

Arizona State Board of Nursing

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To Whom It May Concern:

The Arizona State Board of Nursing (Board) has jurisdiction over nursing programs that either lead to licensure as a registered/practical nurse or lead to certification in advanced practice nursing. The Board does not have jurisdiction over RN to BSN programs, generic master's programs not leading to advanced practice certification and generic doctoral programs not leading to advanced practice certification. The Board also has jurisdiction over refresher programs. Generally pre-licensure programs must be approved by the AZ Board to offer clinical sessions in Arizona; advanced practice programs must be approved by the nursing regulatory body in the state of origin and students and faculty participating in clinical training in Arizona must be licensed or privileged to practice registered nursing in AZ. On September 22, 2011 the Board adopted a motion to allow nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist students to engage in clinical education in Arizona under ARS 32-1631 if the program they are attending is approved for the purpose of certification or licensure of program graduates in the jurisdiction of the program and the student meets all other requirements. The specific regulations are detailed below:

Pre-licensure RN and LPN programs

§32-1644. Approval of nursing schools and nursing programs; application; maintenance of standards

- A. The board shall approve all new prelicensure nursing, nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist programs pursuant to this section. A postsecondary educational institution or school in this state that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States department of education desiring to conduct a registered nursing, practical nursing, nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist program shall apply to the board for approval and submit satisfactory proof that it is prepared to meet and maintain the minimum standards prescribed by this chapter and board rules.

R4-19-217. Distance Learning Nursing Programs; Out-of-State Nursing Programs

- A. An out-of-state nursing program that is in good standing in another state and plans to provide distance based didactic instruction and on-ground clinical instruction in Arizona shall comply with the application requirements of R4-19-207 and R4-19-208. The program shall employ at least one faculty member who is physically present in this state to coordinate the education and clinical experience.
- B. Any nursing program that delivers didactic instruction by distance learning methods, whether in this state or another, shall ensure that the methods of instruction are compatible with the program curriculum plan and enable a student to meet the goals, competencies, and objectives of the educational program and standards of the Board.

1. A distance learning nursing program shall establish a means for assessing individual student outcomes, and program outcomes including, at minimum, student learning outcomes, student retention, student satisfaction, and faculty satisfaction.
 2. For out-of-state nursing programs, the program shall be within the jurisdiction of and regulated by an equivalent United States nursing regulatory authority in the state from which the program originates, unless also providing clinical experience in Arizona.
 3. Didactic faculty members shall be licensed in the state of origination of a distance learning nursing program and in Arizona or hold a multi-state compact license unless exempt under A.R.S. §32-1631(8). Clinical supervising faculty shall be licensed in the location of the clinical activity (*underlined portion effective September, 2014*)
 4. A distance learning nursing program shall provide students with supervised clinical and laboratory experiences so that program objectives are met and didactic learning is validated by supervised, land-based clinical and laboratory experiences.
 5. A distance-learning nursing program shall provide students with access to technology, resources, technical support, and the ability to interact with peers, preceptors, and faculty.
- C. A nursing program, located in another state or territory of the United States, that wishes to provide clinical experiences in Arizona under A.R.S. § 32-1631(3), shall obtain Board approval before offering or conducting a clinical session. To obtain approval, the program shall submit a proposal package that contains:
1. A self study, describing the program's compliance with R4-19-201 through R4-19-206; and
 2. A statement regarding the number and type of student placements planned, a copy of signed clinical contracts and written commitment by the clinical facilities to provide the necessary clinical experiences, the name and qualifications of faculty licensed in Arizona and physically present in the facility who will supervise the experience and verification of good standing of the program in the jurisdiction of origin.
- D. The Board may require a nursing program approved under this Section to file periodic reports for the purpose of data collection or to determine compliance with the provisions of this Article. A program shall submit a report to the Board within 30 days of the date on a written request from the Board or by the due date stated in the request if the due date is after the normal 30-day period.
- E. The Board shall approve an application to conduct clinical instruction in Arizona that meets the requirements in A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 15 and this Chapter, and is in the best interest of the public. An applicant who is denied approval to conduct clinical instruction in Arizona may request a hearing by filing a written request with the Board within 30 days of service of the Board's order denying the application for approval. Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10 and 4 A.A.C. 19, Article 6.
- F. The Board may rescind an approval held by an out-of-state nursing program to conduct clinical instruction in Arizona, in accordance with R4-19-212.
- G. If the Board finds that a nursing program located and approved in another state or territory of the United States does not meet requirements for nursing programs prescribed in this Article the Board shall either provide a notice of deficiency to the program as prescribed in R4-19-212 (A), (A)(1) and (A)(2) or take other disciplinary action depending on the severity of the offense under R4-19-211.
1. If the Board issues a notice of deficiency and the program fails to correct the deficiency before the expiration of the period of correction, the Board shall rescind approval of the program as prescribed in R4-19-212 (B)(1).
 2. If the period of rescission, from the date of rescission to the date of reinstatement, is at any time concurrent with an applicant's education from the date of admission to the date of graduation, the Board shall withhold licensure unless the applicant meets all licensure requirements and completes any remedial education prescribed by the Board under R4-19-301(H). The Board shall ensure that the applicant has completed a curriculum that is equivalent to that of an approved nursing program.
 3. If a nursing program provides evidence of compliance with this Article after the rescission of approval, the Board shall review the evidence, determine whether or not the nursing program complies with these standards, and reinstate approval of the program if the program complies with these standards and reinstatement is in the best interest these standards.

Advanced Practice Nursing Programs

According to Arizona statutes, advanced practice (RNP, CNS, CNM and CRNA) students may participate in clinical learning in Arizona as long as they have a valid Arizona RN license or multi-state privilege and their program is approved by the nursing regulatory body in the state of origin. Faculty teaching on-line in AZ must also have a multi-state or AZ license unless exempt as specified below.

On September 22, 2011, the Board voted to allow nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist students to engage in clinical education in Arizona under ARS 32-1631 if the program they are attending is approved for the purpose of certification or licensure of program graduates in the jurisdiction of the program and the student meets all other requirements.

Please note that teaching is considered the practice of nursing in Arizona and any faculty member teaching nursing courses to students in Arizona, whether on-line or on-ground, must hold an Arizona license or multi-state compact license unless exempt under A.R.S. § 32-1631.

32-1631. Acts and persons not affected by chapter

This chapter does not prohibit:

7. Registered nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist practice by duly enrolled students under competent supervision as part of a registered nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist program if the program is approved by a United States nursing regulatory agency in the state of the parent institution and the student is authorized to practice registered nursing in this state.
8. Nursing education provided to students in this state that is provided electronically or in person by a person who resides in another state and who is licensed to practice registered nursing in that state if the provision of education does not exceed six consecutive months in any calendar year and does not include supervising or providing clinical care.

Please contact me at prandolph@azbn.gov for any questions.

Sincerely,



Pamela K. Randolph RN, MS.
Associate Director Education and Evidence-based Regulation.