



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Office of the Professions
Tel. (518) 486-1765
Fax (518) 474-3863

Date: December 16, 2020
To: Presidents of New York Institutions Offering Nursing Programs
Deans and Directors of Nursing Programs in New York State
From: Sarah S. Benson, Deputy Commissioner
Subject: Revised Scope: New York State Board of Regents as a Programmatic Accrediting Agency for Nursing Education Programs Recognized by the United States Department of Education

Purpose of the Memo:

The Board of Regents (BOR) has been recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) as a programmatic accrediting agency for nurse education since 1969. Currently the BOR accredits every registered nursing program in New York State including the programs that are accredited by other accrediting agencies recognized by the USDE, such as the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

The purpose of the memo is to inform you of a change to the scope of the BOR's programmatic accreditation for nursing education to best allocate resources to serve the needs of nursing programs. Effective immediately, the BOR will no longer serve as the programmatic accrediting agency for any nursing program that is accredited by ACEN or CCNE after the current BOR accreditation term expires. Nursing programs that identify the BOR as its sole programmatic accrediting agency will remain accredited by the BOR.

Please note that there are no changes to the scope of accreditation of the public postsecondary vocational practical nursing (PN) programs. These are the PN programs offered at Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC), Vocational Education and Extension Board (VEEB), and New York City Department of Education schools. The BOR is the Title IV gatekeeper and the sole programmatic accrediting agency for these programs.

Actions Institutions Need to Take:

Each institution offering nursing education programs shall complete the attached form before **January 15, 2021** to indicate its option and submit to OPNURS@nysed.gov. If no response is received by this date, we assume that the institution chooses Option 3.

1. Identify the BOR as the sole accrediting agency for its nursing programs
2. Identify the ACEN and/or the CCNE as the programmatic accrediting agency and choose to also have the BOR accreditation under the current accreditation term. Such BOR accreditation will not be renewed at the end of the current accreditation term.
3. Identify the ACEN and/or the CCNE as the programmatic accrediting agency and choose not to have the BOR programmatic accreditation effective immediately.

Implications for Nursing Programs in New York State

After the change in its scope of programmatic accreditation, while the BOR will no longer accredit every registered program, the following functions of the BOR and the New York State Education Department (the Department) remain the same:

Program Registration: Nursing programs will remain registered by the BOR. Institutions shall continue to submit requests to register a new program or to make changes to an existing program.

Monitoring Program Quality: All registered nursing education programs in New York State, regardless of whether the program is accredited by the BOR or not, remain subject to the pertinent laws, regulations, rules, policies, etc. that govern the registration of postsecondary programs. The BOR and the Department will continue to monitor program quality, including program outcomes, through annual reporting mechanisms, to ensure program quality and patient safety.

On-site Visits and Annual Reports: Whether the BOR is the programmatic accrediting agency for the nursing program or not, as part of the on-going monitoring process, the BOR and the Department will continue to conduct on-site visits to these programs and require the programs to submit annual reports, as authorized by Section 215 of Education Law:

The regents, or the commissioner of education, or their representatives, may visit, examine into and inspect, any institution in the university and any school or institution under the educational supervision of the state, and may require, as often as desired, duly verified reports therefrom giving such information and in such form as the regents or the commissioner of education shall prescribe. For refusal or continued neglect on the part of any institution in the university to make any report required, or for violation of any law or any rule of the university, the regents may suspend the charter or any of the rights and privileges of such institution.

On-site visits and annual reports for the programs that will be accredited or remain accredited by the BOR will abide by the USDE requirements for accrediting agencies. The site visits to the programs that do not identify the BOR as its programmatic accrediting agency will be conducted when deemed necessary. All nursing programs operating in New York State will submit annual reports using a form prescribed by the Department. The annual report form will be sent to the programs on November 1 every year and the report is due on March 1.

The institutions that have the ACEN and/or the CCNE accreditation shall continue to keep this office informed of the reports and correspondence to and from the ACEN or the CCNE.

Thank you. If you have any questions, please contact OPNURS@nysed.gov.

Form to Indicate Programmatic Accrediting Agency for Nursing Education Programs

- This form is for each New York institution offering nursing education programs to identify the programmatic accrediting agency it chooses.
- Please complete and submit this form before **January 15, 2021**.
- If the institution has a branch campus, complete one form for each campus.
- Submit completed form electronically to OPNURS@nysed.gov.
- If you have any questions, please contact the nursing associates at OPNURS@nysed.gov.

Section 1: General Information

Institution name:	
Institution Address:	
Indicate Option (check one):	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. The institution wishes to identify the BOR as the sole programmatic accrediting agency for its nursing programs. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. The institution has ACEN and/or the CCNE accreditation for its nursing programs and chooses to have the BOR programmatic accreditation until the expiration of the current accreditation term. Nursing education programs will no longer have the BOR programmatic accreditation after the expiration of the current accreditation term. <input type="checkbox"/> 3. The institution has ACEN and/or the CCNE accreditation for its nursing programs and chooses not to have the BOR programmatic accreditation effective immediately.
Contact Person:	Name and title: Telephone: E-mail:

Section II: Attestation

On behalf of the institution, I hereby attest to the following:

- (for institutions choosing Option 1 and 2) The institution agrees to abide by the BOR accreditation standards, policies, and procedures.
- The institution is committed to complying with the program registration standards, Education Laws, Regents Rules, Regulations of the Commissioner, etc.
- The institution will notify the New York State Education Department immediately if there are any changes to its plan regarding the programmatic accrediting agency for its nursing programs.

Section III: Signature of the President

Name and title:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Signature and Date: