



COMMISSION ON  
COLLEGIATE NURSING  
EDUCATION

655 K STREET NW  
SUITE 750  
WASHINGTON DC 20001

202-887-6791

CCNEACCREDITATION.ORG

## MEMORANDUM

May 4, 2026

To: Chief Executive Officers, CCNE-Affiliated Colleges and Universities  
Chief Nurse Administrators, CCNE-Affiliated Nursing Programs  
Chief Nursing Officers/Chief Nurse Executives, CCNE-Affiliated Nurse  
Residency/Fellowship Programs  
Nurse Residency/Fellowship Program Coordinators, CCNE-Affiliated Nurse  
Residency/Fellowship Programs  
CCNE On-Site Evaluators  
Accrediting Agencies  
Selected Federal Agencies  
National Nursing Organizations  
State Boards of Nursing  
Statewide Higher Education Agencies  
Other Interested Parties

From: Jean D'Meza Leuner, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN, Chair, CCNE Standards Committee

Re: Call for Comments on Proposed Revisions to *CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs*

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)—a nationally recognized accrediting agency for baccalaureate, graduate, and residency/fellowship programs in nursing—is undertaking a focused review of its *Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs* (2024). To conduct this work, the CCNE Board of Commissioners has reviewed the current *Standards*, has established a [Standards Committee](#), and is now soliciting feedback from CCNE's communities of interest about the proposed revisions.

As background, on April 17, 2026, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) [publicly announced](#) updates to *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (2026) to “reinforce compliance with applicable federal guidelines and expectations.” In light of the recent updates made by AACN to the *Essentials*, the CCNE Board of Commissioners has [launched a focused review of CCNE's 2024 Standards](#), which apply to baccalaureate and master's degree nursing programs, Doctor of Nursing Practice programs, and post-graduate APRN certificate programs.

Some of the *Essentials* updates impact CCNE's 2024 *Standards*, which require baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs to incorporate the 10 Domains for Nursing, 8 Concepts for Nursing Practice, and 45 Competencies from the AACN's 2021 *Essentials*. To view details about the changes to these specific components of the *Essentials* that CCNE requires, view the [CCNE Resource on Required Components of AACN's The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education](#).

At this time, CCNE is releasing the CCNE Board-approved [proposed changes \(with tracking\) to its Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs](#) for public comment. **The proposed changes update the publication date of the AACN *Essentials*, referenced throughout the CCNE 2024 Standards, from 2021 to 2026.**

Comments regarding the proposed changes to CCNE's 2024 *Standards* should be submitted via email at [cnestandards@ccneaccreditation.org](mailto:cnestandards@ccneaccreditation.org). The deadline to submit comments is **May 26, 2026**. All interested parties—institution and program administrators, faculty, practicing nurses, agency/organization representatives, employees, students, alumni, and others with an interest in the preparation of

competent nurses—are invited to comment on the proposed changes to the accreditation standards.

CCNE also invites you to join a webinar this Wednesday, May 6, from 3:00-4:00 pm Eastern, to learn more about CCNE’s focused review of the accreditation standards, its proposed revisions, and the opportunity to comment. The webinar will be recorded, posted to the CCNE website, and accessible for a limited time.

Final approval of the accreditation standards rests with the CCNE Board of Commissioners. CCNE will publicly announce the final revisions to the accreditation standards and the implementation timeline.

CCNE looks forward to receiving and considering your comments as part of the focused review process. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Dr. Daniel Michalski, CCNE Director of Accreditation Services, at 202-887-6791 x253 or [dmichalski@ccneaccreditation.org](mailto:dmichalski@ccneaccreditation.org).

Thank you.

