CCNE Worksheet to Demonstrate Compliance with the 2016 NTF Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs



(National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, 5th Edition)

This worksheet is provided to assist programs in demonstrating compliance with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) *Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs* (2018). Key Elements III-C, III-D, and III-E of the CCNE Standards require that all programs that prepare nurse practitioners (NPs) demonstrate incorporation of the National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education (NTF) *Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs (NTF Criteria)* (2016).

Programs that prepare NPs may wish to use this worksheet as an internal tool to assist in ascertaining compliance with the *NTF Criteria*, and thus with the CCNE Standards. It can be included as an appendix to a CCNE self-study document or provided in the resource room during an on-site evaluation. The program(s) should be prepared to offer supporting evidence for the information provided in this worksheet in order to demonstrate compliance with the *NTF Criteria* and the CCNE Standards. To view the *NTF Criteria* please visit <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/</u>Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf

Name of Institution

Identify each NP track currently offered in the master's degree, DNP, or post-graduate APRN certificate program (select all that apply). For each track identified, enter the nationally recognized certification examination(s) for which the graduates of this track are eligible, if any (include all that apply).

NP Track	Offered at master's level?	Offered at DNP level?	Offered at Certificate level?	Certification Examination(s)
Family NP	○ Yes ○ No	○ Yes ○ No	○ Yes○ No	
Pediatric Primary Care NP	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	
Pediatric Acute Care NP	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	
Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes ○ No	
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	
Neonatal NP	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	
Women's Health NP	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	
Psychiatric/Mental Health NP	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	○ Yes○ No	
Other (please specify)				

How many total students (headcount) are enrolled in the NP program that leads to the master's degree?

Total:

How many total students (headcount) are enrolled in the NP progam that leads to the DNP?

Total:

How many total students (headcount) are enrolled in the NP progam that leads to the post-graduate APRN certificate?

Total:

Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs (NTF, 2016)

The criterion statements on the following pages are the same as those published in the *NTF Criteria*, 5th Edition, 2016. This edition is required by the 2018 CCNE Standards. Each criterion statement is presented along with its corresponding elaboration (interpretation) and documentation, as stated in the *NTF Criteria*.

The narrative response should relate directly to the criterion and demonstrate whether the program(s) (including all NP tracks) are in compliance. Although the user may reference data previously listed in the report, please also include an explanation specific to the appropriate criterion. Please note that one-sentence answers, stating that the program meets the criterion, or simply referring the reader to the response provided for another criterion are not considered to be sufficient responses in order for a compliance determination to be made by CCNE. For each response, there should be a succinct explanation showing evidence that the program complies with the criterion. Please provide supporting documentation as part of the program's next regularly scheduled CCNE on-site evaluation.

CRITERION I: ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

I.A: The director/coordinator of the NP program is nationally *certified* as an NP and has the responsibility of overall leadership for the NP program.

Elaboration:

The individual who provides overall leadership (who may hold the title of director, coordinator, or other title recognizing the leadership role) of the NP program must be nationally certified in a particular NP population-focused area of practice. In programs with multiple tracks, this individual may be certified in only one NP population-focused area of practice but have responsibility of leadership for all of the NP tracks. Therefore, in larger multi-track programs, the faculty member who provides direct oversight for a population-focused track has the NP certification in that population-focused area whereas the overall program director may be certified in another NP population-focused area of practice. It is preferred that the director/coordinator is the same individual as the faculty member who provides direct oversight for the NP educational component or track, that individual is certified in the population-focused area or otherwise qualified as described in Criterion I.B.

Visit page 9 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION I: ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

I.B: The faculty member who provides direct oversight for the NP educational component or track is nationally certified in the same population-focused area of practice.

Elaboration:

Curriculum and program development should be carried out by faculty who understand the scope and direction of NP education. Whereas in programs with multiple tracks a program director/coordinator may provide overall leadership for all NP tracks, each population-focused track must identify a faculty member who has certification in the same population-focused area (primary or acute care, as appropriate).

If there is a diversion from this criterion as programs transition to align with Consensus Model on APRN Regulation, the program/track must provide additional documentation on the qualifications and experience of the individual for teaching in this program/track. Examples may include:

- A family nurse practitioner (FNP) who has spent all of his/her work career in caring for the adult population and provides direct oversight for the adult-gerontology primary care NP track.
- An adult acute care NP who provides direct oversight for the adult-gerontology acute care NP track.
- A gerontological NP or an adult NP who provides direct oversight for the adult-gerontology primary care NP track.
- A nationally-certified psychiatric-mental health (PMH) clinical nurse specialist (CNS) who provides direct oversight for the PMH NP track. This example of a CNS providing oversight of an NP track only applies to a PMH NP track.

Visit page 9 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
🔿 No	\bigcirc No	⊖ No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION I: ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION I.C: Institutional support ensures that NP faculty teaching in clinical courses maintain

currency in clinical practice.

Elaboration:

NP faculty members evaluate students, interface with preceptors, and serve as role models. Faculty who teach clinical components of the NP program/track must maintain currency in practice. It is intended that institutions provide administrative support for faculty to practice the required clinical hours to obtain and maintain national certification. This support might include faculty practice models, a reduced teaching or service load, and/ or opportunities for faculty to maintain currency in practice through activities in addition to direct patient care (e.g., community-based initiatives, public health practice, patient/group health education activities, or occupational health programs).

Visit page 10 of http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
\bigcirc No	◯ No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION II: STUDENTS II.A: Any admission criteria specific to the NP program/track reflect input by NP faculty.

Elaboration:

NP programs/tracks may have unique admission criteria. NP faculty have knowledge and expertise regarding the role responsibilities for all respective NP programs and are qualified to develop student related admission criteria appropriate for each NP program. NP faculty should have ongoing opportunity to provide input into the establishment, evaluation, and revision of any admission criteria specific to the NP program.

Visit page 10 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No	⊖ No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION II: STUDENTS II.B: Any progression and completion criteria specific to the NP program/track reflect input by NP faculty.

Elaboration:

NP programs/tracks may have unique progression and completion criteria for full-time, part-time, and/or postgraduate study. NP faculty have the best perspective on specific progression and completion criteria for the NP program/track and thus will have opportunity to provide input into the establishment, evaluation, and revision of specific progression and completion criteria.

Visit page 10 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION III: CURRICULUM III.A: *NP faculty* provide input into the development, evaluation, and revision of the NP *curriculum*.

Elaboration:

NP faculty have a comprehensive perspective on what is required for effective NP education. Development, evaluation, and revision of the NP program/track are directed by the lead NP faculty. There is opportunity for NP faculty to provide input into curriculum development, evaluation, and revision.

Visit page 11 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION III: CURRICULUM

III.B: The curriculum is congruent with national standards for graduate-level, advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) education and is consistent with nationally recognized core role and population-focused NP educational standards and competencies.

Elaboration:

A clear curriculum plan (both didactic and clinical) consistent with nationally recognized core role and populationfocused competencies and educational standards, is in place. NP curriculum reflects the essential elements of a graduate nursing and advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) core curriculum, in addition to the NP role and population-focused component. The NP curriculum provides broad educational preparation of the individual, including the graduate core, APRN core, and the NP role within a population-focused area of practice encompassing national educational standards and core competencies.

NP programs/tracks identify methods used in the delivery of the curriculum, including guidelines for distance learning. NP programs/tracks delivered through alternative delivery methods, such as web-based learning activities, are expected to meet the same academic program and learning support standards as programs provided in face-to-face formats.

A single track nurse practitioner program includes content in one population-focused area and prepares graduates to meet educational eligibility requirements for national certification in that population-focused area of practice.

Dual track nurse practitioner programs (e.g., family/across the lifespan NP and PMH NP, pediatric primary care NP, and pediatric acute care NP) include content and clinical experiences in the role and both population-focused areas or in both primary care and acute care. Dual track NP programs prepare graduates to meet educational eligibility requirements for certification in two population-focused areas. There is an expectation that the number of didactic hours will be greater than for a single population-focused program and that the didactic and clinical experiences will be sufficient to gain the necessary proficiency in each population-focused area of practice. At graduation/ completion, students fulfill the educational criteria for sitting for national certification in each NP program/track.

In addition to preparation for national certification in the role and at least one population-focused area of practice, programs may prepare students to practice in a specialty or more limited area of practice. Preparation in a specialty must have additional didactic and clinical hours beyond those required for preparing graduates in the NP role and one population-focused area.

Visit page 11 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION III: CURRICULUM

III.C.1: The NP program prepares graduates to meet educational eligibility requirements to sit for a national NP certification examination that corresponds with the role and population focus of the NP program.

Elaboration:

NP programs prepare graduates to meet educational eligibility requirements to sit for at least one nationally recognized certification examination that corresponds to the NP role and population focus. This national certification examination assesses the broad educational preparation of the individual which includes graduate core, APRN core, NP role/core competencies, and the competencies specific to the population-focused area of practice.

Visit page 11 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION III: CURRICULUM III.C.2: Official documentation states the NP role and population focus of educational preparation.

Elaboration:

Official documentation (e.g., transcripts or official letters with institutional seal) states the NP role and population-focused area of educational preparation to include primary care or acute care or both, as applicable. The official transcript is preferred as it is the only permanent documentation of the student's coursework and graduation from an education program.

Visit page 11 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION III: CURRICULUM III.D: The curriculum plan demonstrates appropriate course sequencing.

Elaboration:

The curriculum plan documents the course sequencing and prerequisites designed to promote development of competencies. Clinical experiences are supported by preceding or concurrent didactic content. A student completes the basic graduate coursework and APRN core coursework (advanced physiology/pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and advanced pharmacology) prior to or concurrent with commencing clinical coursework.

Visit page 12 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION III: CURRICULUM

III.E: The NP program/track has a minimum of 500 supervised direct patient care clinical hours overall. Clinical hours are distributed to support competency development that represents the population needs..

Elaboration:

Direct patient care clinical hours refer to hours in which direct clinical care is provided to individuals & families in one of the six population-focused areas of NP practice; these hours do not include skill lab hours, physical assessment practice sessions, or a community project if it does not include provision of direct patient care. Clinical experiences and time spent in each experiences are varied and distributed in a way that prepares the student to provide care to the populations served, which may include telehealth and international direct care experiences. For example, a FNP student receives experiences with individuals/families across the life span, and the adult-gerontology NP student receives experiences with adults across the entire adult age spectrum from adolescent to older adult, including the frail older adult. In addition, whereas 500 direct patient care clinical hours is regarded as a minimum, it is expected that programs preparing NPs to provide direct care to multiple age groups, e.g. FNP (or lifespan), will exceed this minimum requirement. The distribution of hours is based on the program's population-focused area of practice.

Simulation is recommended to augment the clinical learning experiences, particularly to address the high-risk low-frequency incidents; however, simulation experiences may only be counted as clinical hours over and above the minimum 500 direct patient care clinical hours. Programs are encouraged to track the use of simulation to enhance the clinical experience. (See Sample Form H to record simulation experiences used for evaluation and/or teaching above the minimum required 500 clinical hours for the population-focused area of practice and role.)

Combined nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist programs include content in both the CNS and NP roles and population-focused areas of practice and prepare graduates to meet educational eligibility requirements for certification in a NP population-focused area. Content and clinical experiences in both the CNS and NP areas of practice are addressed and clinical experiences in both role areas are completed. There is an expectation that a minimum of 500 direct patient care clinical hours is needed specifically to address NP competencies in the preparation of the NP role and population-focused area of practice. An overlap of direct patient care clinical hours may occur across NP and CNS preparation; however, faculty must document the overlap of these hours. It is recommended that programs retain this documentation as well as provide it to students in the event future verification is needed for credentialing and other purposes.

Dual track NP programs include content in two NP population-focused areas or in both primary care and acute care NP practice and prepare graduates to meet educational eligibility requirements for certification in these NP population-focused areas of practice or for both primary care and acute care NP practice. Content and clinical experiences in both population-focused areas must be addressed and clinical experiences in both areas must be completed. While a minimum of 500 clinical hours is needed in each single population-focused area of practice to meet the NP competencies, an overlap of clinical hours might occur across the two roles (primary care and acute care) or the two NP population-focused areas. However, NP programs must document how the clinical hours address the preparation for the two areas of practice. The population foci of the dual tracks will determine the extent to which overlap may occur.

NP programs preparing graduates to practice in a specialty area of practice in addition to the population-focus will document how content and clinical experiences in both the population-focus and the specialty areas of practice are addressed within the curriculum. Clinical experiences in both population-focus and specialty must be completed. There is an expectation that the number of didactic hours will be greater than for a single populationfocused program and that the didactic and clinical experiences will be sufficient to gain the necessary proficiency in the population-focus and specialty area of practice.

Visit page 12 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE. The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION III: CURRICULUM

III.F: Post-graduate students successfully complete graduate didactic and clinical requirements of an academic graduate NP program through a formal graduate-level certificate or degree-granting graduate-level NP program in the desired area of practice. Post-graduate students are expected to master the same outcome criteria as graduate degree granting program NP students. Post-graduate certificate students who are not already NPs are required to complete a minimum of 500 supervised direct patient care clinical hours.

Elaboration:

Post-graduate certificate students through a formal graduate-level certificate program successfully attain the same didactic objectives and clinical competencies of a graduate degree-granting NP program. A "formal graduate-level certificate program" is defined by the ability of the program or institution to issue a certificate or formal letter of completion and document successful completion of the necessary coursework on the final transcript. Courses may be waived only if the individual's transcript indicates that the required NP course or its equivalent has already been successfully completed, including graduate-level courses in advanced physiology/ pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and advanced pharmacology. Programs must document the process for assigning credit granted for prior didactic and precepted clinical experiences for individual students through a gap analysis.

NPs returning for a post-graduate certificate or an academic degree in a population-focused area in which they currently practice but are not nationally certified

Special consideration may be given to NPs who are currently practicing in a population-focused area of practice who are seeking national certification in that population by allowing them to challenge selected courses and experiences. However, didactic and clinical experiences are sufficient to enable the student to master the competencies and meet the criteria for national certification in the population-focused area of practice. These students complete a sufficient number of direct patient care clinical hours to establish/demonstrate competency in the population-focused area of practice. Programs document the process for assigning credit granted for prior didactic and clinical experiences for individual students through a gap analysis.

PMH CNSs returning for a post-graduate certificate or an academic degree as a PMH NP

To address a period of transition and consistency with the Consensus Model on APRN Regulation, special consideration for challenging selected courses and experiences may be given to those PMH CNSs who are seeking national certification as a PMH NP. However, didactic and clinical experiences are sufficient to enable the students to master the NP competencies and meet the educational criteria for certification as a PMH NP. These students complete a sufficient number of precepted direct patient care clinical hours as part of the academic program to enable the students to establish/demonstrate competency in the role and population-focused area of practice. Programs document the process for assigning credit granted for prior didactic and clinical experiences for individual students through a gap analysis.

NPs returning for a post-graduate certificate or academic degree in an NP population-focused area in which they are not currently practicing or certified

Special consideration may be given to NPs who are expanding into another NP population-focused area of practice by allowing them to challenge selected courses and experiences. However, didactic and clinical experiences are sufficient to enable the students to master the competencies and meet the educational criteria for national certification in the new population-focused area of practice. These students complete a sufficient number of precepted direct patient care clinical hours as part of the academic program to enable the students to establish/ demonstrate competency in the new population-focused area of practice. Programs document the process for assigning credit granted for prior didactic and clinical experiences for individual students through a gap analysis.

NPs returning for a post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Separate courses in the APRN core (advanced physiology/pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and advanced pharmacology) are not required by students enrolled in a post-master's DNP program who are nationally

certified, currently practicing as a NP, and do not wish to add a separate practice focus.. However, post-master's DNP students who are NPs and who are seeking certification in a population-focused area of practice in which they are not currently practicing or certified must meet the educational and certification criteria for the additional practice area as well as the educational criteria for the DNP.

Visit page 13 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION IV: RESOURCES, FACILITIES, & SERVICES IV.A: Institutional resources, facilities, and services support the development, management, and evaluation of the NP program/track.

Elaboration:

To implement/maintain an effective NP program/track, there ar adequate numbers of faculty, facilities, and services that support NP students regardless of mode of delivery.

As a necessary part of the educational process, access to adequate classroom space, models, clinical simulations, audiovisual aids, computer technology, and library resources is critical. When using alternative delivery methods, a program is expected to provide or ensure that resources are available for the students' successful attainment of program objectives.

Visit page 14 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
◯ No	◯ No	⊖ No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION IV: RESOURCES, FACILITIES, & SERVICES IV.B: Clinical resources support NP educational experiences.

Elaboration:

Adequate faculty, clinical sites, and preceptors are available to support the NP clinical, educational experiences. The NP program/track provides evidence of contractual agreements with agencies or individuals used for students' clinical experiences.

Visit page 14 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION IV: RESOURCES, FACILITIES, & SERVICES

IV.B.1: A sufficient number of faculty is available to ensure quality clinical experiences for NP students. NP faculty have academic responsibility for the supervision and evaluation of NP students and for oversight of the clinical learning experience. The faculty/student ratio is sufficient to ensure adequate supervision and evaluation.

Elaboration:

Faculty supervision may be direct or indirect. Direct supervision occurs when NP program faculty function as on-site clinical preceptors. Indirect supervision has three components: (1) to supplement the clinical preceptor's teaching, (2) to act as a liaison to a community agency, and (3) to evaluate the student's progress. Whether through direct or indirect roles, faculty are responsible for all NP students in the clinical area.

Institutions should describe the assignment of faculty to ensure adequate teaching time for NP students. The recommended on-site faculty/student ratio (direct supervision) is 1:2 if faculty members are not seeing their own patients and 1:1 if faculty members are seeing their own patients. In moving toward IPE and team-based models of care, variation in faculty/student ratios for direct supervision may exist and should be structured to ensure safety and quality care while maintaining integrity of educational experiences. Variations in this ratio might occur with use of innovative teaching models, such as a master teacher with student clinical groups, front-loading course content followed by concentrated clinical time, use of a clinical immersion experience as the final part of the NP program, and interprofessional team-based clinical experiences.

The recommended ratio for indirect faculty supervision, which encompasses coordinating the clinical experience, interacting with the preceptor, and evaluating the student, is 1:6; however, each school/program documents how they assign faculty based on a defined faculty workload or amount of designated faculty time. Thus, ratios may vary relative to certain practice areas, the individual faculty member, use of technology, curriculum design, innovative clinical education models, and institutional policy. The intent of the faculty/student ratio designation is based on the premise that preparing competent healthcare providers is a faculty intense process that requires considerable faculty role modeling and direct student evaluation to determine competence. The ratio takes into account the cumulative teaching/administrative duties of the faculty member and his/her clinical practice.

NP program/track faculty for both distance and traditional program options provide oversight of the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the clinical learning experience, which may include, but is not limited to, clinical site visits, email, and phone consultations with the preceptor and agency administrators, and the student's appraisal of the clinical learning environment. A mechanism is in place to ensure the clinical setting affords the opportunity to meet learning objectives and to document outcomes of the clinical experiences. Faculty and student assessments of the clinical experience should be conducted regularly and documented.

Visit page 14 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION IV: RESOURCES, FACILITIES, & SERVICES

IV.B.2: Clinical settings used are diverse and sufficient in number to ensure that the student will meet core curriculum guidelines and program/track goals.

Elaboration:

Clinical educational experiences for students are approved by NP faculty and preceptors. Sites are evaluated on an ongoing basis for adequacy of experiences, patient type and mix, and preceptor/student interactions to ensure that students engage in experiences sufficient to meet the NP role and population-focused competencies. Student clinical experiences at the student's site of employment need to be faculty-guided learning experiences and outside of the student's employment expectations/responsibilities.

Visit page 15 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION IV: RESOURCES, FACILITIES, & SERVICES IV.B.3: NP faculty may share the clinical teaching of students with qualified preceptors.

Elaboration:

The supervision of students may be shared with other clinicians serving as clinical preceptors. Programs may use a mix of clinicians to provide direct clinical teaching to students appropriate to the range of clinical experiences required to meet the program objectives. This mix of preceptors may enhance the interprofessional experience for the student. Over the course of the program the student has a majority of clinical experiences with preceptors from the same population-focused area of practice in primary care and/or acute care, as appropriate, such as child, adult, or across the lifespan. In addition, over the course of the program the student has clinical experiences with an APRN preceptor and preferably an NP with expertise in the population-focused area of practice in primary care and/or acute care, as appropriate.

Visit page 15 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION IV: RESOURCES, FACILITIES, & SERVICES IV.B.3.a: A preceptor must have authorization by the appropriate state licensing entity to practice in his/her population-focused and/or specialty area.

Elaboration:

An interdisciplinary mix of preceptors may provide the student with the best clinical experiences to meet program objectives and prepare the student for the NP role, population, and full scope of practice. Each preceptor used, to include NPs, other nurses, and individuals from other disciplines, is credentialed and licensed to practice in his/her area of practice. In addition, this area of practice should be clearly relevant to meeting the objectives of the NP program/track.

Visit page 15 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION IV: RESOURCES, FACILITIES, & SERVICES

IV.B.3.b: A preceptor has educational preparation appropriate to his/her area(s) of supervisory responsibility and at least one year of clinical experience.

Elaboration:

Each preceptor has educational preparation or extensive clinical experience in the clinical or content area in which he/she is teaching or providing clinical supervision. A newly prepared clinician should have at least one year of clinical experience in the population-focused practice area and role prior to providing clinical supervision.

Visit page 16 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION IV: RESOURCES, FACILITIES, & SERVICES

IV.B.3.c: Preceptors are oriented to program/track requirements and expectations for oversight and evaluation of NP students.

Elaboration:

Clinical preceptors should be oriented so they understand the learning goals of the clinical experience and the level of progression that the student has attained. The NP faculty interfaces closely with preceptors to ensure appropriate clinical experiences for students.

Visit page 16 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
◯ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION V: FACULTY AND FACULTY ORGANIZATION

V.A.1: NP programs/tracks have sufficient faculty with the preparation and current expertise to adequately support the professional role development and clinical management courses for NP practice.

Elaboration:

For successful implementation of the curriculum, faculty have the preparation, knowledge-base, and clinical skills appropriate to their area of teaching responsibility.

Recognizing that no individual faculty member can fill all roles, NP programs/tracks maintain a sufficient number of qualified faculty who have the knowledge and competence appropriate to the area of teaching responsibility and to meet the objectives of the program and individual population-focused tracks.

Interrelated indicators that may demonstrate sufficiency of faculty may include the following:

- Student performance on certification examinations.
- Whether overall faculty workload allows time for responsibilities, such as clinical placements, curriculum development, student advising, interviewing, teaching, and program outcome assessment.
- Whether faculty evaluations reflect ability to manage all assignments.
- Whether student evaluations reflect ability to obtain faculty assistance/guidance.

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The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION V: FACULTY AND FACULTY ORGANIZATION V.A.2: NP program faculty who teach the clinical components of the program/track maintain current licensure and national certification.

Elaboration:

NP program faculty include individuals with diverse expertise and emphasis in research, teaching, and/or clinical practice. While it may be difficult for some faculty to balance research, practice, and teaching responsibilities, all faculty are encouraged to maintain national certification. However, it is imperative that faculty who teach clinical components maintain appropriate professional credentialing.

Visit page 16 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	⊖ No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION V: FACULTY AND FACULTY ORGANIZATION

V.A.3: NP faculty demonstrate competence in clinical practice and teaching through a planned, ongoing faculty development program designed to meet the needs of new and continuing faculty members.

Elaboration:

NP faculty may participate in or undertake various types of practice in addition to direct patient care to maintain currency in practice. Maintaining this currency is important to ensuring clinical competence in the area of teaching responsibility.

In the event that an NP faculty member has less than one year of experience, it is expected that a senior or experienced faculty member will mentor this individual in both clinical and teaching responsibilities. Mentoring new and inexperienced faculty is a positive experience that assists NPs to transition into the role of NP faculty educator. Opportunities for continued development in one's area of research, teaching, and clinical practice should be available to all faculty.

Visit page 17 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION V: FACULTY AND FACULTY ORGANIZATION V.B: Non-NP faculty have expertise in the area in which they are teaching.

Elaboration:

Similar to NP faculty, other faculty in the NP program have the preparation, knowledgebase, and clinical skills appropriate to their area of teaching responsibility.

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The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
🔾 No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION VI: EVALUATION VI.A: There is an evaluation plan for the NP program/track.

Elaboration:

If the evaluation plan from the institution is used for the NP program/track, apply the plan for implementation in the NP program/track.

Visit page 17 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
🔿 No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION VI: EVALUATION VI.A.1: Evaluate courses at regularly scheduled intervals.

Elaboration:

To ensure that students can achieve successful program outcomes, programs should establish a process for regularly scheduled review of courses in the NP program/track.

Visit page 17 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	⊖ No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION VI: EVALUATION VI.A.2: Evaluate NP program faculty competence at regularly scheduled intervals.

Elaboration:

NP program facultyare evaluated at regularly scheduled intervals for competence in all role areas, including teaching, research, and clinical competence, as applicable.

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The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
🔿 No	⊖ No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION VI: EVALUATION VI.A.3: Evaluate student progress through didactic and clinical components of NP program/track each semester/quarter/term.

Elaboration:

Each student is evaluated as he/she progresses through the NP program/track. Separate evaluations are done in the didactic and clinical components of the curriculum. Evaluation of the progression of students through the program is important to ensure that sufficient and adequate resources are provided to support timely student progression through the program.

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The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION VI: EVALUATION VI.A.4: Evaluate students' attainment of competencies throughout the program.

Elaboration:

Evaluation of students' attainment of competencies is the responsibility of the NP faculty member throughout the didactic and clinical components of the program.

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The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION VI: EVALUATION VI.A.5: Evaluate students cumulatively based on clinical observation of student competence and performance by NP faculty and/or preceptor assessment.

Elaboration:

Student evaluation is the responsibility of the NP faculty with input from the preceptor. Direct clinical observation of student performance is essential by either the faculty member or the clinical preceptor. Clinical observation may be accomplished using direct and/or indirect evaluation methods such as student-faculty conferences, computer simulation, videotaped sessions, clinical simulations, or other appropriate telecommunication technologies.

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The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION VI: EVALUATION VI.A.6: Evaluate clinical sites at regularly scheduled intervals.

Elaboration:

Evaluation of clinical sites at regularly scheduled intervals provides the necessary information about the quality of student learning experiences. This should form the basis for NP faculty to make changes in student assignments.

Visit page 18 of <u>http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/CurriculumGuidelines/Criteria-</u> <u>Evaluation-NP-2016.pdf</u> to view the required evidence relevant to this criterion. The program will be expected to furnish documentation substantiating compliance during the program's next on-site evaluation by CCNE.

The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
🔿 No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION VI: EVALUATION VI.A.7: Evaluate preceptors at regularly scheduled intervals.

Elaboration:

Preceptors provide a very important part of the educational experience for students. Faculty and student evaluations of preceptors conducted at scheduled intervals or more frequently if needed are used by NP faculty to define ongoing preceptor relationships and development programs. Evaluations also provide the basis for making student assignments. An evaluation process may include the use of technology, surveys, student and preceptor feedback, and follow-up to be determined by the program.

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The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	⊖ No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION VI: EVALUATION VI.B: Formal NP curriculum evaluation occurs every five (5) years or sooner.

Elaboration:

The overall NP curriculum and program of study are formally evaluated every five years or sooner.

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The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
⊖ No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.

CRITERION VI: EVALUATION VI.C: There is an evaluation plan to measure outcomes of graduates.

Elaboration:

Programs develop an ongoing system of evaluation of graduates. It is recommended that the first interval should be set at one (1) year, or no later than two (2) years, post-graduation.

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The NP program (including all tracks) complies with this criterion:

Master's	DNP	Certificate
\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes	\bigcirc Yes
🔿 No	\bigcirc No	\bigcirc No

Provide a brief explanation with examples demonstrating how the program complies or does not comply with this criterion. If the program does not meet the criterion, please explain how the program is working to remedy the issue.