May 31, 2019

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, Board of Commissioners
      Dr. Jennifer Butlin, Executive Director

Re: Revised 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--is pleased to announce that, on May 31, 2019, the CCNE Board of Commissioners amended the Procedures for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs (Procedures). Before amending the Procedures, the Board considered all comments that were received from the community of interest in response to the Call for Comments issued on May 1, 2019. 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, and these revisions are a result of such review.

The Procedures document can be accessed at http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/CCNE/PDF/Procedures.pdf. The revised Procedures document goes into effect immediately. CCNE publishes separate accreditation procedures guiding the accreditation of entry-to-practice nurse residency programs.

A summary of changes is presented as follows:

▪ 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 update the name of 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 sections were added to or removed from the Procedures document.

If you have any questions about these revisions, please contact Benjamin Murray, Director of Accreditation Services, at 202-887-6791 x275 or at bmurray@ccneaccreditation.org.

Thank you.