

Title 17. Professions, Occupations, and Businesses
Chapter XXII. Arkansas State Board of Nursing, Department of Health
Part 125. Standards for Nursing Education Programs

Subpart 1. Approval of Programs

Codification Notes. This subpart as promulgated prior to codification into the Code of Arkansas Rules of 2024 provided as follows: "HISTORY: Amended: January 1, 2018"

17 CAR § 125-101. Prelicensure nursing programs generally.

(a) This part presents the standards established by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing for nursing education programs that offer courses and learning experiences preparing graduates who are:

- (1) Competent to practice nursing safely; and
- (2) Eligible to take the NCLEX–PN® or RN® examination.

(b) These programs are often referred to as a prelicensure nursing program.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

17 CAR § 125-102. New program leading to licensure.

(a) Institution requirement.

(1) The parent institution, located in an Arkansas jurisdiction, seeking to establish a new master's, baccalaureate, diploma, associate degree, or practical nursing program shall meet the following requirements:

(A) Educational institutions or consortiums shall be:

- (i) Approved by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education; and
- (ii) Accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the United States

Secretary of Education;

(B) Hospitals or hospital consortiums shall be:

- (i) Approved by the Arkansas Department of Health; and
- (ii) Accredited by The Joint Commission or equivalent accrediting

organization;

(C) Each skilled nursing facility in a consortium to provide a practical nursing program shall be approved by:

- (i) The Arkansas Department of Human Services; or
- (ii) An equivalent accrediting organization;

(D) Institutions offering a Licensed Practical Nurse Pathway Pilot Program shall be approved by the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education in consultation with the Arkansas Division of Higher Education; and

(E) The parent institution shall meet the transfer or articulation requirements for courses in Arkansas education institutions.

(2) A nursing education program whose parent institution is located outside of Arkansas's jurisdiction seeking to establish a new master's, baccalaureate, diploma, associate degree, or practical nursing program shall meet the following requirements:

(A) Education institutions shall be:

- (i) Approved by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education; and
- (ii) Accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the United States

Secretary of Education;

(B) Be approved/accredited by the board of nursing or equivalent agency in the state where the parent institution originates;

(C) The parent institution shall meet the transfer or articulation requirements for courses in Arkansas education institutions; and

(D) Maintain the education standards required of Arkansas-based nursing education programs.

(b) Prerequisite approval.

(1) An institution seeking to establish a new nursing education program leading to licensure shall submit a letter of intent to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing at least one (1) year prior to submission of a feasibility study.

(2) The institution must submit a current feasibility study that is signed by the appropriate administrative officers and includes the following:

(A) Purpose for establishing the program;

(B) Type of educational program to be established;

(C) Relationship to the parent institution, including an organizational chart;

(D) Mission, philosophy, purposes, and accreditation status of the parent institution;

(E) Financial statement of the parent institution for the past two (2) fiscal years;

(F) A proposed budget for each year of the program's implementation;

(G) Documented need and readiness of the community to support the program, including:

(i) Surveys of potential students;

(ii) Employment availability; and

(iii) Potential employers;

(H) Source and numbers of potential students and faculty;

(I) Proposed employee positions, including support staff;

(J) Proposed clinical facilities for student experiences, including:

(i) Letters of support from all major facilities expected to be used for full program implementation; and

(ii) Evidence of clinical space for additional students;

(K) Letters of support from approved nursing and health-related programs using the proposed clinical facilities;

(L) Proposed physical facilities, including:

(i) Offices;

(ii) Classrooms;

(iii) Technology;

(iv) Library; and

(v) Laboratories;

(M) Availability of the general education component of the curriculum or letter of agreement, if planned, from another institution;

(N) A timetable for initiating the program, including required resources, and plans for attaining initial approval; and

(O) Other information as requested by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

(3) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall review all prerequisite documents and may determine the need for an on-site survey during a regularly scheduled Arkansas State Board of Nursing meeting.

(4) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing may grant, defer, or deny prerequisite approval.

(5) If the Arkansas State Board of Nursing denies prerequisite approval the program must wait two (2) years before submitting another proposal.

(6) After receiving prerequisite approval status, the institution may:

(A) Advertise for students; and

(B) Proceed toward compliance by following the education standards for initial approval.

(c) Initial approval.

(1) The institution shall secure a nurse administrator of the program.

(2) The nurse administrator shall:

(A) Plan the program;

(B) Ensure compliance with Arkansas State Board of Nursing standards and recommendations;

(C) Address prerequisite recommendations;

(D) Prepare a detailed budget;

(E) Employ qualified faculty and support staff;

(F) Prepare a program organizational chart showing lines of authority;

(G) Design the program's sequential curriculum plan;

(H) Develop student, faculty, and support staff policies and procedures;

(I) Attain agency affiliation agreements;

(J) Verify that proposed physical facilities are in place; and

(K) Submit documentation to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing that initial approval standards are met.

(3) An Arkansas State Board of Nursing representative shall:

(A) Validate readiness of the program to admit students; and

(B) Prepare a report.

(4) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall review all documents for initial approval during a regularly scheduled Arkansas State Board of Nursing meeting.

(5) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing may grant, defer, or deny initial approval.

(6) After receiving initial approval, the program:

(A) May admit students;

(B) Shall proceed toward compliance by following the education standards for full approval; and

(C) Shall follow the same standards as those of established programs in terms of annual:

(i) Activities;

(ii) Projects; and

(iii) Reports.

(d) Full approval.

(1) Before graduation of the first class, an Arkansas State Board of Nursing representative shall:

- (A) Validate compliance with the standards; and
- (B) Prepare a report.

(2) The report and documentation shall be reviewed during a regularly scheduled Arkansas State Board of Nursing meeting.

(3) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing may grant, defer, or deny full approval.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

17 CAR § 125-103. Established program that prepares graduates for practical and registered nursing licensure.

(a) Continued full approval.

(1)(A) A survey shall be periodically conducted to review the program for continued compliance with the standards.

(B) An on-site or paper survey for a program includes:

(i) A newly established program shall have an on-site survey three (3) years after receiving initial full approval;

(ii) An established professional or practical nurse program that has continued accreditation status with a national nursing accreditation organization and has maintained a NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® pass rate of at least seventy-five percent (75%) shall have a paper survey every five (5) years thereafter; and

(iii) An established professional or practical nurse program that does not meet the criteria for accreditation with a national nursing education accreditation organization or has failed to maintain at least a seventy-five percent (75%) pass rate on the NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® shall have an on-site survey visit every five (5) years thereafter.

(2) The survey report and documentation shall be submitted to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and reviewed during a regularly scheduled board meeting.

(3) A program that is granted full approval shall maintain a NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® pass rate above seventy-five percent (75%) for two (2) consecutive years prior to being considered for continued full approval.

(4) The board may grant, defer, or deny continued full approval.

(b) Conditional approval.

(1) If areas of noncompliance with standards are not corrected in the timeframe established by the board, the board shall award conditional approval.

(2) Information regarding a nursing program requested by the board shall be provided by the parent institution.

(3) A representative of the board may conduct an on-site survey and complete a written report at the request of the board.

(4) Additional information available to the board may be considered.

(5) The board shall review all documents during a regularly scheduled board meeting.

(6) The conditional approval status shall be in effect for a maximum of two (2) years to correct noncompliance deviations from the standards, unless otherwise determined by the board.

(7) The program and parent institution shall receive written notification of noncompliance deviations and the board action.

(8) The board may:

- (A) Grant continued conditional approval;
- (B) Grant full approval; or
- (C) Withdraw the program's approval.

(c) Satellite campus.

(1)(A) Satellite campus programs shall be approved by the board prior to implementation.

(B) A continued full approval program may submit a proposal for a satellite campus program.

(C) The proposal shall reflect requirements for prerequisite approval of a new program.

(2) The board may grant, defer, or deny approval.

(3) All approved satellite campus programs shall maintain the same standards as the parent program.

(4) Each satellite campus' data will be included in the program's annual report and five-year survey report.

(d) Distant learning sites.

(1) Distant learning sites shall be approved by the board prior to utilization.

(2) Each distant learning site's data shall be included in the program's annual report and five-year survey report.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

Subpart 2. Program Requirements

17 CAR § 125-201. Administration and organization.

(a) **Institutional accreditation.** The parent institution shall be approved by the appropriate state body.

(b) Institutional organization.

(1) The parent institution shall be a:

- (A) Post-secondary educational institution;
- (B) Hospital; or
- (C) Consortium of such institutions.

(2) The institutional organizational chart shall indicate lines of authority and relationships with:

- (A) Administration;
- (B) The program; and
- (C) Other departments.

(3) The program shall have at least equal status with comparable departments of the parent institution.

(c) Program organization.

(1) The program shall have a current organizational chart.

- (2) The program shall have specific current job descriptions for all positions.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

Codification Notes. This section as promulgated prior to codification into the Code of Arkansas Rules of 2024 provided as follows: "HISTORY: Amended January 1, 2018"

17 CAR § 125-202. Philosophy and graduate competencies.

(a) The philosophy of the program shall be in writing and consistent with the mission of the parent institution.

(b) Graduate competencies shall be derived from the program's philosophy.

(c) The philosophy and graduate competencies shall serve as the framework for program development and maintenance.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

Codification Notes. This section as promulgated prior to codification into the Code of Arkansas Rules of 2024 provided as follows: "HISTORY: Amended January 1, 2018"

17 CAR 125-203. Resources.

(a) Financial resources.

(1) There shall be adequate financial support to provide stability, development, and effective operation of the program.

(2) The director of the program shall administer the budget according to parent institutional policies.

(3) The director shall make budget recommendations with input from the faculty and staff.

(b) Library and learning resource center. Each program and each satellite campus shall have a library or learning resource center with the following:

(1) Current holdings to meet:

(A) Student educational needs;

(B) Faculty instructional needs; and

(C) Scholarly activities;

(2) Budget plan for acquisitions of printed and multimedia materials;

(3) Written process for identifying and deleting outdated holdings; and

(4) Resources and services accessible and conveniently available.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

Codification Notes. This section as promulgated prior to codification into the Code of Arkansas Rules of 2024 provided as follows: "HISTORY: Amended January 1, 2018"

17 CAR § 125-204. Facilities.

(a) Classrooms and laboratories.

(1) Each program and satellite campus shall have a clinical skills laboratory equipped with necessary educational resources.

(2) Classrooms and laboratories shall be:

(A) Available at the scheduled time;

(B) Adequate in size for number of students;

(C) Climate controlled, ventilated, lighted; and

(D) Equipped with seating, furnishings, and equipment conducive to learning and program goals.

(3) Adequate storage space shall be available.

(4) Facilities shall be in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal rules related to safety and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(b) Offices.

(1) The director of the program shall have a private office.

(2) Faculty members shall have adequate office space to:

(A) Complete duties of their positions; and

(B) Provide for uninterrupted work and privacy for conferences with students.

(3) There shall also be adequate:

(A) Office space for clerical staff;

(B) Secure space for:

(i) Records;

(ii) Files;

(iii) Equipment; and

(iv) Supplies; and

(C) Office equipment and supplies to meet the needs of faculty and clerical staff.

(c) Clinical facilities.

(1) Clinical facilities and sites shall provide adequate learning experiences to meet course objectives.

(2) Clinical sites shall be adequately staffed with health professionals.

(3) The program shall have a current and appropriate written agreement with each clinical site.

(4) Written agreements shall include a termination clause and be reviewed annually.

(5) Students shall receive orientation to each clinical site.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

Codification Notes. This section as promulgated prior to codification into the Code of Arkansas Rules of 2024 provided as follows:

“HISTORY: Amended January 1, 2018

Amended January 1, 2020”

17 CAR § 125-205. Personnel.

(a) Program director.

(1) The program director shall:

(A) Have a current unencumbered registered nurse license to practice in Arkansas; and

(B) Be employed full time.

(2)(A) The practical nursing program director shall have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

(B) Directors appointed prior to January 1, 2004, shall be exempt for the duration of their current position.

(3) The baccalaureate, diploma, or associate degree program director shall have a minimum of a master's degree in nursing.

(4) The master's degree program director shall:

(A) Have a graduate degree with a major in nursing; and

(B) Be doctorally prepared.

(5) The program director shall have previous experience in clinical nursing practice and/or education.

(6)(A) The program director's primary responsibility and authority shall be to administer the nursing program.

(B) The program director shall be accountable for program:

(i) Administration;

(ii) Planning;

(iii) Implementation; and

(iv) Evaluation.

(C) Adequate time shall be allowed for relevant administrative duties and responsibilities.

(7) The program director shall verify the applicant has completed the program.

(b) Faculty and assistant clinical instructors.

(1) Faculty shall hold a current unencumbered registered nurse license to practice in Arkansas.

(2) Faculty shall have had at least two (2) years' previous experience in clinical nursing at or above the education program level.

(3) Faculty teaching in a master's, baccalaureate, diploma, associate degree, or practical nurse program shall have a degree or diploma above the type of education program offered.

(4) Nurses serving as assistant clinical instructors in a master's, baccalaureate, diploma, associate degree, or practical nurse program shall have a degree or diploma at or above the type of education program offered.

(5) Assistant clinical instructors shall:

(A) Be under the direction of faculty;

(B) Hold a current unencumbered license to practice in Arkansas; and

(C) Have a minimum of two (2) years' experience in the clinical area.

(6) All faculty shall maintain education and clinical competencies in areas of instructional responsibilities.

(7) Non-nurse faculty shall meet the requirements of the parent institution.

(8) Faculty shall be organized with written policies, procedures, and, if appropriate, standing committees.

(9) Nursing faculty policies shall be consistent with parent institutional policies.

(10) Program specific policies shall be developed by nursing faculty.

(11) A planned program specific orientation for new faculty shall be in writing and implemented.

(12)(A) Consideration shall be given to safety, patient acuity, and the clinical area in determining the necessary faculty-to-student ratio for clinical experiences.

(B) The faculty-to-student ratio in clinical experiences shall be:

(i) In the acute care setting where students are providing direct patient care the ratio is one (1) faculty member to eight (8) students (1:8);

(ii) In the nonacute care setting where students are providing direct patient care the ratio is one (1) faculty member to ten (10) students (1:10); and

(iii) In the community setting where the students have indirect or direct patient care with a community partner the ratio is one (1) faculty member to fifteen (15) students (1:15).

(13) The minimum number of faculty shall be one (1) full-time member in addition to the director.

(14)(A) Faculty meetings shall be regularly scheduled and held.

(B) Minutes shall be maintained in writing.

(15) Faculty members shall participate in program activities as per policies and procedures.

(c) **Support staff.** There shall be secretarial designated support staff sufficient to meet the needs of the program.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

17 CAR § 125-206. Preceptors.

(a) Preceptor utilization.

(1)(A) Preceptors shall not be considered in clinical faculty–student ratio.

(B) The ratio of preceptor to student shall not exceed 1:2.

(2) There shall be written policies for the use of preceptors that include:

(A) Communications between the program and preceptor concerning students;

(B) Duties, roles, and responsibilities of the:

(i) Program;

(ii) Preceptor; and

(iii) Student; and

(C) An evaluation process.

(3) All preceptors shall be listed on the annual report by:

(A) Area;

(B) Agency; and

(C) Number of students precepted.

(b) Preceptor criteria.

(1)(A) Master's, baccalaureate, diploma, associate degree, or practical nurse program student preceptors shall hold a current unencumbered license to practice as a registered nurse in Arkansas.

(B) Practical nurse student preceptors shall hold a current unencumbered license to practice as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse in Arkansas.

(2) Preceptors shall have a minimum of one (1) year of experience in the area of clinical specialty for which the preceptor is utilized.

(3) Preceptors shall participate in evaluation of the student.

(c) Student criteria.

(1) Precepted students shall be enrolled in courses specific to the preceptor's expertise.

(2) Precepted students shall have appropriate learning experiences prior to the preceptorship.

(d) Faculty criteria.

(1) Program faculty shall be responsible for the learning activity.

(2) Program faculty shall be available for consultation with student and preceptor.

(3) Program faculty shall be responsible for the final evaluation of the experience.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

Codification Notes. This section as promulgated prior to codification into the Code of Arkansas Rules of 2024 provided as follows: "Amended June 15, 2024"

17 CAR § 125-207. Students.

(a) Admissions, readmissions, and transfers.

(1) There shall be written policies for admission, readmission, transfer, and advanced placement of students.

(2)(A) Admission criteria shall reflect consideration of potential to complete the program and meet standards to apply for licensure.

(B) See Arkansas Code §§ 17-3-102 and 17-87-312.

(3) Students who speak English as a second language shall:

(A) Meet the same admission criteria as other students; and

(B) Pass an English proficiency examination.

(b) Progression and graduation. There shall be written policies for progression and graduation of students.

(c) Student services.

(1) Academic and financial aid services shall be accessible to all students.

(2) If health services are not available through the parent institution, a plan for emergency care shall be in writing.

(3) There shall be provision for a counseling and guidance program separate from nursing faculty.

(d) Appeal policies. Appeal policies shall:

(1) Be in writing; and

(2) Provide for academic and nonacademic grievances.

(e) Program governance. Students shall participate in program governance as appropriate.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

17 CAR § 125-208. Student publications.

- (a) Publications shall be:
 - (1) Current;
 - (2) Dated; and
 - (3) Internally consistent with parent institution and program materials.
- (b) The following minimum information shall be available in writing for prospective and current students:
 - (1) Approval status of the program granted by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing;
 - (2) Admission criteria;
 - (3) Advanced placement policies;
 - (4) Curriculum plan;
 - (5) Program costs;
 - (6) Refund policy;
 - (7) Financial aid information; and
 - (8) Information on meeting eligibility standards for licensure, including:
 - (A) Information on Arkansas Code §§ 17-3-102 and 17-87-312; and
 - (B) That graduating from a nursing program does not ensure the board's approval to take the licensure examination.
- (c) The student handbook shall include the following minimum information:
 - (1) Philosophy and graduate competencies;
 - (2) Policies related to substance abuse and processes for:
 - (A) Grievances and appeal;
 - (B) Grading;
 - (C) Progression; and
 - (D) Graduation; and
 - (3) Student rights and responsibilities.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

17 CAR § 125-209. Educational program.

- (a)(1) The education program shall include curriculum and learning experiences essential for the expected entry level and scope of practice.
- (2) Curriculum development shall be the responsibility of the nursing faculty.
- (3) Curriculum plan shall be organized to reflect the philosophy and graduate competencies.
- (4) Courses shall be placed in a logical and sequential manner showing progression of knowledge and learning experiences.
- (5) Courses shall have written syllabi indicating learning experiences and requirements.
- (6) Theory content shall be taught concurrently or prior to related clinical experience.
- (7) Clinical experiences shall include expectations of professional conduct by students.
- (8) Curriculum plans for all programs shall include appropriate content in:
 - (A) Introduction to current federal and state patient care guidelines;
 - (B) Current and emerging infectious diseases;
 - (C) Emergency preparedness for natural and manmade disasters;

- (D) Impact of genetic research;
- (E) End-of-life care; and
- (F) Legal and ethical aspects of nursing, including the Arkansas Nurse Practice

Act.

(b) The curriculum plan for practical nurse programs shall include:

- (1) Theoretical content and clinical experiences that focus on:
 - (A) Care for persons throughout the lifespan, including cultural sensitivity;
 - (B) Restoration, promotion, and maintenance of physical and mental health; and
 - (C) Prevention of illness for individuals and groups;
- (2) The length of the practical nurse curriculum shall be no less than ten (10) calendar months, which includes a minimum of thirty-five (35) credit hours in nursing content;
- (3) Theory content may be in separate courses or integrated and shall include at least the following:

- (A) Anatomy and physiology;
- (B) Nutrition;
- (C) Pharmacology and intravenous therapy;
- (D) Growth and development throughout the lifespan;
- (E) Fundamentals of nursing;
- (F) Gerontological nursing;
- (G) Nursing of adults;
- (H) Pediatric nursing;
- (I) Maternal/infant nursing;
- (J) Mental health nursing; and
- (K) Principles of management in long-term care, including delegation; and

(4) Clinical experiences shall be in the areas of:

- (A) Fundamentals of nursing;
- (B) Nursing of adults;
- (C) Pediatric nursing;
- (D) Gerontological nursing;
- (E) Maternal/infant nursing;
- (F) Mental health;
- (G) Administration of medications, including intravenous therapy; and
- (H) Management in long term care, including delegation.

(c) The curriculum plan for registered nurse programs, master's, baccalaureate, diploma, or associate degree shall include:

- (1) Theoretical content and clinical experiences that focus upon:
 - (A) The prevention of illness and the restoration, promotion, and maintenance of physical and mental health;
 - (B) Nursing care based upon:
 - (i) Assessment;
 - (ii) Analysis;
 - (iii) Planning;
 - (iv) Implementing; and
 - (v) Evaluating; and

- (C) Care for persons throughout the life span, including cultural sensitivity; and
- (2) Course content may be in separate courses or integrated and shall include at least

the following:

- (A) Biological and physical sciences content:

- (i) Chemistry;
- (ii) Anatomy and physiology;
- (iii) Microbiology;
- (iv) Pharmacology;
- (v) Nutrition; and
- (vi) Mathematics;

- (B) Behavioral science and humanities content:

- (i) Psychology;
- (ii) Sociology;
- (iii) Growth and development;
- (iv) Interpersonal relationships;
- (v) Communication; and
- (vi) English composition;

- (C) Nursing science content:

- (i) Medical surgical adult;
- (ii) Pediatrics;
- (iii) Maternal/infant;
- (iv) Gerontology;
- (v) Mental health;
- (vi) Leadership, including nursing management and delegation; and
- (vii) Master's and baccalaureate programs shall include community

health; and

- (D) Clinical experiences shall be in the areas of:

- (i) Medical/surgical;
- (ii) Pediatrics;
- (iii) Maternal/infant;
- (iv) Mental health;
- (v) Gerontology;
- (vi) Leadership and management, including delegation;
- (vii) Rehabilitation; and
- (viii) Master's and baccalaureate programs shall include clinical

experiences in community health.

(d)(1) The curriculum plan for registered nursing and practical nursing education programs may include the use of simulation as a substitute for traditional clinical experiences, not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of its clinical hours in each course.

(2) A program that uses simulation shall demonstrate the use of current standards of best practice for simulation and provide evidence of compliance that shall include:

- (A) An organizing framework that provides adequate fiscal, human, and material resources to support the simulation activities;

(B)(i) Management by an individual who is academically and experientially qualified.

(ii) The individual shall demonstrate continued expertise and competence in the use of simulation while managing the program;

(C) A budget that will sustain the simulation activities and training of the faculty;

(D)(i) Appropriate facilities for conducting simulation.

(ii) This shall include educational and technological resources and equipment to meet the intended objectives of the simulation;

(E) Training for faculty involved in the use of simulation, both didactic and clinical;

(F) Ongoing professional development in the use of simulation for faculty involved in simulations, both didactic and clinical;

(G) Programmatic outcomes that are linked to simulation activities;

(H) Written policies and procedures on the following:

(i) Short-term and long-term plans for integrating simulation into the curriculum;

(ii) Method of debriefing each simulated activity; and

(iii) Plan for orienting faculty to simulation;

(I) Criteria to evaluate the simulation activities;

(J) Student evaluations of simulation experiences on an ongoing basis; and

(K) Information about the use of simulation, as requested by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, on the annual report.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

Codification Notes. This section as promulgated prior to codification into the Code of Arkansas Rules of 2024 provided as follows:

“HISTORY: Amended: December 29, 2018;
Amended: June 4, 2021; May 15, 2022”

17 CAR § 125-210. Earn to Learn Program.

A registered nurse or practical nurse program may allow a student seeking initial licensure to earn direct patient care clinical credit hours while working in a healthcare facility as a certified nursing assistant, patient care technician, or other job with a similar title under the following conditions:

(1) The student may not work more than twenty (20) hours per week in any of the above-listed roles;

(2) The direct patient clinical credit hours earned shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the direct patient care clinical hours for each course outlined in the foundational or the senior-level curricula of the nursing program;

(3) A senior-level nursing student may work under the following conditions:

(A) The student shall work with at least one (1) nurse but not more than two (2) nurses; and

(B) The nursing program and the healthcare facility shall establish boundaries and expectations of the senior-level student based on accreditation standards and the rules of the Arkansas State Nursing Board;

(4) The nursing program and healthcare facility shall collaborate to establish a standardized student evaluation process; and

(5) The healthcare facility participating in the program shall identify at least one (1) nurse supervisor or clinical nurse educator to oversee the nursing students.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

Codification Notes. This section as promulgated prior to codification into the Code of Arkansas Rules of 2024 provided as follows:

“HISTORY: Adopted: June 15, 2024”

17 CAR § 125-211. Program evaluation.

(a) Faculty shall be responsible for program evaluation.

(b) A systematic evaluation plan of all program aspects shall be in writing, implemented, and include:

- (1) Philosophy and graduate competencies;
- (2) Curriculum;
- (3) Policies;
- (4) Resources;
- (5) Facilities;
- (6) Faculty;
- (7) Students;
- (8) Graduates; and
- (9) Employer evaluation of graduates.

(c) The outcomes of the systematic evaluations shall be used for ongoing maintenance and development of the program.

(d) Appropriate records shall be maintained to assist in overall evaluation of the program after graduation.

(e) The systematic program evaluation plan shall be periodically reviewed.

(f) Students shall evaluate the:

- (1) Courses, instructors, preceptors, and clinical experiences throughout the program;
- and
- (2) Overall program after graduation.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

17 CAR § 125-212. Records.

(a) Transcripts of all students enrolled in the program shall be maintained according to policies of the parent institution.

(b) Transcripts shall reflect courses taken.

- (c) The final transcript shall include:
 - (1) Dates of admission;
 - (2) Date of separation or graduation from the program;
 - (3) Hours/credits/units earned, degree, diploma, or certificate awarded;
 - (4) The signature of the program director, registrar, or official electronic signature; and
 - (5) The seal of the school or be printed on security paper or an official electronic document.
- (d) Current program records shall be safely stored in a secure area.
- (e) Permanent student records shall be safely stored to prevent loss by destruction and unauthorized use.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

Codification Notes. This section as promulgated prior to codification into the Code of Arkansas Rules of 2024 provided as follows: "HISTORY: Amended: January 1, 2018"

Subpart 3. Reports, Licensure Examination, and Closure

17 CAR § 125-301. Reports.

(a) **Annual report.** An annual report shall be submitted in a format and date determined by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

(b) **Special reports/requests.** The board shall be notified in writing of major changes affecting the program, including, but not limited to:

- (1) School name;
- (2) Director of program; and
- (3) Ownership or merger of parent institution.

(c) **Curriculum changes.**

(1) **Master's, baccalaureate, diploma, or associate degree nurse program changes.**

Major changes of curriculum or standards shall be reported to the board prior to implementation, including, but not limited to:

- (A) Philosophy, competencies, and objectives;
- (B) Reorganization of curriculum; and
- (C) Increase or decrease in length of program.

(2) **Practical programs.** Major changes of curriculum and standards shall be approved prior to implementation, including, but not limited to:

- (A) Philosophy, competencies, and objectives;
- (B) Reorganization of curriculum; and
- (C) Increase or decrease in length of program.

(d) Pilot programs/projects that differ from the current approved program shall be approved prior to implementation.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

17 CAR § 125-302. Licensure examination performance.

(a) The student pass rate on the licensure examination shall be calculated on the Arkansas State Board of Nursing fiscal year.

(b) The program shall maintain a minimum pass rate of seventy-five percent (75%) for first-time examination candidates.

(c) Any program with a pass rate below seventy-five percent (75%) shall:

(1) First year:

(A) Receive a letter of concern; and

(B)(i) Provide the board with a report analyzing all aspects of the program.

(ii) The report shall:

(a) Identify and analyze areas contributing to the low pass rate;

and

(b) Include plans for resolution, which shall be implemented;

(2) Second consecutive year:

(A) Receive a letter of warning; and

(B)(i) Program director and parent institution representative shall appear and present a report to the board.

(ii) The report shall identify and analyze:

(a) The failure of first-year corrections; and

(b) Additional plans for resolution of the low pass rate; and

(3) Third consecutive year:

(A) Be placed on conditional approval; and

(B) Conditional approval will be granted until:

(i) Two (2) consecutive years of an above seventy-five percent (75%) pass rate is achieved; or

(ii) The board withdraws approval status for noncompliance with the education standards.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

17 CAR § 125-303. Program closure.

(a) **Voluntary.**

(1)(A) The parent institution shall submit a letter of intent for closure at least six (6) months prior to the closure.

(B) The letter shall include:

(i) Date of closure; and

(ii) Plan for completion of currently enrolled students.

(2) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing must approve closure plan prior to implementation.

(3) All classes and clinical experiences shall be provided until:

(A) Current students complete the program; or

(B) Parent institution provides for transfer to another acceptable program.

(4)(A) Records of a closed program shall be:

(i) Maintained by the parent institution; and

(ii) In compliance with federal and state laws.

(B) The institution shall notify the board of arrangements for the storage of permanent student and graduate records.

(b) Mandatory.

(1)(A) Upon board determination that a program has failed to comply with educational standards and approval has been withdrawn, the parent institution shall receive written notification for closure of the program.

(B) The notification shall include:

- (i) The reason for withdrawal of approval;
- (ii) The date of expected closure; and
- (iii) A requirement for a plan for:
 - (a) Completion of currently enrolled students; or
 - (b) Transfer of students to another acceptable program.

(2)(A) Records of a closed program shall be:

- (i) Maintained by the parent institution; and
- (ii) In compliance with federal and state laws.

(B) The institution shall notify the board of arrangements for the storage of permanent student and graduate records.

(c) A program that has had withdrawal of their approval status may apply as a new program after one (1) year from official closure date.

Authority. Arkansas Code § 17-87-203.

Codification Notes. This section as promulgated prior to codification into the Code of Arkansas Rules of 2024 provided as follows: "HISTORY: Amended: January 1, 2018"