

Consideration of Proposed Amendments to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §214.9, relating to Program of Study

Background: At a meeting on June 22, 2017, the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) determined it needed an additional charge from the Board to review the requirements for classroom and clinical practice hours in vocational nursing education programs. As a result, at the July quarterly meeting of the Board, the Board charged ACE with reviewing Board Rule 214.9 and making recommendations for necessary changes.

At the September 25, 2017 meeting of ACE, ACE voted to recommend amending Board Rule 214.9 to remove the required minimum supervised clinical hour requirement for vocational nursing programs. ACE based its recommendation on several factors.

First, a review of other state boards of nursing show that 66% have no minimum number of hours for vocational nursing educational programs and 62% have no minimum clinical hour requirement. Second, the majority of states have no minimum required hours for supervised clinical practice in their nursing educational programs. ACE found that there was no correlation between pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN® Examination) and having a minimum supervised clinical practice hour requirement in rule. Further, many states without clinical practice hour requirements had higher pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN® Examination).

The proposed amendments, which reflect ACE's recommendations, are attached as Attachment "A".

Staff Recommendation: Move to approve the proposed amendments to 22 Tex. Administrative Code §214.9, relating to *Program of Study*, with authority for the General Counsel to make editorial changes as necessary to clarify rule and Board intent and to comply with the formatting requirements of the *Texas Register*. If no negative comments and no request for a public hearing are received, move to adopt the proposed amendments to 22 Tex. Administrative Code §214.9, as proposed.

§214.9. Program of Study

(a) The program of study shall include both didactic and clinical learning experiences and shall be:

(1) ~~[a minimum of 1,398 clock hours: 558 hours for classroom instruction and 840 hours for clinical practice;]~~ at least the equivalent of one (1) academic year and shall not exceed two (2) calendar years;

(2) - (9) (No change).

(b) (No change).

(c) Instruction shall include, but not be limited to: organized student/faculty interactive learning activities, formal lecture, audiovisual presentations, nursing skills laboratory instruction and demonstration, simulated laboratory instruction, and faculty-supervised, hands-on patient care clinical learning experiences.

(1) - (2) (No change.)

(3) Hours in clinical learning experiences shall be sufficient to meet program of study requirements ~~[with a minimum of 840 hours.]~~ There shall be a rationale for the ratio of contact hours assigned to classroom and clinical learning experiences. The suggested ratio is one (1) contact hour of didactic to three (3) contact hours of related clinical learning experiences.

(4) Clinical practice learning experiences shall include actual hours of practice in nursing skills and computer laboratories; simulated clinical experiences; faculty supervised hands-on clinical care; clinical conferences; and observation experiences ~~[for the purpose of calculating the hours for clinical learning experiences in the curriculum].~~

Observation experiences provide supplemental learning experiences that meet specific learning objectives.

(5) - (9) (No change.)

(d) - (m) (No change.)