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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [President's Message - Joni Jeter, RN, MS](#)
- [Summary of Nursing Education Program](#)
- [Annual Statistics](#)
- [Peer Assistance Program](#)
- [Do You Have Questions Regarding Nursing Practice?](#)
- [Access Exam and Endorsement Applications Online](#)
- [Recent Policy Revisions](#)
- [Reminder for Change of Address](#)
- [Notice to Licensees Submitting Online Renewals](#)

President's Message - Joni Jeter, RN, MS

Nursing Integrity, Honesty and Ethics Required in Your Professional Practice as the Most Trusted Profession

As a nursing profession, we continually strive to ensure the public health, safety and welfare is protected. We must never forget what is required by having the privilege of having a nursing license. With this privilege we must all adhere to integrity, ethical morals, honesty, and above all safety to our patients and the public.

Effective January 1, 2013, federal fingerprint criminal background checks were implemented for all exam and endorsement applicants. The Board of Nursing has received 518 positive federal criminal background check reports. Of those positive reports, 319 have submitted applications. Of those who have submitted applications, 37% did not report any or all of their criminal acts on their applications.

The applications for initial licensure, endorsements and renewals are very specific and clear on the questions asked of the graduate or licensed nurse regarding criminal backgrounds. False answers on a licensure application raise the issue of whether the nurse could fail to report an error or omission in the work setting. Lack of understanding or confusion is not an acceptable excuse for failure to report any and all inquiries on a licensure application.

The most recent Gallup poll on trusted professions in America has once again put nurses at the top of its list. That makes 13 out of the last 14 years in a row that nurses have been ranked ahead of all other professionals in trust.

<http://nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/MediaResources/PressReleases/2013-PR/Nurses-Most-Ethical-Profession.pdf>.

With the respect and trust that the public has in the nursing profession, do the percentages of failure to report criminal history alarm any of you? It certainly does me. As a Registered Nurse and a member of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, I know we are obligated to take accountability in all scopes of our practice.

If you have questions, please use the resources that are available to you through the Oklahoma Board of Nursing. It is important to note that you are accountable for your practice through integrity, ethics and honesty. You can easily access the OBN website at <https://www.ok.gov/nursing>.

Summary of Nursing Education Program Annual Statistics

In FY2013, there were 64 nursing education programs operating on 105 campuses with 13 BSN programs operating on 22 campuses; 21 ADN programs on 35 campuses; and 30 PN programs on 48 campuses. The number of campuses increased by one, with the addition of one baccalaureate degree nursing campus, one associate degree nursing extended campus and the closure of one associate degree nursing campus.

The percentage of full-time faculty holding a master's degree or higher in nursing in FY2013 was 99.5% for BSN programs, 90.3% for ADN programs and 41.8% for PN programs. Over the past five years, the percentage of master's prepared faculty has increased approximately 6% in BSN programs, 9% in ADN programs and 21% in PN programs. In comparing FY 2013 to FY 2012, a significant increase in the number of faculty with a master's degree is noted for both the BSN and ADN programs while a significant decrease in master's prepared faculty occurred in the PN programs. The Oklahoma Board of Nursing requires RN nursing education programs to employ full-time faculty with a master's degree in nursing or who are working on the master's degree in nursing. This is not a requirement for PN education programs, but practical nursing programs who are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) require that a minimum of 50% of the full-time nursing faculty hold a graduate degree with a major in nursing. The increased number of MS in Nursing programs, online access and increased funding has impacted the percentage of master's prepared nurses in Oklahoma.

Over the past five years, admissions to BSN programs have increased by 24.2%, while ADN programs have experienced a 3.9% decrease and PN programs experienced a 19.9% decrease. A significant decrease in admissions of 13.9% in ADN programs and 16.8% in PN programs was reported for FY 2013. The total number of students admitted to nursing programs in FY 2013 was 5,247 compared to 5,723 admissions in FY 2012.

Graduates from Oklahoma nursing programs have increased by approximately 3% over the past five years. Graduates from BSN programs increased approximately 19% during FY2013 and 20% over the past five years. Graduates from ADN programs decreased 0.3% during FY 2013 and 5% over the past five years. Graduates from PN programs decreased slightly in FY 2013 and approximately 2% over the past five years. The number of graduates from nursing education program for FY 2013 was 3,399 compared to 3,218 graduates in FY 2012.

In FY 2013, the percentage of male students enrolled in nursing education programs increased by approximately 1.3% in BSN programs, 1.1% in ADN programs and 1% in PN programs. The percentage of male students is highest in BSN programs with 15%, followed by 14.1% in ADN programs and 11.2% in PN programs.

Over the past five years, the average age of students decreased from 28 years to 26.8 years in BSN programs; increased from age 30.9 years to 31 years in ADN programs; and remained at age 29 years in PN programs.

There was an increase in completion rates in all types of nursing programs during FY 2013. The mean completion rate for FY 2013 in BSN programs was 81%, ADN programs 72.6%, and PN programs 80%. Mean completion rates over the past five years have increased 6% in BSN programs and 5% in PN programs. However, there has been an approximate 6% decrease in completion rates in ADN programs over the past five years.

Peer Assistance Program

Do you have expertise in substance use disorder through professional experience or at least 4 years personal recovery? If so, please consider applying for appointment to a Peer Assistance Committee (PAC). Even though this is a volunteer position, it may be one of the most rewarding jobs you will ever do. It is an opportunity to help other nurses who are struggling with problems of alcohol and drug abuse.

The Board of Nursing appoints qualified applicants to the PAC for a period of three (3) years. The PAC has the responsibility of:

1. Determining acceptance of nurses into the program
2. Developing the contract for program participation
3. Meeting with the participant to monitor and determine progress
4. Determine successful completion of the program or
5. Termination from the program for noncompliance
6. Reporting terminations to the Board of Nursing.

Each PAC meets bimonthly with meetings occurring in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa, depending on which PAC is meeting. PAC members are needed in both areas. For more information and/or an application, please contact:

Laura Clarkson, Program Coordinator (405) 525-2277

DO YOU NEED HELP?

If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol or drugs, please call the Peer Assistance Program at (405) 525-2277 for more information on how the Program can help. All inquiries are treated confidentially.

Do You Have Questions Regarding Nursing Practice?

Nursing is a complex and dynamic profession which has seen tremendous changes over the years. Board staff receives phone calls and e-mails on a regular basis regarding practice issues. Gina Stafford, R.N., Associate Director of Nursing Practice, works to provide clarification and education on nursing practice issues.

Both the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and the Oklahoma Board of Nursing Rules define the laws that regulate nursing practice in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act is enacted by the Oklahoma legislature to protect the public and guide the scope of practice for all licensed nurses and advanced unlicensed assistants.

Each state has a Nursing Practice Act. It is important for nurses to familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations of the state in which they are licensed to practice. Licensed nurses must take the responsibility to keep abreast of the changes and developments inherent in providing safe, competent patient care within their defined scope of practice.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules, and the Board's current guidelines can be viewed on the website @ www.ok.gov/nursing. The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act is updated or amended through legislative action as changes in practice occur. Therefore, the Act and Rules are not something that one can study in a pre-licensure nursing education program and then put aside.

The Associate Director of Nursing Practice is available to answer practice related questions regarding the Nursing Practice Act, Rules, and guidelines. If you have practice questions, you may call Gina Stafford, R.N. at (405) 962-1840.

Access Exam and Endorsement Applications Online

Effective December 1, 2013, exam and endorsement applications were available primarily as online applications. This transition supports the “Go Green” direction of state government, contributes to efficiencies within the Board of Nursing, and promotes lower application processing times.

All applications have been available online since 2009. Since this time, the Board has seen marked improvement in processing times of applications and improved stakeholder satisfaction.

For those applicants who do not have personal access to a computer through home, work, school or a nearby library, computers are available for public use in the Board office. If an applicant cannot access an online application by any of these means, a paper copy may be requested by the individual applicant by submitting a written request for such to the Board office. A self-addressed, postage-paid (approximately \$1.06) 8 ½” x 11” envelope must accompany the written request for a paper copy of the application.

Recent Policy Revisions

The following policies have been reviewed/approved and are available for review by hyperlink provided:

Approved Policies/Guidelines during the September 2013 Board Meeting:

Decision-Making Model for Scope of Nursing Practice Decisions: Determining Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Registered Nurse, and Licensed Practical Nurse Scope of Practice Guidelines, #P-10, available at: <http://www.ok.gov/nursing/prac-decmak.pdf>

Abandonment Statement #P-11, available at: <http://www.ok.gov/nursing/prac-aband.pdf>

Complete September 2013 Board Meeting Minutes are available at: <http://www.ok.gov/nursing/bdinsep13.pdf>

Approved Policies/Guidelines during the November 2013 Board Meeting:

Exclusionary Formulary for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with Prescriptive Authority, #P-50B, available at: <http://www.ok.gov/nursing/prac-exclusfrm.pdf>

Reminder for Change of Name

To change your name, you must complete the Name Change Request form. The form is available on the Board of Nursing website at: <http://www.ok.gov/nursing/namechange.pdf>

Reminder for Change of Address

Have you had a change of address? If so, you **must** notify the Board office in writing within 30 days of the change. You may submit a signed and dated statement with your license number or Social Security number, your full name, and your new address. Alternatively, you may complete your change of address on the Board's website:

<https://www.ok.gov/nursing/renewal/login.php>

Notice to Licensees Submitting Online Renewals

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing online renewal system provides a convenient way for you to submit your renewal. However, it is essential that you protect the security of your online information. **Your PIN number, which is required for the renewal, should not be shared with anyone, not even with your spouse or support staff at your place of employment.** Your responsibility to renew your license **cannot** be delegated to another person. **You are the only person who can complete and submit the online renewal application!**

To access the online renewal:

<https://www.ok.gov/nursing/renewal/index.php>

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