

Emergency Rules Effective November 2, 2016

SUBCHAPTER 5. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR APPROVED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

485:10-5-3.2. Nursing administrator for nursing education programs

- (a) The nursing education program leading to registered nurse licensure shall be administered by a Registered Nurse currently licensed in Oklahoma with the following qualifications:
- (1) a minimum of a graduate degree in nursing, preferably an earned doctorate from a regionally accredited institution;
 - (2) present evidence of a minimum of two (2) years full-time equivalent practice as a Registered Nurse in a clinical setting preceding the first date of first employment as a nursing faculty member, PROVIDED: any person employed in the administrator position on September 1, 2016, is deemed to meet this requirement; and
 - (3) one year teaching experience as a full-time nursing faculty member in a nursing education program leading to registered nurse licensure.
- (b) The nursing education program leading to practical nurse licensure shall be administered by an individual who:
- (1) is a Registered Nurse with a current unencumbered registered nurse license in Oklahoma;
 - (2) has a baccalaureate degree in nursing, and effective January 1, 2017, has evidence of continued progress toward a graduate degree in nursing with completion of a minimum of six (6) hours per year, PROVIDED: any person employed in the position of administrator of a practical nursing education program on December 31, 2016, is deemed to meet this requirement;
 - (3) has a minimum of two (2) years full-time-equivalent practice as a Registered Nurse in a clinical setting; and
 - (4) has at least one (1) academic year, full-time experience as a teacher in a nursing education program.
- (c) The administrator of the nursing education program, with institutional input, shall have the authority and responsibility for:
- (1) the administration of the nursing program;
 - (2) preparation and administration of the budget for the nursing program;
 - (3) implementation of faculty development and performance review;
 - (4) recommendation of qualified faculty for appointment, promotion, tenure (if applicable), and retention;
 - (5) notification to the Board of faculty appointments, changes in the program or its administration, and reports as directed by the Board.
- ~~(d)~~ If the Nurse Administrator has teaching or other responsibilities, adequate time will be provided to fulfill administrative duties for the nursing education program.
- ~~(e)~~ An acting Nurse Administrator must meet the qualifications of the role of Nurse Administrator and may be appointed, after Board approval, to fill the position of the Nurse Administrator, for a period of time not to exceed one (1) calendar year.

485:10-5-5.2. Faculty for nursing education programs

- (a) There shall be sufficient number of qualified full-time faculty to meet the purpose and student learning outcomes of the nursing program.
- (b) Qualifications, rights, and responsibilities of faculty members shall be available in writing.
- (c) Faculty policies shall be available in writing, shall include those used in evaluating performance, specify the teaching load for the faculty and Nurse Administrator, and be in keeping with accepted educational standards.
- (d) Sufficient time shall be provided faculty to accomplish those activities related to the teaching-learning process.
- (e) All nurse faculty shall:
- (1) hold a valid unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the State of Oklahoma;
 - (2) present evidence of a minimum of two (2) years full-time equivalent practice as a Registered Nurse in a clinical setting preceding the first date of first employment as a nursing faculty member, PROVIDED: any person employed in the faculty position on September 1, 2016, is deemed to meet this requirement;
 - (3) submit a Faculty Qualification Record to the Board office on a form provided by the Board and in accordance to OAC 485:10-3-5(1); and
 - (4) engage in teaching, scholarship, service and/or practice in keeping with the mission, goals, and expected faculty outcomes.
- (f) All programs leading to licensure as a Registered Nurse in this state shall establish comparable educational qualifications for the nursing faculty as required for other teaching faculty in the controlling institution. The minimum requirements shall be as follows:
- (1) a master's or higher degree in nursing; or
 - (2) a baccalaureate degree in nursing plus evidence of continued progress toward a master's or higher degree in nursing with completion of a minimum of six (6) semester hours per calendar year; and
 - (3) at least one-half of the full-time faculty having a master's or higher degree in nursing; and
 - (4) part-time clinical instructors, regardless of title used, having a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in nursing.
- (g) All programs leading to licensure as a Practical Nurse in this state shall establish requirements for nursing faculty as follows:
- (1) minimum of an associate degree or diploma in nursing in this state, and effective January 1, 2017, has evidence of continued progress toward a baccalaureate degree in nursing with completion of a minimum of six (6) semester hours per calendar year. PROVIDED: any person employed in the position of faculty of a practical nursing education program on December 31, 2016, is deemed to meet this requirement; and
 - (2) teacher certification, as established by the State Department of Education, when employed in schools conducted by public comprehensive high school systems.
- (h) There shall be a faculty organization with written policies and procedures to guide its activities and shall:
- (1) hold regular meetings for all members to participate in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating the nursing program;
 - (2) establish committees as necessary to carry out the functions of the program;
 - (3) provide for student participation; and
 - (4) maintain minutes of all meetings documenting actions and decisions of the faculty.

**SUBCHAPTER 6. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR APPROVED ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING (APRN)
EDUCATION PROGRAMS (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016)**

485:10-6-2. Minimum standards for APRN education programs

To be approved as an APRN education program in the state of Oklahoma, the program shall meet the following standards:

- (1) The APRN education program is a graduate-level program offered by a university accredited by an accrediting body that is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA);

- (2) The APRN education program holds accreditation or candidacy status from one of the following:
 - (A) The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing
 - (B) The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
 - (C) The Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation
 - (D) The Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education
 - (E) The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists' Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs;
- (3) The curriculum of the APRN education program must prepare the graduate to practice in one of the four identified APRN roles (i.e., CRNA, CNM, CNS, or CNP) and in at least one of the six population foci (i.e., Family/Individual across the Lifespan, Adult-Gerontology (acute and/or primary), Neonatal, Pediatrics (acute and/or primary), Women's Health/Gender-Related, or Psychiatric/Mental Health). The curriculum shall include:
 - (A) Graduate APRN core courses, to include three separate graduate level courses in:
 - (i) Advanced physiology and pathophysiology, including general principles that apply across the lifespan;
 - (ii) Advanced health assessment, which includes assessment of all human systems, advanced assessment techniques, concepts and approaches; and
 - (iii) Advanced pharmacology (a minimum of a three academic credit hour course), which includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents;
 - (B) Additional core course content, specific to the role and population in APRN core areas, integrated throughout the specific role and population focus didactic and clinical courses, to include the use and prescription of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions;
 - (C) Preparation in legal, ethical, and professional responsibilities of the APRN; and
 - (D) A minimum of 500 supervised clinical hours directly related to each role and population focus, including pharmacotherapeutic management of patients.
- (4) An APRN program shall appoint the following personnel:
 - (A) An APRN program administrator whose qualifications shall include:
 - (i) A current, unencumbered APRN license in the state of Oklahoma;
 - (ii) A minimum of a master's degree in nursing and an earned doctoral degree; and
 - (iii) At least two years of clinical experience as an APRN.
 - (B) A lead faculty member to coordinate each role and population focus track in the APRN program, including curriculum development, whose qualifications shall include:
 - (i) A current, unencumbered APRN license in the state of Oklahoma;
 - (ii) A minimum of a master's degree in nursing that includes preparation in the same role and population focus ~~as the track for which~~ or other similarly situated population focus for the track for which he/she is responsible for as a lead faculty member;
 - (iii) At least two years of clinical experience as an APRN; and
 - (iv) Current knowledge, competence and certification as an APRN in the role and population focus consistent with teaching responsibilities. For lead faculty without current certification in the population foci corresponding with the teaching responsibilities, the APRN program must have on file additional written documentation of the related qualifications, experience and competence of the lead faculty member for coordinating each role and population focus track for which he/she is responsible.
 - (v) The APRN program administrator may also serve as the lead faculty member if all qualifications are met. If the APRN program administrator has teaching or other responsibilities, adequate time will be provided to fulfill administrative duties for the APRN education program.
 - (C) Nursing faculty, including adjunct clinical faculty, to teach any APRN nursing course that includes a clinical learning experience shall meet the following qualifications:
 - (i) A current, unencumbered APRN license in the state of Oklahoma;
 - (ii) A minimum of a master's degree in nursing that includes preparation in a role and population focus ~~consistent with teaching responsibilities~~ or other similarly situated population focus for the track for which he/she is responsible for as a faculty member;
 - (iii) Two years of APRN clinical experience; and
 - (iv) Current knowledge, competence and certification as an APRN in the role and population foci consistent with teaching responsibilities. For faculty without current certification in the population foci corresponding with the teaching responsibilities, the APRN program must have on file additional written documentation of the related qualifications, experience and competence of the faculty member for teaching in the population foci for which he/she is responsible.
 - (D) Any person employed in the position of APRN program administrator, APRN lead faculty, and/or APRN faculty member on December 31, 2015, shall be deemed to meet the education and clinical experience qualifications.
 - (E) Interdisciplinary faculty who teach non-clinical nursing courses shall have advanced preparation appropriate to these areas of content.
 - (F) Clinical preceptors will serve as a role model and educator to the student. Clinical preceptors may be used to enhance faculty-directed clinical learning experiences, but not to replace them.
 - (G) Clinical preceptors will be approved by faculty and meet the following requirements:
 - (i) Hold a current, unencumbered license in the state of Oklahoma, or in another state (if employed by the United States Government or any bureau, division, or agency thereof; or if the preceptorship takes place in another state), as an APRN, Medical Doctor, or Doctor of Osteopathy and practices in a comparable practice focus;
 - (ii) Function as a supervisor and teacher and contribute to the evaluation of the individual's performance in the clinical setting; and
 - (iii) Have demonstrated competencies related to the area of assigned clinical teaching responsibilities.
- (5) Each student enrolled in the APRN program shall have a current, unencumbered Oklahoma Registered Nurse license.
- (6) APRN programs preparing for two population foci or a combined nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist shall include content and 500 hours of clinical experience in each functional role and population focus.
- (7) Advanced placement policies shall allow fair, consistent, valid, and defensible evaluation of students' didactic knowledge and clinical competence. Students admitted with advanced placement must meet the program's APRN outcome competencies.