# Essentializing Your Curriculum: Moving Forward with Competency-Based Education

June 2 and 3, 2026
12:00-4:00 PM ET
Zoom

## - SCHEDULE -

**Prework:**

- Read *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education*
- Review the *Essentials'* Frequently Asked Questions
- Review the Expectations for Participating in the Zoom Workshop
- Read and think about AACN's *Essentials* Competency Assessment Framework

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Articulate the "WHY" for implementation of the *Essentials* and the transition to competency-based education.
- Analyze the principles and benefits of CBE in the context of preparing practice-ready nurses.
- Develop actionable strategies to adapt current teaching methodologies toward the implementation of CBE.
- Plan curricular revisions aligned with the *Essentials*.
- Apply backward design to create learner outcomes and performance-based learning and assessment strategies.
- Utilize strategies for incorporating the progression indicators into formative and summative assessments.

**Nursing Continuing Professional Development:**

- The American Association of Colleges of Nursing is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.
- Participants may earn up to 7.5 CEUs for Nursing Continuing Professional Development.
- There are no relevant financial relationships for any of the planners and presenters for this activity.
- Sponsors have not been involved with the planning of content for sessions awarding contact hours.
- For sessions awarding contact hours, participants must attend in entirety and complete an evaluation after the conference. A continuing nursing education/nursing continuing professional development certificate will be provided.
- There are no known conflicts of interest concerning planners and presenters.

## Day One

11:45-12:00 p.m.
**Log-in & Tech Check**

12:00-12:15 p.m.
**Overview of the Day and Setting the Stage for Transformation**
*Speaker:* ***Susan Corbridge****, PhD, APRN, Chief Education and Innovation Officer, American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)*

12:15-12:30 p.m.
**Icebreaker (Breakout Session)**

12:30-1:15 p.m.
**Implementing the *Essentials* & the Move to CBE**
This session will provide participants with an in-depth view of CBE and discuss how it improves clinical judgment and prepares nurse graduates for clinical practice. In a hands-on portion of the presentation, participants will reflect on how they can modify their current approach to begin the transformation to CBE.
*Speaker:* ***Jacquelyn McMillian-Bohler****, PhD, APRN, Director, Institute for Educational Excellence, School of Nursing, Duke University*

1:15-2:00 p.m.
**Step 1: Determine the Competencies & Performance Expectations**
In this session, participants will review the backward design process for competency-based program development. Using the *Essentials* as the basis for the work, participants will begin by describing the successful performance of each competency and sub-competency in step one of the backward design process.
*Speaker:* ***Charla Long,*** *JD, President, Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN)*

2:00-2:15 p.m.
**Break**

2:15-2:45 p.m.
**Backward Design Step 1: Practice (Breakout Session)**

2:45-3:15 p.m.
**AACN's Progression Indicators (PIs)**
This session will introduce AACN's PIs and provide an overview of the process for developing a national consensus.
*Speaker:* ***Dawn Mueller-Burke****, PhD, CRNP, NNP-BC, Assistant Professor/Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, University of Maryland Baltimore, University of Maryland Medical Center*

3:15-3:30 p.m.
**Utilizing AACN Resources to Essentialize Your Curriculum**
In this session, participants will learn about new and updated resources to support the curricular transition.
*Speaker:* ***Dana Tschannen****, PhD, RN, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, School of Nursing, University of Michigan*

3:30-4:00 p.m.
**Debrief, Q&A, & Plans for Day #2**
*Speaker**: Charla Long,** JD, President, Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN)*

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## Day Two

11:45-12:00 p.m.
**Log-in & Tech Check**

12:00-12:15 p.m.
**Recap Day #1**
*Speaker: **Dana Tschannen**, PhD, RN, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, School of Nursing, University of Michigan*

12:15-12:45 p.m.
**Backward Design Step 2: Create Assessment Strategy**
During this session, participants will explore a range of performance-based and criterion-referenced authentic assessment methods for step two of the backward design process. Various resources will be shared, including C-BEN's Hallmark Practices for Competency-Based Assessment.
*Speaker: **Charla Long,** JD, President, Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN)*

12:45-1:15 p.m.
**Backward Design Step 2: Practice (Breakout Session)**

1:15-1:45 p.m.
**Backward Design Step 3: Curate the Learning Journey**
In this session, participants will explore ways to structure a student's learning journey by competencies rather than courses or textbooks as part of step three of the backward design process.
*Speakers: **Charla Long,** JD, President, Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN), and **Dana Tschannen**, PhD, RN, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, School of Nursing, University of Michigan*

1:45-2:00 p.m.
**Break**

2:00-2:30 p.m.
**Backward Design Step 3: Practice (Breakout Session)**

2:30-3:30 p.m.
**Operationalizing CBE: Aligning Objectives, PIs, Rubrics, and Assessment**
This interactive session provides a practical exploration of key elements of CBE. Using a backward design approach, participants will examine how course descriptions, learning objectives, competencies, progression indicators, and assessments can be more intentionally aligned to support a coherent, learner-centered experience. The session encourages participants to reconsider traditional views of the syllabus as a fixed "contract" and instead explore how it can function as a guiding document that clarifies expectations for learning and readiness. Participants will also review examples of how PIs can be incorporated into assessment and rubric strategies to reflect real-world expectations. By the end of the session, attendees will be prepared to operationalize CBE by aligning course design and assessment elements more clearly.

*Speakers**: Jacquelyn McMillian-Bohler**, PhD, APRN, Director, Institute for Educational Excellence, School of Nursing, Duke University, and **Dawn Mueller-Burke**, PhD, CRNP, NNP-BC, Assistant Professor/Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, University of Maryland Baltimore, University of Maryland Medical Center*

3:30-3:45 p.m.
**Moving Forward, Wrap-Up, and Q&A**
*Speakers: **Charla Long,** JD, President, Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN), and **Dana Tschannen**, PhD, RN, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, School of Nursing, University of Michigan*

3:45-4:00 p.m.
**Closing Remarks**
*Speaker: **Susan Corbridge**, PhD, APRN, Chief Education and Innovation Officer, American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)*