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.

**Milestones to Date:**
- Extensive dialogue regarding *AACN’s Vision for Academic Nursing* as foundational for the development of the *Essentials*.
- Consultations/task force briefings with experts and additional review of the literature in select areas, including competency-based education, population health, global health, professional identity, discipline of nursing/essence of nursing, interprofessional education, professionalism, ethics, care coordination, and informatics.
- Endorsement by task force of definitions for competency, competence, and competency framework.
- Development of draft domains and descriptors to reflect the discipline of nursing.
- Task force restructured from three into one working group.
- Consensus by the task force on a new conceptual framework for nursing education that encompasses entry-into-professional nursing education and advanced nursing education.
- Development of draft competencies for the 10 domains that encompass all professional nursing practice.
- Development and affirmation of draft sub-competencies for each competency under the 10 domains for entry-into-professional nursing.
- Initial work on drafting sub-competencies for each competency under the 10 domains for advanced nursing education.
- Draft preamble and introductory material for 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.
- Development of a plan for the engagement of members, practice partners, and diverse stakeholders. Activities encompass a broad array of venues, audiences, and formats, including AACN and other organizations’ conferences/meetings, webinars, a virtual national faculty meeting, and written updates and surveys.

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

1. The Essentials Leadership Team met via telephone bi-weekly and continued the work to re-envision the 10 domains and domain descriptors. Multiple small group meetings were convened with the co-chairs, consultants, and AACN staff to refine this work.
2. The ten domains, descriptors, and the draft competencies and entry-to-professional nursing practice sub-competencies were reviewed and discussed in-depth by the Task Force Leadership Team at a face-to-face meeting held in Washington, D.C., August 26-28, 2019.
3. Following the August meeting, the full Task Force was convened virtually to review the draft document and facilitate the next phase of work.
4) The full Task Force met face-to-face September 27-29, 2019 in Washington, D.C. This very productive meeting included a review of the Essentials Preamble, the re-envisioned ten domains, domain descriptors, professional nursing competencies, and the entry-to-professional nursing practice sub-competencies. The meeting also included an in-depth discussion regarding the new conceptual framework for nursing education, the leveling of the sub-competencies for advanced nursing education, engagement of stakeholders, messaging, timeline, and next steps.

The DRAFT domains and domain descriptors, reviewed and revised by the full Task Force at its September 2019 meeting, are attached. These along with information and examples of the professional nursing competencies, entry-into-professional nursing sub-competencies, nursing education conceptual model, and opportunities for stakeholder engagement will be presented and discussed at a series of sessions at the ANLC meeting October 19-22, 2019 in Washington, DC:

- **October 19**, 3:45-5:00 pm: At the Here to Serve session, AACN President and CEO Deborah Trautman will provide a brief update to members on the Essentials process, including an overview of feedback sessions planned at the Fall meeting.
- **October 20**, 9:30-10:30 am: The Essentials Task Force will update members and share content from the draft Essentials for participants to review and comment. Plans for a National Faculty Meeting also will be discussed.
- **October 20**, 10:45 am-12:00 pm: Members will be asked to consider a specific question related to the new Essentials during the Like Schools Discussions.
- **October 22**, 8:00–9:00 am: All meeting attendees will be invited to participate in focused, small group discussions related to the Essentials revision.

Additional opportunities for input will be available over the next six months. For additional information and updates please go to [https://www.aacnnursing.org/About-AACN/AACN-Governance/Committees-and-Task-Forces/Essentials](https://www.aacnnursing.org/About-AACN/AACN-Governance/Committees-and-Task-Forces/Essentials).

**Essentials Task Force Leadership Team**

**Task Force Co-Chairs**
Jean Giddens, PhD, Dean, Virginia Commonwealth University, *Co-Chair*
Cynthia McCurren, PhD, Dean, Grand Valley State University, *Co-Chair*
John McFadden, PhD, Dean, Barry University, *Co-Chair*

**Task Force Consultants**
Jean Bartels, PhD, *Consultant*
Linda Caldwell, DNSc, *Consultant*
Nancy DeBasio, PhD, *Consultant*

**AACN Board Liaison**
Christie Shelton, PhD, Dean, Jacksonville State University

**AACN Staff Liaisons:**
Joan Stanley, PhD, Chief Academic Officer
Rick García, PhD, Director of Nursing Education
Kathy McGuinn, MSN, Director, IP Education and Practice Partnerships
Deborah Trautman, PhD, President and CEO