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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. Mary Jane S. Hanson, Chair  
CCNE Board of Commissioners

Re: Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Revisions to *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--invites your comments about proposed revisions to the *CCNE Procedures for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs*. 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.

The proposed *Procedures* document (showing the changes in tracking), can be accessed at <https://www.aacnursing.org/Portals/42/CCNE/PDF/Proposed-Procedures-for-comment-2019.pdf>. As you review the document, you will find that the vast majority of the proposed changes are non-substantive in nature and codify existing CCNE practice. A summary of the proposed changes is provided below.

- Clarification that “stop out” degrees are separately accredited from the higher degree (see page 1).
- Modifications to provide post-graduate APRN certificate programs with sporadic enrollment more flexibility (see pages 14-15).
- Clarification to reflect CCNE’s long-standing policy and practice that the Board may award an accreditation term that is less than the maximum term for which a program is eligible (see page 17).
- Clarification to reflect existing CCNE practice regarding the actions the Board may take, and that accreditation may not be awarded or extended beyond the maximum term (see page 18).
- Modifications to correctly refer to the Substantive Change Review Committee (SCRC) (see page 23) and to clarify the documents that are maintained by CCNE (see page 30).
- Modifications to reflect that the effective date of a final adverse action (i.e., the denial or withdrawal of accreditation) is the date on which the Board took the adverse action. The proposed change continues to protect any students

who may graduate from that program between the first day of the most recent on-site evaluation and the date on which the Board took the adverse action. The effective date of a decision to grant or continue accreditation continues to be the first day of that program's most recent CCNE on-site evaluation (see pages 13, 14, and 23-24).

Finally, no new sections are proposed to be added to and no sections are proposed to be removed from the *Procedures* document.

It is the intent of CCNE that any revisions to its procedures will serve the following purposes:

1. reflect good accreditation practices and the CCNE values;
2. ensure consistency within and among CCNE publications;
3. be responsive to constituents' suggestions for clarifying the procedures;
4. accurately reflect what occurs in practice; and/or
5. continue to satisfy the U.S. Secretary of Education's *Criteria for Recognition*.

CCNE looks forward to receiving your comments regarding the proposed changes to the procedures. Please submit your comments to the CCNE office by May 23, 2019. Email comments to [ccneprocedures@ccneaccreditation.org](mailto:ccneprocedures@ccneaccreditation.org).

CCNE values your input and will consider all written comments before adopting final changes to the procedures. If you have any questions about the proposed changes or the revision process, please contact Benjamin Murray, Director of Accreditation Services, at 202-887-6791 x275 or [bmurray@ccneaccreditation.org](mailto:bmurray@ccneaccreditation.org).

Thank you.

