



A Webinar on the Focused  
Revision of the CCNE *Standards  
for Accreditation of  
Baccalaureate and Graduate  
Nursing Programs*

May 6, 2026



# ***Focused Revision of the CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs***

**Jean D'Meza Leuner, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN**  
Chair, CCNE Standards Committee  
Professor and Dean  
College of Nursing and Health Sciences  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
Montgomery, AL

**Jennifer Butlin, EdD, CCNE Executive Director**

# GOALS FOR TODAY'S WEBINAR

- ❑ Introduce the CCNE Standards Committee
- ❑ Provide an overview of CCNE's focused review of the *2024 Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs*
- ❑ Present the Board-approved proposed revisions to the *CCNE Standards*
- ❑ Describe the process by which constituents and the public can comment on the proposed revisions to the *CCNE Standards*
- ❑ Provide information about the timeline and implementation process

# CCNE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2026

- ❑ Appointed by the chair of the CCNE Board of Commissioners
- ❑ Includes representation from
  - Institution and program officials
  - Faculty
  - Practice

# CCNE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2026

- ❑ Jean D'Meza Leuner, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN, *Chair*
- ❑ Janet M. Baiardi, PhD, RN, FNP-BC
- ❑ Shirleatha Dunlap, PhD, RN, CNE
- ❑ Cindy Greenberg, DNSc, RN, PNP-PC, FAAN
- ❑ Philip R. Martinez, Jr., EdD, MSN, APRN-BC, NRP, CCRN-CMC
- ❑ Tammie L. McCoy, PhD, RN

# CCNE BOARD'S CHARGE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- ❑ Facilitate 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)*
- ❑ Solicit input from the CCNE community of interest regarding proposed changes
- ❑ Consider comments from the CCNE community of interest
- ❑ Propose final revisions for consideration and action by the CCNE Board of Commissioners

# ABOUT CCNE'S CURRENT (2024) ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

- ❑ Adopted by the CCNE Board in 2024
- ❑ Went into effect for all nursing programs on January 1, 2025
- ❑ Require that nursing programs incorporate the 10 “Domains for Nursing,” the 8 “Concepts for Nursing Practice,” and the 45 “Competencies” (“DCCs”) from the 2021 AACN Essentials.
- ❑ Anticipated to remain in effect through December 31, 2026

# OVERVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

- ❑ On April 17, 2026, AACN announced updates to its publication, *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (2026).
- ❑ In light of AACN's updates to the *Essentials*, the CCNE Board undertook a review of CCNE's 2024 *Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs* to determine whether any updates are needed.
- ❑ On April 23, 2026, the CCNE Board approved proposed revisions to the CCNE Standards (see tracked changes) to be disseminated for public comment.

# SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGES

- ❑ The proposed revisions to CCNE’s 2024 *Standards* include updating the date of the AACN *Essentials* publication from “2021” to “2026”.
- ❑ Such a revision would require that nursing programs incorporate the 10 “Domains for Nursing,” the 8 “Concepts for Nursing Practice,” and the 45 “Competencies” (“DCCs”) from the 2026 AACN *Essentials* (instead of the 2021 edition).
- ❑ Of note, no other changes are proposed to the CCNE *Standards* as part of this focused review process.

# STANDARDS REVISION TIMELINE

- ❑ CCNE anticipates a 2-3 month process for the focused review of the accreditation standards.
- ❑ The CCNE Board is expected to finalize the accreditation standards by July 2026.
- ❑ In the past, CCNE has provided programs with advance notice (e.g., 4-6 months) before new standards go into effect.

# CALL FOR COMMENTS

- ❑ On May 4, 2026, CCNE posted and publicly disseminated a [Call for Comments](#).
- ❑ The purpose of the *Call* is to invite feedback/input from CCNE's community of interest about the proposed changes to CCNE's 2024 *Standards*.
- ❑ The proposed changes include updating the date of the AACN *Essentials* publication from 2021 to 2026 (as there are multiple references in the CCNE *Standards* to the *Essentials*).
- ❑ Constituents are afforded a minimum of 21 days to comment on proposed changes to the accreditation standards, per CCNE policy.
- ❑ Submit comments about the proposed revisions to the CCNE *Standards* via email to [ccnestandards@ccneaccreditation.org](mailto:ccnestandards@ccneaccreditation.org).
- ❑ The deadline to submit comments to CCNE is May 26, 2026.

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PROGRAMS?

## If the Board approves the proposed standards revisions...

- ❑ Nursing programs will need to incorporate the 10 “Domains for Nursing,” 8 “Concepts for Nursing Practice,” and 45 “Competencies” (“DCCs”) from the 2026 Essentials (instead of the *2021 Essentials*) for CCNE accreditation purposes.
- ❑ Programs hosting a CCNE on-site evaluation in Fall 2026 will address the 2024 (current) CCNE *Standards*. However, these programs will have the option to demonstrate incorporation of the “DCCs” from *either* the 2021 *or* the 2026 AACN *Essentials*.
- ❑ Programs submitting a Continuous Improvement Progress Report (CIPR) or other type of monitoring report to CCNE through December 31, 2026 will address the 2024 (current) CCNE *Standards*. However, these programs will have the option to demonstrate incorporation of the “DCCs” from *either* the 2021 *or* the 2026 AACN *Essentials*.

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PROGRAMS?

## If the Board approves the proposed standards revisions...

- ❑ All programs hosting a CCNE on-site evaluation in 2027 will address the soon-to-be-revised (2026) CCNE *Standards*, including but not limited to demonstrating incorporation of the “DCCs” from the 2026 AACN *Essentials* (even if your self-study document is due in 2026).
- ❑ Programs submitting a Continuous Improvement Progress Report (CIPR) or other type of monitoring report to CCNE during 2027 will address the soon-to-be-revised (2026) CCNE *Standards*, including but not limited to demonstrating incorporation of the “DCCs” from the 2026 AACN *Essentials*.

# QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

- ❑ The [proposed changes to the CCNE Standards \(with tracking\)](#) are available on the CCNE website.
- ❑ Send comments regarding the *proposed* revisions to CCNE's 2024 Standards to [CCNEStandards@ccneaccreditation.org](mailto:CCNEStandards@ccneaccreditation.org) by the May 26, 2026 deadline.
- ❑ If you have questions about the CCNE focused standards revision process or the CCNE Standards, please contact Dr. Daniel Michalski, CCNE Director of Accreditation Services, at [dmichalski@ccneaccreditation.org](mailto:dmichalski@ccneaccreditation.org).
- ❑ If you have questions [about the AACN Essentials](#) that are unrelated to CCNE, email AACN staff at [essentials@aacnnursing.org](mailto:essentials@aacnnursing.org).



# Contacting CCNE Staff

Daniel S. Michalski, CCNE Director of Accreditation Services  
[dmichalski@ccneaccreditation.org](mailto:dmichalski@ccneaccreditation.org)

655 K STREET NW  
SUITE 750  
WASHINGTON DC 20001

[WWW.CCNEACCREDITATION.ORG](http://WWW.CCNEACCREDITATION.ORG)