



March 6, 2023

## Update on the CCNE Standards Revision Process and Application of the 2018 CCNE *Standards*

This serves as an important update about CCNE's standards revision process and the application of CCNE's current (2018) [Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs](#). As you know, CCNE launched its [systematic process for reviewing the standards for accreditation](#) in Fall 2022. The standards revision process is a planned activity that occurs every 5 years or sooner, if needed. The Standards Committee has been meeting regularly, considering feedback from constituents submitted in response to the initial Call for Comments, and providing periodic updates to the community of interest.

At its February 2023 meeting, the CCNE Board of Commissioners considered the fact that programs hosting Spring 2024 on-site evaluations are currently engaged in writing their self-study documents and will be submitting those materials to CCNE in less than a year. After thoughtful consideration and based on the likelihood that revised accreditation standards will not be approved by the Board earlier than Fall 2023, **the Board determined that CCNE's current (2018) [Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs](#) will remain in effect at least through June 30, 2024.** Specifically, any nursing program that is submitting a report to CCNE or hosting a CCNE on-site evaluation on or before June 30, 2024 will address its compliance with the 2018 CCNE *Standards*, which identifies the previous editions of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) [Essentials](#) and the 2016 National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education (NTF) [Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs](#).

As CCNE communicated to all chief nurse administrators on [May 10, 2022](#), at its meeting on April 26-28, 2022, the Board affirmed that CCNE will continue to accredit nursing programs at the baccalaureate, master's, DNP, and post-graduate APRN certificate levels, acknowledging and respecting the autonomy of institutions within its community of interest and the diversity of nursing programs and their respective missions. The Board also affirmed that CCNE will continue to accredit master's programs with nurse educator tracks. Further, the Board continues to maintain its longstanding position that it will continue to accredit APRN programs that are offered at the master's and/or doctoral levels.

As a reminder, nursing programs that are working toward incorporation of [The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education](#) (AACN, 2021) and/or the [Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education](#) (NTF, 2022) are welcome to move forward. CCNE is neither precluding programs from incorporating these updated professional nursing standards and guidelines nor mandating incorporation.

The *earliest* the CCNE Board anticipates approving revised *Standards* is Fall 2023, which is an update to the May 2022 communication. Consistent with best practice, the approved *Standards* would not go into effect until several months later. Therefore, CCNE anticipates that the revised *Standards* will go into effect for all programs on or after July 1, 2024. Adjustments may be necessary as the work of the Standards Committee progresses, and we will keep constituents apprised of the timeline, as appropriate.

The CCNE community of interest is encouraged to engage in the standards revision process by attending CCNE forums and commenting on the accreditation standards when these opportunities are made available. CCNE looks forward to hearing your perspectives as we progress with the standards revision process.

If you have any questions about the application of CCNE's 2018 *Standards* to Fall 2023 or Spring 2024 on-site evaluations, or the standards revision process, please contact Dr. Daniel Michalski, Director of Accreditation Services, at [dmichalski@ccneaccreditation.org](mailto:dmichalski@ccneaccreditation.org) or 202-887-6791 x253.