

Essentials Task Force Report October 2020

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 last report to the AACN membership in March 2020:

- Virtual presentations have been made by Task Force members to organizations and groups, including the Vizient Strategic Planning Committee, the AACN-American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) Committee, and AACN's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group. Unfortunately, several presentations were cancelled due to the pandemic, including a presentation at the AONL conference. Opportunities for additional engagement with practice and other stakeholders are being planned.
- Two Essentials Task Force regional meetings focused on entry-to-professional nursing education were held February 17 and 18, 2020 in San Antonio, TX and March 5-6, 2020 in Atlanta, GA. The ten domains, domain descriptors, competencies, and entry-to-professional nursing sub-competencies were shared with the attendees; feedback was solicited and obtained from the 250 attendees.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, regional meetings focused on advanced-level education were transitioned to virtual meetings. Three virtual meetings were held June 17, 23, and 25. Interest in these meetings was overwhelming with registrations filling within hours of the announcement. The number of participants was capped to allow for deep engagement by all participants. Registrants were asked to complete pre-work prior to the meeting, which included reviewing a video providing an overview of Essentials work, a competency-based education video, AACN's *Vision for Academic Nursing* white paper, and draft Essentials document. Over 400 faculty, deans, and a limited number of practice partners participated in the virtual meetings. The meetings produced strong participant engagement, rich discussions, and significant feedback, which was thoroughly reviewed by Task Force members and staff.
- A template and process for developing an Essentials toolkit has been drafted. This supplement will serve as an important resource for faculty and others in implementing the re-envisioned Essentials. Toolkit components will include suggested content, learning resources, curricular opportunities, and assessment methods.
- The draft Essentials document has continued to evolve based on feedback from the regional and virtual meeting attendees as well as extensive review and discussion by the Task Force members. The current draft document includes Introduction, Domains, Key Concepts, Competencies, and Sub-competencies for entry-level and advanced level nursing education.

The specific activities and processes of the Essentials Task Force since March 2020 include:

1. The Essentials Revision Leadership Team has continued to meet via Zoom bi-weekly to continue the work on iterative modifications to the introduction, key concepts, ten domains, domain descriptors, contextual statements, competencies, and sub-competencies for entry-to-professional nursing and advanced level nursing education. In addition to these regular meetings, the Leadership Team held 10 additional extended meetings to review and discuss feedback and revisions to the evolving draft document.
2. The full Task Force continued to develop and refine the advanced level sub-competencies as well as review the revisions to the other components of the document. In addition to small

group work, the full Task Force had five virtual meetings plus two training sessions in preparation for the virtual regional meetings.

3. The Essentials Leadership Team has presented to the AACN Board at its March and July meetings as well as two special meetings in September and October.

Upcoming member opportunity to hear update, seek clarification, and provide input:

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

12:30-3:30 p.m. ET

AACN Essentials: Continuing the Conversation

- For additional information and to keep informed on our work, please visit our website [Essentials Task Force](#) for developments and updates, including the current draft Essentials document.

Essentials Leadership Team

Task Force Co-Chairs

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