



GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND RULES AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

RULES CHAPTER 410-8 REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Nursing (hereinafter "Board") proposes to amend rules chapter 410-8.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the rules, is being distributed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on the interested party notification list. A copy of this notice and the rules may be reviewed during normal business hours (8:00 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday, except official State holidays) at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Georgia Board of Nursing's web page at www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/nursing. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Georgia Board of Nursing at (478) 207-2440.

Any interested party affected by the rules may present comments to the Board no later than July 10, 2017. Written comments should be addressed to Jim Cleghorn, Executive Director, Georgia Board of Nursing, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Comments may be submitted by fax to (877) 371-5712 or by email to nursing@sos.ga.gov.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm on July 20, 2017 at the Professional Licensing Boards Division, located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the amendment of the rules.

The Board voted to adopt this Notice of Intent at its April 13, 2017 meeting. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2, and 43-26-5(a)(4)-(6), and that it is not legal or feasible to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated and dominant in the field of nursing.

The rules will be considered for adoption by the Georgia Board of Nursing at its meeting scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm on July 20, 2017 at the Professional Licensing Boards Division at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 30217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Nursing has the authority to adopt the proposed rule amendments to rules chapter 410-8 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2, and 43-26-5(a)(4)-(6).

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This 3rd day of May, 2017

Lisa Durden w/ express permission by Josh Waters

Lisa Durden, Division Director

Professional Licensing Boards Division

POSTED: 03 MAY 17

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULES CHAPTER 410-8-.03 ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Purpose/Main Feature: The purpose of the proposed amendments is to correct the name of the accrediting body; and to clarify the faculty/student ratio for faculty workload.

410-8-.03 Organization and Administration

- (1) The nursing education program must be an integral part of a parent institution accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (also referred to as the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) or other regional accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. ~~Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.~~
- (2) The relationship of the nursing unit as a program, department, division, school, or college to the parent institution must be delineated on a current organizational chart in accordance with the structural or functional plan of the parent institution.
- (3) The nurse administrator shall assume authority and responsibility for the administration, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the nursing education program. This will include oversight of and budgeting for the program, selection and evaluation of qualified faculty, and evaluation of program outcomes. A percentage of time for, and description of, administrative responsibilities and must be identified. The Board must be notified within 30 days of a change in the nurse administrator.
- (4) The minimum length of a nursing education program shall be six (6) academic quarters or four (4) academic semesters, each of which shall include nursing courses with learning activities in classes, simulated settings, and practice settings.
- (5) If a nursing education program has an accelerated option for students who have earned a baccalaureate or higher degree in another discipline, the minimum length of study as identified in Rule 410-8-.03(4) may be shortened. The course of study must be comparable to that required for prelicensure students graduating from the same nursing education program.
- (6) Adequate financial resources shall be provided for the effective operation of the nursing education program and the professional development of faculty.
- (7) ~~A faculty/student ratio of at least one (1) full-time pre-licensure nursing faculty member for each twenty (20) students enrolled in the nursing education program (including audited courses) shall be maintained.~~ Faculty workload must be allocated to maintain a ratio of one full time prelicensure nursing faculty member for each twenty (20) prelicensure students enrolled in the nursing education program.
- (8) The nursing education program shall have a plan for continuous quality assessment and improvement which includes, but is not limited to: organization and administration; curriculum; faculty; students; performance of students and graduates; and educational facilities and resources.
- (9) Implementation of the plan for continuous quality assessment and improvement, findings, and relevant actions and/or decisions shall be documented.
- (10) All information, course materials, and documentation pertaining to the nursing education program shall be accurate and current.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-5(a)(4)-(6)

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULES CHAPTER 410-8-.05 FACULTY

Purpose/Main Feature: The purpose of the proposed amendments is to reduce the faculty/student ratio in inpatient clinical settings.

410-8-.05 Faculty

- (1) A nursing faculty member includes any registered nurse, appointed by the parent institution, regardless of the institutional designation, who is engaged in teaching/evaluation in classes, simulated settings, and practice settings.
- (2) The nurse administrator and nurse faculty members of any nursing education program must be currently licensed as registered nurses in Georgia and authorized as advanced practice registered nurses (if applicable) from the initial date of appointment.
- (3) Faculty who are assigned to practice settings in another state or country shall comply with the relevant nurse practice act in that jurisdiction.
- (4) The nurse administrator, who is appointed with the authority and responsibility for the development, administration, and evaluation of the nursing program(s) within the nursing unit, must have at least one (1) earned graduate degree in nursing and at least three (3) years of teaching experience in a nursing education program leading to initial registered nurse licensure or completion of a higher degree in nursing.
- (5) Any registered nurse, appointed by the parent institution, who is engaged in teaching/evaluation in classes, simulated settings and practice settings, must hold at least a baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing.
- (6) For any given academic term, the nursing education program must be able to provide evidence that at least the majority of faculty members are full time and that at least three-fourths of individual full-time and part-time faculty members hold one (1) or more earned graduate degrees in nursing.
- (7) A full-time faculty member with only a baccalaureate degree in nursing must be able to provide documentation of progress toward an earned graduate degree in nursing, have experience in the area of responsibility, and be directed by a faculty member with at least one (1) earned graduate degree in nursing.
- (8) Faculty members shall have the graduate nursing education, expertise, and professional development necessary to enable the goals/outcomes of the curriculum.
- (9) For any course with a nursing title and number, a qualified registered nurse faculty member must be the coordinator.
- (10) Faculty members must be available to direct, coach, mentor, and critique students engaged in learning activities in classes, simulated settings, and practice settings.
- (11) Effective August 1, 2018, A a faculty/student ratio of at least one (1) registered nurse faculty member providing direct supervision for no more than ten (10) eight (8) students engaged in actual, interactive learning activities direct patient care in inpatient practice settings must be maintained to provide for the safety of patients/clients, students, and faculty members.
- (12) Faculty members shall participate in and document the development, implementation, and evaluation of the nursing education program.
- (13) Policies in effect for nursing faculty, including workload, shall be consistent with those in effect for all faculty appointed by the parent institution.
- (14) The process of selection, approval, and role development, and delineation of responsibilities

of full-time and part-time faculty members shall be documented.

(15) Out of state nursing education programs that have faculty and students engaged in learning activities in Georgia practice settings must comply with the Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act.

(16) An international nursing educator, who is not licensed as a registered professional nurse in Georgia and who is participating as an exchange visitor in a nursing education program, may direct, coach, mentor, and critique students engaged in learning activities in classes and simulated settings under the following conditions:

(a) Responsibility for any course, in which the international nursing educator participates, must be assumed by a faculty member appointed by the parent institution;

(b) Monetary compensation to the international nursing educator must not be provided by the parent institution;

(c) Until licensure by examination has been granted, the international nursing educator must not be involved in actual, interactive learning activities with students and patients/clients in practice settings; and

(d) In advance of the exchange period, the Board of Nursing must be notified of the academic and regulatory credentials of the international nursing educator for a one-time period not to exceed all or part of a quarter or semester.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-5(a)(4)-(6)

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULES CHAPTER 410-8-.12 DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Purpose/Main Feature: The purpose of the proposed amendments is to require certain documentation from new nursing education programs; to require new information in a board-approved feasibility program; and to correct the name of the accrediting body.

410-8-.12 Development and Implementation of New Nursing Education Programs

(1) To obtain approval by the Board for the development of a new nursing education program, the chief administrative officer of a parent institution proposing the development and implementation of a new nursing education program must submit a letter of intent to the Board. The following information must be included:

- (a) A completed application signed by the chief administrative officer of the parent institution;
- (b) Documentation from the highest governing body of the parent institution granting permission to proceed with development of a nursing education program;
- ~~(b)~~ (c) A board-approved feasibility study, completed within one year of the date of the letter, which includes, but is not limited to: rationales for the establishment of the proposed nursing education program documenting an educational need which cannot be met by existing nursing education programs; financial resources; educational facilities and resources; faculty members; resources for electronic and simulated learning; and practice settings;
- ~~(c)~~ (d) Evidence of accreditation of the parent institution by the ~~Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~ Commission on Colleges (also referred to as the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) or other regional accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education;
- ~~(d)~~ (e) A written plan for the recruitment and appointment of a qualified nurse administrator and faculty members to teach courses across the curriculum; and
- ~~(e)~~ (f) The nonrefundable, required fee which does not guarantee any approval status;
- ~~(f)~~ (g) Documentation of the appointment of a registered nurse, currently licensed in Georgia, with the graduate nursing education and expertise necessary to develop and implement the proposed nursing education program and assess its outcomes;
- ~~(g) An affidavit of approval of the proposed nursing education program by the highest governing body of the parent institution within one year of the date of submission of the application;~~
- (h) Documentation of projected revenue sources (federal, state, private, grants, gifts) and expenditures for five (5) fiscal years to support the development and implementation of the proposed nursing education program. The information must include, but is not limited to: appointment of sufficient qualified nursing faculty members (consistent with Rule 410-8-.05); appointment of ~~secretarial~~ administrative personnel and support services; and provision of print and non-print learning resources, academic support courses, and educational resources in compliance with Board rules;
- (i) A written description for each practice setting proposed for learning activities with a letter of commitment from practice setting personnel to include the possible impact on existing, affiliating nursing programs; and
- (j) A five-year timeline for the development and implementation of the nursing education program which includes cohorts of students and faculty members; and

- (k) A proposed timeline for initiating and expanding the program.
- (2) The nurse administrator and at least two (2) (full-time or part-time) faculty members with the graduate nursing education and expertise necessary to develop and implement the nursing education program and assess its outcomes, must be appointed by the parent institution to submit the following materials for Board review at least twelve (12) months prior to the enrollment of students in the first nursing course(s):
 - (a) Faculty qualification records for the nurse administrator and faculty members;
 - (b) Program purpose or mission statement;
 - (c) Program philosophy/assumptions;
 - (d) Goals/outcomes of the curriculum;
 - (e) Written plan for the organization and development of the curriculum;
 - (f) Curriculum plan, consistent with Rule 410-8-.04, showing the placement, sequence, and credit distribution of all nursing and non-nursing courses;
 - (g) Syllabus for each nursing course to include the title, credit distribution, prerequisites and corequisite courses, goals/outcomes, and course outline;
 - (h) Plan for continuous quality assessment and improvement consistent with Rule 410-8-.03(8);
 - (i) Information specific to the nursing education program, including but not limited to, admissions, options for advanced placement, acceleration, part-time study, articulation, progression, graduation, health requirements, the potential for criminal background checks and expanded medical profiles, and appeals;
 - (j) A current financial report including expenditures to date consistent with Rule ~~410-8-.12(3)(e)~~ 410-8-.12(1)(h);
 - (k) A plan for the recruitment of students; and
 - (l) Current catalog and student handbook for the parent institution.
 - (m) Any substantive changes since the review of previous reports;
 - (n) Detailed information for each nursing course in the curriculum consistent with Rule 410-8-.04;
 - (o) Faculty qualification records for any new faculty members;
 - (p) A description of any additional practice setting(s) with a written commitment from practice setting representatives to include the possible impact on existing affiliating nursing programs; and
 - ~~(q) A current financial report including expenditures to date consistent with Rule 410-8-.12(3)(e); and~~
 - ~~(r)~~ (q) An update on projected enrollment;
- (3) Board representatives will conduct site visits to a developing nursing education program as necessary.
- (4) Nursing education programs with Initial Approval are required to comply with all Board rules.

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 - (e) A written plan for the recruitment and appointment of a qualified nurse administrator and faculty members to teach courses across the curriculum; and
 - (f) The nonrefundable, required fee which does not guarantee any approval status;
 - (g) Documentation of the appointment of a registered nurse, currently licensed in Georgia, with the graduate nursing education and expertise necessary to develop and implement the proposed nursing education program and assess its outcomes;
 - (h) Documentation of projected revenue sources (federal, state, private, grants, gifts) and expenditures for five (5) fiscal years to support the development and implementation of the proposed nursing education program. The information must include, but is not limited to: appointment of sufficient qualified nursing faculty members (consistent with Rule 410-8-.05); appointment of administrative personnel and support services; and provision of print and non-print learning resources, academic support courses, and educational resources in compliance with Board rules;
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