



SCOPE OF CCNE ACCREDITATION

CCNE is the autonomous accrediting arm of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

CCNE:

- □ is governed by its own Board of Commissioners
- □ is financially independent
- controls its own bylaws
- establishes and approves accreditation standards, policies, and procedures

SCOPE OF CCNE ACCREDITATION

CCNE is a <u>programmatic</u> accreditor of nursing education programs in the U.S. and its territories.

CCNE accredits:

- Baccalaureate
- □ Master's
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
 Post-graduate Advanced Practice Registered
 - Nurse (APRN) certificate

PURPOSE OF CCNE ACCREDITATION Accreditation by CCNE is intended: To hold nursing programs accountable. To evaluate the success of a nursing program in achieving its mission, goals, and outcomes. To assess the extent to which a nursing program meets accreditation standards. To inform the public of the purposes and values of accreditation and to identify nursing programs that meet accreditation standards. To foster continuing improvement in nursing

To foster continuing improvement in nursing programs.



CCNE VALUES

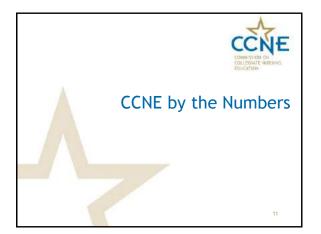
CCNE accreditation activities are premised on a statement of principles or values. These are that CCNE will:

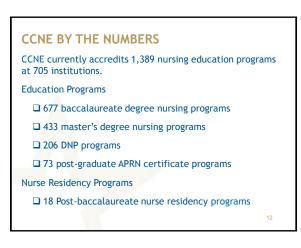
Foster trust

- □ Stimulate and support *continuous quality improvement*
- □ Inclusive of diverse institutional and individual issues and opinions of the community of interest
- Review and oversight by peers in the community of interest
- Maintain integrity through a consistent, fair and honest accreditation process
- □ Value and foster *innovation* in educational and accreditation processes

CCNE VALUES (continued)

- □ Facilitate and engage in *self-assessment*
- Foster an educational climate that supports life-long learning
- □ Maintain a high level of *accountability*
- □ Maintain cost-effective and cost-accountable processes
- □ Encourage development of *effective professionals and socially responsible citizens*
- Ensure autonomy and procedural fairness in deliberations and decision-making processes





CCNE BY THE NUMBERS

New Applicants:	
77 baccalaureate	
20 master's	
B DNP	
13 post-graduate APRN certificate programs	
New Programs:	
4 baccalaureate	
29 master's	
General Contraction of the second sec	
200 post-graduate APRN certificate programs, wher the institution already has one or more other progra accredited by CCNE	
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STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION

- □ Standards are found to be either "met" or "not met."
- □ Key Elements are found to have or not have a compliance concern "yes" or "no."
- □ The same standards and key elements apply to all degree and/or post-graduate APRN certificate programs under review; regardless of mode of educational delivery.
- □ The standards and key elements build upon one another and there are relationships among the key elements.

Access the Standards on the CCNE website at: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation/Standards-Amended-2013.pdf



CCNE PROCEDURES

In the CCNE Procedures, find information about:

- CCNE Board and Committees
- Initial Accreditation
- □ Scheduling the On-Site Evaluation
- The Accreditation Review Process
- The Accreditation Decision-Making Process
- Categories of Accreditation

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CCNE PROCEDURES

- Accreditation Terms
- Communication of Actions
- Disclosure of Accreditation
- Monitoring Program Performance
 - Annual Reports
 - Continuous Improvement Progress Reports
 - Compliance Reports
 - Special Reports
 - Substantive Change Notifications, etc.



APPLYING FOR CCNE ACCREDITATION

New Applicants

- A program begins the accreditation review process by requesting new applicant status.
 New applicants for accreditation are eligible for a maximum accreditation term of 5-years.
- New applicant status signifies an affiliation with CCNE; it is not a status of accreditation.

APPLYING FOR CCNE ACCREDITATION

The written application must include:

- □ A letter of request signed by the chief executive officer, the chief academic officer, and the chief nurse administrator of the nursing unit.
- Evidence that the parent institution is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Evidence that the institution has received approval or authorization from the recognized institutional accrediting agency and state higher education authority, if applicable.

APPLYING FOR CCNE ACCREDITATION
 Evidence that the nursing program is approved or otherwise authorized by all applicable state boards of nursing.
 Payment of the fee for new applicants as indicated in CCNE's fee schedule.
 A completed CCNE Program Information Form.

□ A catalog, bulletin, or other publication (print or electronic) for the institution and the program.

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TIMELINE FOR APPLYING FOR ACCREDITATION

New Applicants

- A program requesting new applicant status must submit a written application.
- □ New applicant requests are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Once accepted as a new applicant, the program must proceed toward accreditation and host an on-site evaluation within 2 years of the date of acceptance as a new applicant.

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SCHEDULING AN ON-SITE EVALUATION

New Applicants and New Programs

- On-site evaluations are generally required to be scheduled a minimum of 12 months in advance of the accreditation term.
- CCNE conducts on-site evaluations during the spring and fall.
- \Box The on-site evaluation is typically 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days.
- Date availability is on a first come first served basis.
- □ CCNE does not limit the number of on-site evaluations per accreditation term.

SCHEDULING AN ON-SITE EVALUATION

New Applicants and New Programs

- □ A degree program must have students enrolled for the equivalent of one academic year (e.g., two semesters) prior to hosting an on-site evaluation.
- Post-graduate APRN certificate programs must host an on-site evaluation with a degree program and are eligible for the maximum term of accreditation of the other degree program(s) under review.
- □ The entire degree and/or post-graduate APRN certificate program must be presented for accreditation.

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THE ON-SITE EVALUATION TEAM

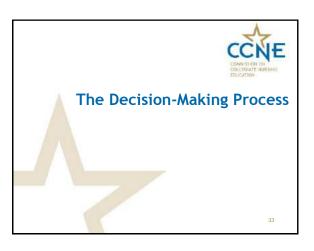
- □ Composed of 3-5 trained volunteer evaluators based on the number of programs under review.
- □ Each team minimally has a team leader, one academic representative and one practice representative.
- □ CCNE staff assign members to the team based on a variety of factors, including geographic region, institution type, programs under review, areas of expertise, mode of educational delivery, etc.
- Once the team has been formed, the institution has the opportunity to review the team for conflicts of interest.

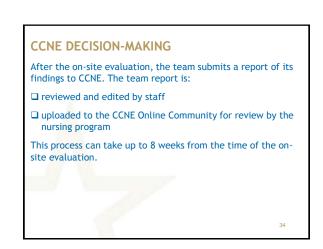
THE ON-SITE EVALUATION TEAM

- □ Reviews the written self-study document.
- □ Meets with the program's community of interest, including students and alumni, and program and institutional leaders.
- □ Reviews documents provided in the resource room.
- Makes a determination about each standard and each key element for each degree and/or certificate program under review but <u>does not</u> make a recommendation regarding accreditation.
- Develops a written report of its findings.

COORDINATING THE ON-SITE EVALUATION

- The on-site evaluation is coordinated through the CCNE Online Community (www.ccnecommunity.org).
- □ <u>All</u> communications regarding the on-site evaluation occur via the CCNE Online Community.
- □ <u>All</u> documents related to the on-site evaluation are uploaded into and accessed via the CCNE Online Community.
- □ The CCNE Online Community allows the program to manage its profile, thus ensuring that information about the program(s) under review is accurate.
- □ The CCNE Online Community provides the program access to important resources, announcements, reminders, program deadlines, etc.





CCNE DECISION-MAKING

The program is provided the opportunity to provide a written response to the team report. The program's response may:

- offer corrections of errors as they relate to names, positions, data, and other documentable facts; and/or
- offer comments that agree or disagree with the opinions and conclusions stated in the report; and/or
- provide any documentation demonstrating additional progress made toward ongoing program improvement.

Or, the program's response may indicate that there are no concerns and that the institution is in agreement with the report.

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CCNE DECISION-MAKING

Prior to the CCNE Board of Commissioners reviewing a program for accreditation, all programs are reviewed by the Accreditation Review Committee (ARC).

The ARC meets twice per year (generally early spring and midsummer)

The ARC is:

- appointed by the Board Chair
- composed of experienced CCNE evaluators
- responsible for making confidential recommendations regarding accreditation to the Board

CCNE DECISION-MAKING

The ARC reviews:

- Self-Study Document
- Team Report

Program's Response to Team Report

The ARC may reach a different conclusion than that of the team.

If the ARC adds a compliance concern and/or a not met standard, the program will be provided an opportunity to respond, in writing, prior to the Board's decision-making meeting.

CCNE DECISION-MAKING

The Board reviews:

- □ Each of the aforementioned documents (self-study, team report, program response to the team report)
- □ Program's Response to any concerns added by the ARC
- □ ARC's confidential recommendation regarding accreditation

CCNE DECISION-MAKING

The Board can vote to:

- award accreditation (initial or continuing)
- deny accreditation (this only applies to programs that are not yet accredited)
- withdraw accreditation(this only applies to programs that are currently accredited)
- □ issue a show cause directive (this only applies to programs that are currently accredited)

Programs are notified of the Board's decision, in writing, within 30 days of the last day of the Board's decision-making meeting.

CCNE DECISION-MAKING

Be Advised:

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- Programs that host an on-site evaluation in the fall are reviewed for accreditation by the CCNE Board in the spring.
- Programs that host an on-site evaluation in the spring are reviewed for accreditation by the CCNE Board in the fall.
- Accreditation is retroactive to the first day of the on-site evaluation.



RESOURCES

- Procedures for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs (2014)
- Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs (2013)
- Supplemental Resource to the Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs (August 2015)
- Guidelines for Assessment of Student Achievement
- Overview of the CCNE Accreditation Process
- General Advice for Hosting a CCNE On-Site Evaluation

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PRE-APPROVAL OF NEW APRN PROGRAMS/TRACKS

CCNE has developed a pre-approval process for APRN tracks that are under development. Pre-approval

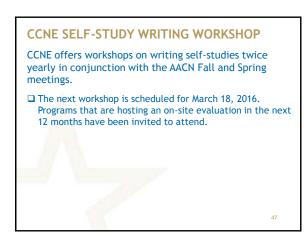
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- □ meets the requirements set forth in the *APRN Consensus Model*.
- □ is available only to new NP and CNS programs.
- □ requires submission of an application.
- □ is awarded prior to student enrollment.
- □ is not a status of accreditation.

CCNE EVALUATOR TRAINING

Evaluator Training is planned for March 2016.

- A call for applicants was broadly disseminated (e.g., to chief nurse administrators, current evaluators, state agencies, and national nursing organizations) and posted to the CCNE website.
- The application deadline was January 8, 2016.
- Several hundred applications were received from educators and practicing nurses.







Contacting CCNE Staff

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