



January 2020

To: AACN Board of Directors

Re: Report of the Essentials Task Force

The AACN Essentials Task Force was charged with re-envisioning the *Essentials*, which includes delineating the expected competencies of graduates of baccalaureate, master's, and DNP programs and identifying the necessary curricular elements that must be present in these programs. The following milestones have been achieved since the October 2019 Board report:

- The Essentials Revision Task Force presented updates and initiated discussion at the Academic Nursing Leadership Conference and Baccalaureate Education Conference. Feedback from the AACN membership has been very positive with strong consensus that this work is on track and meeting expectations.
- The task force drafted introductory material for the document that addresses the discipline of nursing and professional identity as well as the transition to competency-based education, review of the healthcare and higher education environment, and purpose of the document.
- The task force developed draft prefaces for each of the 10 domains.
- The first National Faculty Meeting (NFM) to engage faculty at member schools in a discussion of the Essentials revision was launched. Materials to facilitate the NFM were developed and disseminated, including an invitational letter, a video introduction to the NFM featuring AACN's Board Chair and task force leaders, discussion questions, and an electronic survey. To date 79 schools have submitted their responses to the survey. All responses will be collated and reviewed.

The specific activities and processes of the Essentials Task Force since October 2019 include:

- 1) Members of the Leadership Team presented a plenary session, *Re-envisioning the AACN Essentials: A Task Force Update*, at the 2019 Academic Nursing Leadership Conference (ANLC). The session was well received and was rated 4.86 by conference attendees. Feedback from that session as well as from the Like-Schools discussions and the Tuesday morning tabletop discussions has been shared with the full Task Force.
- 2) The Task Force Leadership Team met immediately following the ANLC for 1 ½ days. Primary focus of the meeting was preparation for the NFM, which was announced at the ANLC and was scheduled for November 15, 2019 – January 15, 2020. A video script was written and taped during the meeting.

- 2) The Essentials Revision Leadership Team met via Zoom bi-weekly and continued the work on iterative refinements to re-envision the ten domains, domain descriptors, competencies, and sub-competencies for entry-to-professional nursing.
- 3) The Task Force Leadership Team continued to work on the domain prefaces to provide additional context for each domain and the expected competencies.
- 4) The full Essentials Revision Task Force met via Zoom to receive feedback from the October Board meeting and ANLC sessions and next steps.
- 5) The Task Force members in small groups were assigned to review one of the 10 domains, domain descriptors, competencies, and sub-competencies for entry-to-professional nursing practice. In addition, each group was charged to draft and come to consensus on the advanced professional nursing sub-competencies for their assigned domain.
- 6) Task Force consultant, Jean Bartels, presented at the Faculty Development Conference on competency-based education. Dr. Bartels' presentation was well received and was rated 4.41 by conference attendees.
- 7) Four members of the Task Force Leadership Team and staff met on-site at the Baccalaureate Education Conference in Orlando to finalize the activity to be included as part of their presentation. The presentation and hands-on activity were well received with a rating of 4.62.
- 8) A full face-to-face Essentials Task Force meeting will be held January 10-12, 2020 in Washington, D.C. Goals for the meeting include: 1) Affirmation of the document introduction, the ten domains, domain descriptors, domain prefaces, domain competencies, and entry-into professional nursing sub-competencies; 2) Discussion and affirmation of the proposed advanced nursing education sub-competencies; and 3) Discussion regarding the use of simulation and clinical experiences in nursing curricula.

Essentials Leadership Team

Task Force Co-Chairs

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