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## TAKE ACTION — Public Comment Period Now Open

### Defining “Professional Degrees” in Nursing

#### ***Why Your Voice Matters***

The U.S. Department of Education has opened a public comment period on its Proposed Definition of “Professional Degrees.” This proposal affects access to federal financial aid, graduate education pathways, and workforce development for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

This is a critical opportunity to advocate for full recognition of graduate nursing education as a professional degree.

#### ***Why This Matters to APRNs***

- Restricts access to federal student loans
- Increases financial barriers to education
- Worsens provider shortages
- Undermines professional standing
- Limits diversity and equity

#### ***How to Submit a Public Comment***

1. Visit: <https://www.regulations.gov>
2. Search: Department of Education – Professional Degrees
3. Open the rule and click “Comment”
4. Write or upload your response
5. Submit before the deadline

#### ***Suggested Talking Points***

- Rigorous academic and clinical preparation
- High-quality, cost-effective APRN care
- Financial access supports workforce stability
- Equal recognition promotes equity
- Nursing is essential to national health care

#### ***Sample Opening Statement***

“As an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, I urge full recognition of graduate nursing education as a professional degree to ensure access, equity, and workforce sustainability.”

#### ***Call to Action***

Act now. Submit a comment. Share with colleagues. Your voice matters in shaping national education policy.

TAKE ACTION NOW — Tell your colleagues and friends. You can make a difference.