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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 7, 2026 – The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)—a nationally recognized accrediting agency for baccalaureate, graduate, and residency/fellowship programs in nursing—is pleased to announce the CCNE Board of Commissioners has approved the revised *Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs* (2026). The revised *Standards* document is the result of a focused review process that included input by CCNE’s community of interest through a broad-based call for comment.

This spring, the CCNE Board of Commissioners convened a CCNE Standards Committee, and the appointed members facilitated a review of the accreditation standards that are used to evaluate baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs nationally. Specifically, the committee coordinated a focused review of the CCNE *Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs* (2024) in light of recent updates made by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (2026).

The CCNE Board has determined that CCNE’s 2026 *Standards* will go into effect January 1, 2027. Therefore, all baccalaureate and graduate nursing education programs hosting a CCNE on-site evaluation and/or submitting a report to CCNE on or after January 1, 2027 are required to address the revised (2026) CCNE *Standards*. (Note: This includes a self-study document that is submitted to CCNE prior to January 1, 2027, for an on-site evaluation occurring in 2027.) CCNE’s 2024 *Standards* will remain in effect through December 31, 2026.

The 2026 *Standards* document is accessible at <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/CCNE/CCNE-Education-Standards-2026.pdf>. Additionally, a revised self-study template addressing CCNE’s 2026 *Standards*, for use by programs hosting an on-site evaluation in 2027 (or beyond), will be available on the CCNE website by the end of July. The Board thanks the Standards Committee for its leadership and CCNE’s community of interest for its engagement in the revision process.

For questions regarding CCNE’s 2026 *Standards*, please contact Dr. Daniel Michalski, CCNE Director of Accreditation Services, at 202-887-6791 x253 or dmichalski@ccneaccreditation.org.

**Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
Standards Committee 2026**

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