effective, and competent nursing practice across the lifespan; and~~
- (8) ~~be revised as necessary to maintain a program that reflects changes and advances in health care and its delivery.~~

(b) Didactic content and supervised clinical experience across the lifespan appropriate to program type shall include:

- (1) ~~Implementing safety principles and [practices,] practices~~ minimizing risk of harm to clients ~~and providers through both system effectiveness and individual performance;~~
- ~~(1)(2)~~ (2) Using informatics to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error error, and support decision ~~making, making;~~
- ~~(2)(3)~~ (3) Employing evidence-based practice to integrate best research with clinical expertise and client values for optimal care, including skills to identify and apply best practices to nursing ~~care by care;~~
- ~~(A)(4)~~ (4) ~~providing~~ Providing client-centered, culturally competent ~~care; care by;~~
- ~~(B)(A)~~ (A) respecting client differences, values, preferences preferences, and expressed needs;
- ~~(C)(B)~~ (B) involving clients in decision-making and care management;
- ~~(D)(C)~~ (C) coordinating and managing continuous client care consistent with the level of licensure. This includes ~~demonstration of the~~ demonstrated ability to supervise others and provide leadership of the profession appropriate for program type; and
- ~~(E)(D)~~ (D) promoting healthy lifestyles for clients and populations.
- ~~(3)(5)~~ (5) Working in interdisciplinary teams to cooperate, collaborate, communicate communicate, and integrate client care and health ~~promotion. promotion; and.~~

- 1           ~~(4)(6)~~ Participating in quality improvement processes to measure client outcomes, identify hazards and  
2           errors, and develop changes in processes of client care.
- 3       (c) Clinical experience shall be comprised of sufficient hours to accomplish the curriculum, shall be supervised by  
4       qualified faculty pursuant to 21 NCAC 36 .0318 .0318, and shall ensure students' ability to practice at an entry level.
- 5       (d) All student clinical experiences, including those with preceptors, shall be directed by nursing faculty.
- 6       (e) ~~By January 1, 2008, a~~ A focused client care experience with a minimum of 120 hours shall be provided in the final  
7       year of curriculum implementation for programs preparing registered nurses.
- 8       (f) ~~Beginning January 1, 2008, a~~ A focused client care experience with a minimum of 90 hours shall be provided in the  
9       final semester of the curriculum implementation for programs preparing practical nurses.
- 10      (g) Learning experiences and methods of instruction, including distance education methods, shall be consistent with the  
11      written curriculum plan and shall demonstrate logical curricular progression.
- 12      (h) Objectives for each course shall indicate the ~~knowledge and knowledge, skills skills, and abilities~~ expected ~~of the~~  
13      ~~students. for competent student performance.~~ These objectives shall be stated to: shall:
- 14           (1)       indicate the relationship between the classroom learning and the application of this learning in the  
15           clinical ~~laboratory~~ experience;
- 16           (2)       serve as criteria for the selection of the types of and settings for learning experiences; and
- 17           (3)       serve as the basis for evaluating student performance.
- 18      (i) Student course syllabi shall include a description and outline ~~of of:~~
- 19           (1)       the course content, content;
- 20           (2)       the learning environments and activities, activities;
- 21           (3)       when the course placement, is taken in the curriculum;
- 22           (4)       allocation of ~~time, time for~~ [theory,] didactic content, clinical experience, [laboratory,]  
23           laboratory experience, and [simulation,] simulation; and,
- 24           (5)       and methods of evaluation of student performance, including [didactic and] clinical all  
25           evaluation ~~tools, tools used in the curriculum.~~
- 26      (j) Each course shall be implemented [and evaluated] in accordance with and evaluated by reference to the student  
27      course syllabus.
- 28      (k) Requests for approval of changes in, or expansion of, the program program, accompanied by all required  
29      documentation documentation, shall be submitted ~~on the form in the format~~ provided by the Board at least 30 days prior  
30      to implementation for approval by the Board. Criteria for approval include the availability of classrooms, laboratories,  
31      clinical placements, equipment and supplies supplies, and faculty sufficient to implement the curriculum to an increased  
32      number of students. Approval is ~~required; required~~ for any increase in enrollment that exceeds, by more than 10 students,  
33      the maximum number approved by the Board. Requests for expansion are considered only for programs with Full  
34      Approval status that demonstrate at least a three-year average ~~student retention licensure examination pass~~ rate equal to  
35      or ~~higher greater~~ than the ~~state NC three-year~~ average ~~retention pass~~ rate for program type.
- 36      (l) The nursing education program shall notify the Board of:
- 37           (1)       alternative or additional program schedules; and

- (2) planned decrease in the Board-approved student enrollment number to accurately reflect program capacity.
- (m) For all programs using simulation experiences substituted for clinical experience time, the nursing education program shall:
- (1) demonstrate that simulation faculty have been formally educated, and maintain the competencies in simulation and debriefing theory; debriefing; and
  - (2) provide a simulation environment with adequate faculty, space, equipment, and supplies to that simulate realistic clinical experiences to meet the curriculum and course objectives.
- (n) Programs not holding national nursing accreditation shall limit simulation experiences to no more than 25% in any course; course including the focused client care experience.
- (o) Programs holding national nursing accreditation shall limit simulation experiences to:
- (1) no more than 25% in the focused client care experience, and
  - (2) no more than 50% of clinical experience time in any other course.
- (p) External standardized examinations shall not be used as a determinant of a student's progression or graduation in a prelicensure nursing education program; preparing students for initial nurse licensure.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-171.23(b)(8); 90-171.38;*  
*Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
*Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; June 1, 1992; January 1, 1989; January 1, 1984;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 2001;*  
*Amended Eff. December 1, 2005; August 1, 2002.*

21 NCAC 36 .0322 is amended with changes, as published in NCR 31:01, pages 32-33, as follows:

**21 NCAC 36 .0322            FACILITIES**

(a) Campus facilities shall be appropriate in type, number, and accessibility for the total needs of the program.

(b) Classrooms, ~~laboratories~~, [laboratory/simulation] laboratory and simulation space, and conference rooms shall be sufficient in size, number, and types for the number of students and purposes for which the rooms are to be used. Lighting, ventilation, location, and equipment must be suitable for the number of students and purposes for which the rooms are to be used.

(c) Office and conference space for nursing program faculty members shall be appropriate and available for uninterrupted work and ~~privacy~~ privacy, including conferences with students.

(d) Learning resources, including clinical experiences, shall be comprehensive, current, developed with nursing faculty input, accessible to students and ~~faculty~~ faculty, and support the implementation of the curriculum.

*History Note:     Authority G.S. 90-171.23(b)(8); 90-171.38;*

*Eff. February 1, 1976;*

*Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; January 1, 1996; June 1, 1992; January 1, 1989; May 1, 1988;*

*Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 2001;*

*Amended Eff. April 1, 2006; August 1, 2002.*

21 NCAC 36 .0323 is amended, with changes, as published in NCR 31:01, pages 33, as follows:

**21 NCAC 36 .0323            RECORDS AND REPORTS**

(a) The controlling institution's publications describing the nursing program shall be accurate.

(b) There shall be a system for maintaining official records. Current and permanent student records shall be stored in a secure manner that prevents physical damage and unauthorized access.

(c) Both permanent and current records shall be available for review by Board staff.

(d) The official permanent record for each graduate shall include documentation of graduation from the program and a transcript of the individual's achievement in the program.

(e) The record for each currently enrolled student shall contain up-to-date and complete information, including the following:

(1) documentation of admission criteria met by the student;

(2) documentation of high school graduation, high school equivalent, or earned credits from post-secondary institution approved pursuant to G.S. 90-171.38(a); and

(3) a transcript of credit hours achieved in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical instruction for each course that reflects progression consistent with program policies.

(f) The nursing program shall file with the Board records, data, and reports in order to furnish information concerning operation of the program as prescribed in the rules in this Section Section, including:

(1) an Annual Report to be filed with the Board by November 1 of each year;

(2) a Program Description Report for non-accredited programs filed with the Board at least 30 days prior to a scheduled review; review by the Board; and

(3) notification by institution administration of any change of the registered nurse responsible for the nursing program. This notification shall include a curriculum vitae for the new individual and shall be submitted within no later than 20 10 business days of the effective date of the change.

(g) All communications relevant to accreditation shall be submitted to the North Carolina Board of Nursing at the same time that the communications are submitted to the accrediting body.

(h) The Board may require additional records and reports for review at any time to provide evidence and substantiate compliance with the rules in this Section by a program and its associated agencies. controlling institutions.

(i) The part of the application for licensure by examination to be submitted by the nursing program shall include a statement verifying satisfactory completion of all requirements for graduation and the date of completion. The nursing program director shall submit the [online] verification form verify completion of requirements to the Board within no later than one-month [40 business days] following completion of the [graduation from a] [Board approved] Board-approved nursing program.

*History Note:*     *Authority G.S. 90-171.23(b)(8); 90-171.38;*

*Eff. February 1, 1976;*

1                    *Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; January 1, 2015; December 1, 2005; January 1, 2004; June 1,*  
2                    *1992; January 1, 1989; January 1, 1984.*