



## Competency-Based Education for Practice-Ready Nurse Graduates Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **Is there any other guidance for supporting documents or information for preparing this proposal you could provide me with?**
  - A. For supporting documents and information, [view the RFP here](#). Note that the letters of support from the dean/director and practice partner must be uploaded into the application. To access the application you must log into an [online application portal](#), using a MyAACN account. For the application, there is no page limit per se, but there are word limits under each question where information can be entered.
2. **How many practice partners are required?**
  - A. One main partner is required for this project. If you have more partners, that is great, but not required. There is a place to add the names and contact information for additional partners in the application. There is also a place to add one additional letter of support from a practice partner.
3. **Is there an expectation that the programs develop a virtual learning community, or will that be facilitated by AACN with the expectation of participation?**
  - A. AACN will facilitate the *Virtual Sharing Collective* (community) and participation is required by the pilot schools and their practice partners throughout the pilot project.
4. **The link for the application submission doesn't allow for upload of an application. Please advise.**
  - A. As you go through the application, you will see dialog boxes with maximum word counts. We suggest you compose the answers to each question in a Word document and cut and paste them into the dialog boxes. Three documents are required to be uploaded: a budget using the template provided, a letter of support from the dean or director, and a letter of support from the primary practice partner. The application portal allows you to go through the application and **save your work** as you go through it. You do not need to finish the application in one sitting.

- 5. Are accelerated prelicensure to master's programs eligible to apply?**
- A. All prelicensure programs are eligible to apply. If you have a program that transitions directly to a master's degree, we would expect you to transition just the prelicensure program to the two Domains of the 2021 *Essentials* for the purposes of this grant.
- 6. Is the \$100,000 grant awarded for a single year? The budget template provided is divided into 3 years. What are the grant installment disbursement time frames?**
- A. The \$100,000 award is the total amount for the three-year period divided as follows: project inception (\$35,000), project implementation (\$50,000), and project completion (\$15,000). It will be made in three installments. The first amount will cover curriculum gap analysis and mapping. The second amount will cover implementation of the 2021 *Essentials* and will be paid after the preliminary progress report is returned. The third amount will be paid once the final report is completed by the pilot schools.
- 7. We'd like to give our primary practice partner clear expectations for participation, especially meetings. The RFP mentions that the *Virtual Sharing Collective Meetings* will occur monthly during the implementation phase (Y2). How often will they occur during planning/inception (Y1) and during project completion (Y3)? In addition, would the practice partner be expected to attend the orientation meeting and/or the bi-annual meetings, including the virtual meeting on December 5, 2022?**
- A. The *Virtual Sharing Collective* meetings will occur monthly during the bulk of the project. Practice partners will be expected to participate in the orientation meeting and the bi-annual meetings including the meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup> in addition to the regular meetings of the *Virtual Sharing Collective*.
- 8. Will any of the meetings be in person? If so, should we include funds in the budget for travel or will that be provided in addition to the grant?**
- A. We expect at least one meeting per year to be in person. Some funds should be allocated for travel to DC in the budget. AACN will not cover travel expenses for meetings.
- 9. Is it okay if the grants officer for the university applies for the grant or should a school of nursing representative apply for the grant?**
- A. The person with the MyAACN account will need to submit the application for the school of nursing.

**10. What specific outcome measures will be tracked for the project?**

- A. We are in the process of determining specific measures that will be collected throughout the grant period. To give you a general idea, we will begin by assessing the school's readiness to implement the 2021 AACN Essentials into their curriculum using a Readiness Assessment Tool (RAT) we are developing and a curricular mapping tool. At certain intervals over the 3-year project timeline, specific questions from the RAT will be asked again to track progress at each school. There will be no demographic information collected in the study surveys. Only school-level data on assessment and implementation of the Essentials, including practice partners, will be collected. All data will be reported in aggregate.

**11. Please clarify the role of the practice partners. Is the intent for the partners to use the CBE with their staff nurses or the faculty who are assigned to the students in the clinical setting?**

- A. The intent is for the partners to help schools determine appropriate competency-based learning experiences for students. Collaboration with practice partners will ensure that mutually established competency-based assessments will extend from the classroom to the practice setting. Ultimately, we hope there will be a mutual understanding of what competency-based education is and how it will facilitate the development of practice-ready nurses in prelicensure programs by both schools and practice partners.

**12. Our program has a traditional nursing program as well as an accelerated program. Can we include our accelerated program students?**

- A. Yes: All prelicensure students are included.

**13. The expectations for the pilot school is to "e.) Integrate learning and assessment strategies into the curriculum during the 2023-2024 academic year and implement the new strategies with at least one cohort of students across this time period." Is it possible to extend this into the following academic year? We may not have our curriculum changes developed to meet the CBE requirements as we are not a CBE program and have not yet begun the planning process to implement the Essentials into our curriculum, however we hope to begin the planning stages in the spring semester.**

- A. To answer your first question, to some extent we are bound by the funding agreement for this grant to complete certain elements of the project during a specific timeframe. That said, we really want to have pilot schools that are participating in the project at various points in the implementation process. We really hope to support schools in every

stage of the process and want to learn as much as possible from the pilot schools about both struggles and successes along the way. We know we will have schools in the pilot that haven't started the process of transitioning to CBE and that there will be some that are very far along. It will be a learning experience and it is intentional that schools will be at different stages. We do not expect schools that are just starting to have every element in place by the end of the project. It is part of the learning experience to see how far along different schools are at various stages of the pilot.

**14. I also understand the IRB approval process can be a bit lengthy, and was wondering what the timeline would be for approval from IRB to collect data on the transition process? I presume this will be the IRB approval from our school, correct?**

A. With respect to the IRB: AACN has already obtained IRB approval for collection of data related to the implementation of this pilot. The IRB determined that we are exempt from human subjects review for this work. We realize different schools may have different IRB requirements and some schools may not require any further IRB approval given that we have already obtained it and that the IRB has determined that the work is exempt.

If you have any additional questions, please e-mail [essentials@aacnnursing.org](mailto:essentials@aacnnursing.org).