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CCNEACCREDITATION.ORG

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To: U.S. Department of Education
State Boards of Nursing
Statewide Agencies of Higher Education
Institutional Accrediting Agencies
Specialized Accrediting Agencies
Selected Federal Agencies
CCNE-Affiliated Nursing Programs
College and University Officials
CCNE On-Site Evaluators
National Nursing Organizations
Other Interested Parties

From: Dr. Lori Escallier, Chair
CCNE Board of Commissioners

Re: Revised CCNE *Procedures for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs*

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)—a nationally recognized accrediting agency for baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs—is pleased to announce that, on January 14, 2025, the CCNE Board of Commissioners amended the *Procedures for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs (Procedures)*. Before amending the *Procedures*, the Board considered all comments that were received from the community of interest in response to the Call for Comments issued on December 13, 2024. In accordance with its commitment to ongoing self assessment and continuous quality improvement, CCNE periodically undertakes a review of its core documents and provides opportunity for constituents to review the documents and suggest revisions, and these revisions are a result of such review.

The *Procedures* document can be accessed at <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/CCNE/Procedures.pdf>. The revised *Procedures* go into effect immediately. CCNE publishes separate accreditation procedures guiding the accreditation of nurse residency and fellowship programs.

A summary of changes is presented as follows:

- Clarifies language throughout the document to be more consistent with the standard of review (i.e., substantial compliance) already established in the section titled Accreditation Categories.
- Establishes the responsibility of the program to ensure that no Personal Identifiable Information (PII) is included in materials submitted to CCNE, and that no PII is requested of the CCNE staff, on-site evaluators, and other CCNE representatives (p. 6).
- Provides flexibility to post-graduate APRN certificate programs scheduling on-site evaluations, allowing them to host the evaluation independently while acknowledging that there continue to be benefits to the nursing unit when hosting concurrent evaluations of post-graduate APRN certificate and degree programs (p. 9; related changes also made elsewhere in the document).

- Provides flexibility in the time period to schedule in-person verification visits following virtual evaluations (e.g., due to a pandemic or natural disaster), which may be necessary due to unavoidable circumstances (pp. 11-12).
- Establishes a requirement for programs to notify its students and prospective students/applicants of its voluntary withdrawal from CCNE accreditation (p. 18).
- Establishes a process by which CCNE may require programs to correct inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete notifications made by programs to students, prospective students/applicants, and others related to show cause actions (p. 18).
- Clarifies actions the CCNE Board may take upon review of a special report (p. 25).
- Consistent with guidance currently provided to programs, updates instances in which a substantive change notification is to be submitted (pp. 26-27).
- Documents that the CCNE Board may cancel or combine required reports to streamline processes and/or reduce redundancy (p. 28).
- If a program chooses not to appeal an adverse action of the CCNE Board, establishes the effective date of the adverse action as the date on which the Board took action (p. 28).
- Establishes a deadline (7 business days) by which programs must notify students and prospective students/applicants of a final action after appeal (p. 31).
- Describes processes to be used by individuals when submitting formal complaints to CCNE about accredited programs, streamlines procedures for their review, and clarifies actions the CCNE Board may take upon review of such complaints (pp. 34-35).

Finally, no sections were added to or removed from the *Procedures* document.

If you have any questions about these revisions, please contact Benjamin Murray, Deputy Executive Director, at 202-887-6791 x275 or at bmurray@ccneaccreditation.org.

Thank you.