



COMMISSION ON
COLLEGIATE NURSING
EDUCATION

655 K STREET NW
SUITE 750
WASHINGTON DC 20001

202-887-6791

CCNEACCREDITATION.ORG

MEMORANDUM

November 13, 2019

To: Chief Executive Officers, Healthcare Organizations
Chief Nursing Officers, Healthcare Organizations
Chief Nurse Administrators, CCNE-Affiliated Baccalaureate & Graduate
Nursing Education Programs
Nurse Practitioner Residency/Fellowship Program Coordinators,
Healthcare Organizations
CCNE On-Site Evaluators
Accrediting Agencies
Selected Federal Agencies
National Nursing Organizations
State Boards of Nursing
Other Interested Parties

From: Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, PhD, RN, FAAN, Co-chair
Susan D. Ruppert, PhD, FNP-C, FCCM, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN, Co-chair
CCNE Nurse Practitioner Residency/Fellowship Program Standards
Committee

Re: Call for Comments on CCNE's *Proposed Standards for Accreditation of
Nurse Practitioner Residency/Fellowship Programs*

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) has launched a new initiative to accredit nurse practitioner (NP) residency/fellowship programs. This new area of operation was approved by the CCNE Board of Commissioners following careful study by a specially appointed task force, comprised of nursing leaders in practice and academia, and review by the CCNE Board. Information about this initiative can be found on the CCNE [website](#). Following the work of this task force, the CCNE Nurse Practitioner Residency/Fellowship Standards Committee was appointed to build upon the work of the task force and draft standards to be used in a comprehensive accreditation process centered on quality assurance.

The work of the Standards Committee and Board has been guided by these foundational principles:

- Educational programs prepare NPs who are competent and ready for practice. Additionally, CCNE recognizes that the demands of contemporary healthcare practice are both intense and complex.
- NP residency/fellowship programs are voluntary in nature, and completion of these programs is not required for certification or practice. CCNE accreditation of NP residency/fellowship programs is a voluntary, peer review process.
- CCNE values academic-practice partnerships and believes that such partnerships are foundational to NP residency/fellowship programs. To be eligible for CCNE accreditation, an NP residency/fellowship program must be supported by an academic-practice partnership. CCNE does not prescribe the nature of the partnership and does not mandate specific roles or responsibilities of the parties. Rather, CCNE believes that the partnership should reflect relationships established by the parties to support NPs transitioning to practice. CCNE has accredited entry-to-practice nurse residency programs for more than a decade, and programs eligible for that

accreditation must also be supported by an academic-practice partnership. The academic-practice partnership supporting residency/fellowship programs vary in nature. The CCNE accreditation standards are written to foster innovation and afford flexibility so residency/fellowship programs can develop effective partnerships.

- NP residency/fellowship programs build on, but do not substitute for, a solid educational foundation. Specifically, NPs are prepared for the NP role and a specific population focus through a comprehensive graduate-level nursing education program.

The CCNE Nurse Practitioner Residency/Fellowship Standards Committee has developed draft standards to be used in the accreditation process. An open invitation to suggest changes is extended to all interested parties, including healthcare organization and NP residency/fellowship program administrators, academic program administrators, faculty, practitioners, agency representatives, employers, residents, fellows, students, and others with an interest in the preparation of competent NPs.

To review the current language in the *Proposed Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Practitioner Residency/Fellowship Programs*, please visit the CCNE [website](#).

Comments may be directed at the standards in their entirety or at any individual standard or key element. Comments also may be directed at the Supporting Documentation or the Glossary. Please be specific in offering your comments, including specific language you would like to see incorporated, deleted, or amended.

Comments may be submitted via:

- an [online survey](#) (this survey will take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete), or
- email at CCNEStandards@ccneaccreditation.org.

The *Call for Comments* period will remain open until **January 13, 2020**.

[CCNE encourages you to forward this communication to your colleagues in NP education and practice, and others who may have an interest in providing feedback about the proposed accreditation standards.](#)

Final approval of the accreditation standards rests with the CCNE Board of Commissioners. A list of the members of the CCNE Board of Commissioners is available [online](#).

The CCNE Nurse Practitioner Residency/Fellowship Standards Committee looks forward to receiving and considering your comments as it continues its work to develop the accreditation standards. A list of committee members is available [online](#).

If you have any questions about the standards development process, please contact Benjamin Murray, CCNE Deputy Executive Director, at 202-887-6791 x275 or bmurray@ccneaccreditation.org. Also, if you are a healthcare organization or program leader and would like to explore the possibility of pursuing CCNE accreditation of your NP residency/fellowship program, please contact Mr. Murray.

Thank you in advance for submitting comments and for your interest in promoting quality in NP residency/fellowship programs nationally.