



# Nursing Education Newsletter

Texas Board of Nursing

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## Greetings from the Education Consultants!

### **A word from the Editor, Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC (our FROG Expert)**

It is the beginning of the fall semester for most programs and the education consultants felt like it was the perfect time for us to share our thoughts and ideas with our programs through an electronic newsletter.

It is our way to get the word out to you in a timely manner and let you know what your education consultants are doing to facilitate the success of your programs.

The Board of Nursing website is much improved and offers a wealth of information, but you might not know exactly where to look for that information. It is our goal to highlight various Guidelines and Board Rules so that you have the information that you need to direct your programs more effectively.

The plan is to produce a quarterly electronic newsletter that goes out the month **BEFORE** the Board Meetings, so expect to hear from us in **September, December, March, and June!**

Now that you know the game plan, if you do not receive the newsletter, the person to contact is [gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov](mailto:gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov).



It is my goal to **F**ind, **R**eflect, **O**rganize, & **G**enerate news!

## Out-of-state Pre-licensure Nursing Education Programs

Did you know. . . Pre-licensure nursing education programs from out-of-state can receive approval to conduct clinical learning experiences in Texas health care facilities. The approval process requires both BON approval and authorization from the Texas Workforce Commission or the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. If you learn that there is an out-of-state program using clinical facilities your program uses, you can verify the program's approval by checking the BON website. Go to the **Education** Tab on the menu at the top of the page and scroll down to the link **Out of State Programs Conducting Clinicals in Texas**. This link contains the guideline and approval process as well as a current list of approved out-of-state programs and where they conduct clinical learning experiences.



## Upcoming Events

Advisory Committee on  
Education Meeting

**The Advisory Committee  
on Education will meet on  
September 18, 2015 at  
the William P. Hobby  
Building in Austin, Texas.**

## Calling All Vocational Nursing Education Innovators!



Have you ever thought, “I would love to try this, but the education rules do not allow it?” Well, here is an opportunity for you!

The **BON Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) met on July 31<sup>st</sup>** in Austin to consider charges related to nursing education. Among the charges considered was whether the number of program clock hours for vocational nursing education program should be reduced from the current 1,398 clock hours: 558 for classroom and 840 for clinical practice as set out in **Board Rule 214.9(a)(1)**. While the committee did not recommend a rule change, ACE did request Board staff to reach out to vocational nursing educators and encourage applications for innovative pilot projects designed to establish evidence to best inform a potential rule change.

**Board Rule 227, Pilot Programs for Innovative Applications to Vocational and Professional Nursing Education**, allows nursing education programs to develop proposals and implement innovative education delivery models through a rule waiver application process. If your program would like to contribute to establishing the evidence for sound nursing education policy, please see **Education Guideline 3.12.9. Application Process for Pilot Programs for Innovative Applications**.

## It's All About Policies!



Most of the time when we get questions from program directors, we ask “What is your policy?” Many questions come to the Education Consultants because their current policies do not answer the issue. Programs are looking for our rules to give them direction. The education rules require policies, but do not define the policies – leaving this to the discretion of the program.



### Some tips about policies:

1. Write them clearly – remembering to consider their implications when carried out.
2. Enforce the policies consistently – no waivers.
3. Policies issued to students at the beginning of the program are usually considered policies they will follow until they complete the program.
4. Engage students in the development of policies that will affect them.
5. Meet with the students for their feedback when policy changes are being considered.
6. Keep a list of issues for which policies need to be developed.
7. Make sure policies are consistent with the missions of the institution and the nursing program.
8. See what other programs are doing about particular issues.
9. Check BON rules and call us.
10. Review all policies annually to ensure their effectiveness.
11. Require students to sign an acknowledgement form that they have received and read the policies.

## Upcoming Events

Deans, Directors and  
Coordinators Orientation

**The Texas Board of  
Nursing Education  
Department will offer  
Part II, or the Face-to-  
Face Session on  
September 25, 2015.  
Please contact Jackie  
Ballesteros for more  
information at**

[jackie.ballesteros@bon.texas.gov](mailto:jackie.ballesteros@bon.texas.gov)

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## Do You Know What Time It Is? . . .

It is NEPIS and CANEP Time!



**LIVE**

**Thursday, October  
1, 2015 through 5  
pm CST on Friday,  
October 16, 2015.**

Information concerning the Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) and the Compliance Audit for Nursing Education Programs (CANEP) will be electronically distributed in late September. Texas Board of Nursing staff work collaboratively with the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) in instrument design and data gathering. The TCNWS serves as a resource for data and research on the nursing workforce in Texas, including collecting and analyzing data on nursing educational and employment trends, supply and demand trends, nursing workforce demographics, and migration of nurses.

The purpose of the NEPIS is to collect annual data on the supply of vocational, professional, and advanced practice nursing students and faculty in Texas. These data assist the Board, the TCNWS, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, as well as other state organizations and the legislature, in projecting future workforce needs of nursing education programs in the state. The data are also utilized to determine formula funding for community colleges and universities in the state system.

Completion of the CANEP allows vocational and professional nursing education program deans and directors to formally attest that the program is operating in alignment with Board rules and regulations. The CANEP is distributed on a biennial basis.

**Instructional webinars are provided for viewing prior to survey completion. Please remember that timely submission of the NEPIS and CANEP are required for programs to be in compliance with Rule 214 Vocational Nursing Education and Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education. Board staff look forward to working with you during this process!**

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## Upcoming Events

### Quarterly Board Meeting

*The next Board Meeting will be held on October 22-23. Board Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Texas Board of Nursing website under the News heading.*

## What should you do if your program's pass rate falls below 80%?

Did you know . . .



First of all, don't panic! Next, engage the faculty in the process. This is an opportunity to take a good look at your program and find out what is working and what is not. The **sooner** this is done, the **sooner** changes can be implemented, and the **sooner** you will see results!

If this is the first year that your pass rate fell below 80%, you will be required to do a Self-Study Report. The Education Consultants will be setting up appointments with you to help you with the process. Since the Professional Nursing Education Programs' pass rate data become official at the January Board meeting, it is usually **February** when the phone calls occur; the Self-Study Reports are due around April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Vocational Nursing Education Programs' pass rate data become official at the April Board meeting; it is usually **June** when phone calls occur. The Self-Study Reports are due around mid-July.

The Guidelines for writing a self-study can be found on the BON website. Look for the **Education** tab and then Education Guidelines. The guideline you want to read is **Education Guideline 3.2.1.a**.

Another excellent resource is the Summary and Analysis of Self-Study Reports that are done each year. The RN summary is reported at the January Board meeting and the VN summary is reported at the October Board meeting. This is a compilation of data from all of the programs that had to write self-studies during the year. It gives you an idea of what other programs identified as the contributing factors and plans for correction.

[Consideration of Summary and Analysis of Self-Study Reports Professional Nursing Education Programs 2014](#)

[Consideration of Summary and Analysis of Self-Study Reports Vocational Nursing Education Programs 2014](#)

Remember that your education consultant is only an email or phone call away and is always ready to assist you navigate through this process.



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## For Recognition of Greatness



Dr. Hooper has had an awesome year.....Nurse Educator Certification, accepted for induction as a Fellow in AAN (in October), and the Exceptional Contribution Award by NCSBN! She is awesome and we are all grateful to have her in our professional lives!

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## Faculty Module

A [Faculty Module](#) for nursing faculty is on the web page under **Education**, then **Documents**. It would especially be useful for orienting new nursing faculty.

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## The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)

Did you know. . .



The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has great information for New Grads at [www.ncsbn.org/nlc](http://www.ncsbn.org/nlc).

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## Contact Us

Education Questions  
(512) 305-6816

Education FAQs

Texas Board of Nursing  
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460  
Austin, Texas 78701-3944

[www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov)

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## Special Request



We would really welcome pictures of the program directors so that we can place the picture with our contact information. It is so much nicer to have a name with a face. In the future, we are hoping to take pictures of new deans and directors during our orientation sessions. Please email your photos to your education consultant.

*Thank you in advance.*