



Policy Number: X - EDUCATION - 1

Policy Name: NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS OCCURRING IN IDAHO

Adoption Date: 11/6/2020

Revision Date: N/A

Review Date: N/A

**Purpose:** Approving and monitoring nursing education that is occurring in Idaho assures the safe practice of nursing by establishing standards, criteria, and curriculum requirements for education programs preparing persons for the practice of nursing, and for enhancing the knowledge and skills of those in practice. Through the approval and monitoring process of nursing education programs, Idahoans are provided the opportunity to attend nursing programs that consistently meet compliance standards related to the NCLEX first-time pass rate as outlined in Board Rule and supported by the Board Strategic Plan.

**Policy:** A. To ensure that pre-licensure nursing education occurring in Idaho is substantially equivalent regardless of the education delivery modality (on-the-ground or virtual), the Idaho Board of Nursing reviews, approves, and monitors all nursing education occurring in Idaho. Nursing education occurs at the location of the student and if the student is located in Idaho, the nursing education program must adhere to all applicable statutes, rules, and policies as it pertains to nursing education and the Idaho Board of Nursing.

B. Definitions

1. **Board Meeting:** This is when the Board will be presented with the information and could take action on an application. The application must be received by Board staff 45 days prior to the Board Meeting at which the application is to be presented.
2. **On-The-Ground:** A nursing program that has physical classrooms, skills labs, and/or simulation located in Idaho. A program that self-identifies as a hybrid model is considered on-the-ground if it has any physical presence in Idaho as defined by a classroom, skills labs, and/or simulation located in Idaho.
3. **Survey Visit:** This is a Board staff review of the program's curriculum, educational, and clinical facilities which may include classrooms, skills labs, and/or simulation. The



visit must be completed 30 days prior to the Board Meeting at which the report is to be presented.

4. Virtual: A nursing program that is solely providing nursing education in an online and/or remote learning modality. Formal clinical experiences are the only on-the-ground aspect of these programs.

C. Approval of a New Education Program  
(IDAPA 24.34.01.602)

a. Application Process for On-The-Ground Programs

1. Adhere to all Board Rules regarding the development of a new educational program.
2. The academic program submits a completed Board-Approved Application for Initial Approval to Plan A New Nursing Education Program.

- a. Once the application has been reviewed, the academic program will request a survey visit to be completed (either on-the-ground or virtual).

- b. The Board staff will submit a report and recommendation to the Board within 90 days of the survey visit for a decision on approval to plan.

3. The academic program submits a completed Board-Approved Application for Provisional Approval for A New Nursing Education Program.

- a. This application is due after a 1-year planning phase.

- b. Once the application has been reviewed, the academic program will request a survey visit to be completed (either on-the-ground or virtual).

- c. The Board staff will submit a report and recommendation to the Board within 90 days of the survey visit for a decision on provisional approval status.

- d. The program will be notified of the Board's decision within 30 days.

- e. Nursing programs are allowed to admit students, deliver courses, and prepare students for graduation if and once provisional approval has been received.



4. The academic program submits a completed Board-Approved Application for Full Approval of A Provisional Nursing Education Program.
  - a. This application is due after the first class of graduates.
  - b. Once the application has been reviewed, the academic program will request a survey visit to be completed (either on-the-ground or virtual).
  - c. The Board staff will submit a report and recommendation to the Board within 90 days of the survey visit for a decision on full approval status.
  - d. Full approval must be applied for and granted within 3 years of eligibility.
3. Application Process for Virtual Programs
  - a. Adhere to all Board Rules regarding the development of a new educational program unless otherwise noted by this policy.
  - b. The academic program submits a completed Board-Approved Application for Approval of a Virtual Education Program.
    - i. As part of the application, the academic program must submit:
      - a. Verification that each faculty member who will have a direct faculty- student relationship meets the faculty qualification requirements as outlined in Board Rule.
      - b. Documentation that the academic program has current approval from the Board of Nursing in their home state.
      - c. If located in a state that does not approve programs, the program must be accredited by a national organization recognized by the Board in that state.
  - c. The Board staff will submit a report to the Board within 90 days of receiving the completed application for the Board to review the application.



- d. The Executive Director has delegated authority to approve Virtual Programs occurring in Idaho.
- D. Continuance of Full Approval of Educational Program (IDAPA 24.34.01.603)
  1. Continuance of Full Approval for On-The-Ground Programs
    - a. Adhere to all Board Rules regarding the continuance of full approval of an educational program.
  2. Continuance of Full Approval for Virtual Programs
    - a. Adhere to all Board Rules regarding the continuance of full approval of an educational program unless otherwise noted by this policy.
    - b. Meet Board Standards for program faculty, curriculum, clinical, and outcomes.
    - c. Complete the annual report provided by the Board.
    - d. Maintain a pass rate of 80% or higher for first-time NCLEX testers for their program's intended licensure.  
Example: RN-ADN Program for the NCLEX-RN.
  3. When A Program Does Not Meet Board Standards
    - a. Reference IDAPA 24.34.01.603: Continuing Full Approval for details regarding this process.
- E. Discontinuance of An Education Program (IDAPA 24.34.01.604)
  1. When an educational program plans to discontinue its nursing education program, it must notify the Board in writing at least 1 academic year prior to the closure.
  2. A closure plan must be developed and implemented to include:
    - a. Ensuring that the program standards are maintained until the last class has graduated.
    - b. Provision for disposition of student records.
- F. All programs, both on-the-ground and virtual, are required to adhere to applicable Board rules and policies as it relates to nursing education.
  1. A grandfather clause for programs currently occurring in Idaho is not offered as part of this policy. Programs currently occurring in Idaho are required to follow the application process and continued approval requirements as outlined in Board rule and policy.



2. Programs that are currently occurring in Idaho and that have recent (within the last 3 years) NCLEX data will be required to have that pertinent data included as part of their application and Board review process.
- G. The Executive Director has delegated authority to approve the necessary implementation timeline and appropriate forms, applications, and other supporting documents to ensure that applicable Board rules and policies are executed.
1. The continually progressing plan to achieve Board-established standards for virtual programs that are currently providing education in Idaho without the appropriate Board approval as outlined in this policy must not exceed 1 year.
  2. The continually progressing plan to achieve Board-established standards for on-the-ground programs that are currently providing education in Idaho without the appropriate Board approval as outlined in this policy must not exceed 2 years.



Policy Number: X - EDUCATION - 2

Policy Name: NCLEX REPORTS

Adoption Date: 12/2006

Revision Date: 11/4/2010

Review Date: 11/4/2010

Purpose: To establish conditions for release of NCLEX reports.

Policy: A program summary of the NCLEX pass rates for first time candidates who are graduates of an Idaho school will be sent biannually to each program. This information will include a yearly review of the number of candidates that took the test, the number and percentage that passed or failed. Educational Program Reports which provide information on candidates who graduated from each program and applied for licensure in Idaho will also be sent biannually.

Schools requesting additional information will be directed to the testing vender to subscribe for additional information.

NCLEX pass rates for individual schools will be provided to individuals who submit a written request for the information. Information will be limited to the number of candidates who took the test, the number and percentage that passed or failed. Information will be provided for the previous and current year only.



Policy Number: X-EDUCATION- 3

Policy Name: **APPROVAL OF ACCREDITED PROGRAMS IN LIEU OF SURVEY VISIT**

Adoption Date: 4/29/2010

Review Date: N/A

Revision Date: N/A

Purpose: To affirm previous Board action to discontinue routine on-site survey visits of nursing education programs that are nationally accredited and to continue to conduct on-site survey visits of accredited programs at Board discretion as part of the process of granting continuing full approval. The May 19, 2000 action was based on information reported in the NCSBN position paper, "Approval of Nursing Education Programs by Boards of Nursing".

Policy: The Board will not routinely exercise its authority to conduct on-site survey visits of nursing education programs as part of the process of reviewing programs for continuance of full approval when the program is accredited by a recognized nursing accrediting body. On-site surveys of nationally accredited programs will be conducted at the discretion of the Board.