

Task Force on Academic Progression March 2018

In July 2016, the AACN Board of Directors created the Academic Progression Task Force to consider models for academic progression in light of workforce needs with an emphasis on maintaining high quality standards in academic programs. As part of the charge, members considered the recommendations and outcomes of the Academic Progression in Nursing (APIN) project and reviewed AACN's position statements on the baccalaureate degree as appropriate preparation for professional practice and on community colleges offering baccalaureate nursing programs. Specific action steps include:

1. Evaluating models for academic progression in light of current and future workforce needs.
2. Identifying how best to maintain high quality standards in academic nursing.
3. Incorporating contemporary thinking in the higher education community concerning baccalaureate degrees granted by community colleges, articulation agreements, and best practices.
4. Reviewing best practices for dual enrollment programs.
5. Considering AACN's 2000 position statement on *The Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing as Minimal Preparation for Professional Practice* in recommendations.
6. Reviewing and revising, as needed, the 2005 *Position Statement on Baccalaureate Nursing Programs Offered by Community Colleges*.

Update: At the January 2018 Board of Directors meeting, task force chair Jeanne Novotny presented the major themes from the member and stakeholder feedback received on the draft statement and requested advice from the Board on next steps. Based on input received from the Board, the following changes were made:

- To better reflect the statement's focus on academic progression, the title was changed from *The Baccalaureate Degree as Entry-level Preparation for Professional Nursing Practice* to *Academic Progression in Nursing: Moving Together Toward a Baccalaureate-Prepared Nursing Workforce*.
- The content was reframed to focus on academic progression instead of the value of the baccalaureate degree.
- The statement was condensed from 7 to 3 pages with a stronger emphasis on the evidence supporting baccalaureate level education.
- Seamless education through the doctoral level was addressed.
- References to the joint statement on academic progression with community college stakeholders and the IOM's 2016 assessment report were added.
- AACN's preference for academic progression from associate degree programs to university-based RN programs was highlighted.

The revised statement will be presented for Board to approve at the March 2018 meeting. The position will come forward for a vote by the membership in October 2018.

Task Force Members:

- Jeanne Novotny, *Chair*, Texas Tech University
- Susan Baker, Saint Petersburg College
- Mary Burman, University of Wyoming
- Debra Gates, Keuka College
- Pam Jeffries, The George Washington University
- Susan Luparell, Montana State University
- Sally Maliski, University of Kansas
- Cecilia McVey, *Practice Liaison*, VA Boston Healthcare System
- Jo Ann Otts, *GNSA Liaison*, Loyola University New Orleans
- Linda Paskiewicz, Saint Mary's College
- Kimberly Sharp, Mississippi College
- *AACN Board Liaison*: Judy Beal, Simmons College
- *AACN Staff Liaison*: Robert Rosseter

Information about the task force is posted online at <http://www.aacnnursing.org/About-AACN/AACN-Governance/Committees-and-Task-Forces/Academic-Progression>.