

*Arizona State Board of Nursing*

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**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL  
ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING PROGRAM**

This application and the accompanying information is intended to assist your program in the approval process.

University: _____	Category (NP/CNS): _____
	Specialty area: _____
Address: _____	Phone: _____
_____	
Accreditation status: _____	Fax: _____
Contact person: _____	E-mail: _____
Program administrator: _____	
Lead Faculty and qualifications: _____	
_____	
Certifying Exam that the graduate is eligible for: _____	
_____	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Program (Signature)                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator of Parent Institution (Signature)                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION:**

The administrator shall submit one electronic copy and 1 paper copy all materials to the Board of Nursing Education Department according to the Board policy on *Submission of Materials to the Education Committee*. The materials should be single-sided, on letter size white paper, consecutively numbered and stapled, or bound. Please do not include folders, notebooks, or bulky materials, as they are difficult to file. You must include the following items:

- 1 Title page with program name, address of program site, phone of parent institution/administrator, e-mail address, fax number, classification of advanced practice nursing program by both category (NP/CNS), specialty area, degree (masters, doctorate, certificate)) and accreditation status.
2. Complete the accompanying worksheet which should address each and every rule with an accompanying narrative analyzing the extent to which the program complies with the rule (Must do this within the self-study worksheet).
3. An appendix to include supporting documents such as charts, comparison graphs, and other relevant documents (as described in the self-study guidelines).
4. Copy of the curriculum (according to guidelines).

## **APPLICAPABLE RULES**

### **R4-19-501**

- D. The Board shall determine whether a certification program meets the requirements of this Section. The following certification programs meet the requirements of this Section as of the effective date of this rulemaking:
1. For RNP:
    - a. American Academy of Nurse Practitioner certification programs:
      - i. Adult nurse practitioner
      - ii. Family nurse practitioner,
      - iii. Gerontologic nurse practitioner,
      - iv. Adult health-gerontological nurse practitioner.
    - b. American Nurses Credentialing Center certification programs:
      - i. Acute care nurse practitioner (adult/gerontology),
      - ii. Adult nurse practitioner,
      - iii. Family nurse practitioner,
      - iv. Gerontological nurse practitioner,
      - v. Pediatric nurse practitioner,
      - vi. Adult psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner,
      - vii. Family psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner,
      - viii. Adult health-gerontological nurse practitioner,
    - c. Pediatric Nursing Certification Board certification programs:
      - i. Pediatric nurse practitioner primary care,
      - ii. Pediatric nurse practitioner acute care,
    - d. National Certification Corporation for Obstetric, Gynecological, and Neonatal Nursing Specialties certification programs:
      - i. Women's health nurse practitioner,
      - ii. Neonatal nurse practitioner,
    - e. For a nurse-midwife, the American Midwifery Certification Board certification program in nurse midwifery,
    - f. AACN Certification Corporation certification programs:
      - i. Adult acute care nurse practitioner,
      - ii. Adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner,
  2. For CNS:
    - a. AACN Certification Corporation certification programs:
      - i. Adult acute and critical care CNS,
      - ii. Pediatric acute and critical care CNS,
      - iii. Neonatal acute and critical care CNS,
    - b. American Nurses Credentialing Center certification:
      - i. Adult psychiatric-mental health CNS,
      - ii. Family psychiatric-mental health CNS,
      - iii. Gerontological CNS,
      - iv. Adult health CNS,
      - v. Pediatric CNS.
  3. For CRNA, National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists.

- E. The Board shall approve a certification program that meets the criteria established in this Section. An entity that seeks approval of a certification program and is denied approval may request a hearing by filing a written request with the Board within 30 days of service of the Board's order denying the approval. Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10.

**R4-19-502. Requirements for APRN Programs**

- A. An educational institution or other entity that offers an APRN program in this state for RNP or CNS roles shall ensure that the program:
1. Is offered by or affiliated with a college or university that is accredited under A.R.S. § 32-1644;
  2. For new programs, the college or university offering the program has at least one additional nationally accredited nursing program as defined in R4-19-101 or otherwise provides substantial evidence of the ability to attain national APRN program accreditation for all graduating cohorts;
  3. Is a formal educational program, that is part of a masters or doctoral program or a post-masters program in nursing with a concentration in an advanced practice registered nursing role and population focus under R4-19-501;
  4. Is nationally accredited, or has achieved candidacy status for national accreditation by an approved national nursing accrediting agency as defined in R4-19-101;
  5. Offers a curriculum that covers the scope of practice for both the role of advanced practice as specified in A.R.S. § 32-1601 and the population focus including:
    - a. Three separate graduate level courses in:
      - i. Advanced physiology and pathophysiology, including general principles across the lifespan;
      - ii. Advanced health assessment, which includes assessment of all human systems, advanced assessment techniques, concepts and approaches;
      - iii. Advanced pharmacology, which includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad category agents;
    - b. Diagnosis and management of diseases across practice settings including diseases representative of all systems;
    - c. Preparation that provides a basic understanding of the principles for decision making in the identified role;
    - d. Preparation in the core competencies for the identified APRN role including legal, ethical and professional responsibilities; and
    - e. Role preparation in an identified population focus under R4-19-501.
  6. Verifies that each student has an unencumbered license to practice as an RN in the state of clinical practice;
  7. Includes a minimum of 500 hours of faculty supervised clinical practice (programs that prepare students for more than one role or population focus shall have 500 hours of clinical practice in each role and population focus);
  8. Notifies the Board of any changes in hours of clinical practice, accreditation status, denial or deferral of accreditation or program administrator and responds to Board requests for information;
  9. Has financial resources sufficient to support accreditation standards and the educational goals of the program;
  10. Establishes academic, professional, and conduct standards that determine admission to the program, progression in the program, and graduation from the program that are consistent with sound educational practices and recognized standards of professional conduct;
  11. Establishes provisions for advanced placement for individuals holding a graduate degree in nursing who are seeking education in an APRN role and population focus, provided that advanced placement students master the same APRN competencies as students in the graduate-level APRN program; and
  12. Provides the Board an application for approval under the provisions of R4-19-209 (B) before making changes to the:
    - a. Scope of the program, or
    - b. Level of educational preparation provided.
- B. A CNS or RNP program shall appoint the following personnel:
1. An APRN program administrator who:
    - a. Holds a current unencumbered RN license or multi-state privilege to practice in Arizona and a current unencumbered APRN certificate issued by the Board;
    - b. Holds an earned doctorate in nursing or health-related field if appointed after the effective date of this Section;
    - c. Has at least two years clinical experience as an APRN; and
    - d. Holds current national certification as an APRN.
  2. A lead faculty member who is educated and certified both nationally and by the Board in the same role and population focus to coordinate the educational component for the role and population focus in the advanced practice registered nursing program.
  3. Nursing faculty to teach any APRN course that includes a clinical learning experience who have the following qualifications:
    - a. A current unencumbered RN license or multi-state privilege to practice registered nursing in Arizona;
    - b. A current unencumbered Arizona APRN certificate,
    - c. A graduate degree in nursing or a health related field in the population focus,
    - d. Two years of APRN clinical experience, and
    - e. Current knowledge, competence and certification as an APRN in the role and population focus consistent with teaching responsibilities.
  4. Adjunct or part-time clinical faculty employed solely to supervise clinical nursing experiences shall meet all of the faculty qualifications for the APRN program they are teaching.
  5. Interdisciplinary faculty who teach non-clinical courses shall have advanced preparation in the areas of course content.
  6. Clinical preceptors may be used to enhance faculty-directed clinical learning experiences, but not to replace faculty. A clinical preceptor shall be approved by program administration or faculty and:
    - a. Hold a current unencumbered license or multistate privilege to practice as a registered nurse or physician in the state in which the preceptor practices or, if employed by the federal government, holds a current unencumbered RN or physician license in the United States;
    - b. Have at least one year clinical experience as a physician or an advanced practice nurse;
    - c. Practice in a population focus comparable to that of the APRN program;
    - d. For nurse preceptors, have at least one of the following:
      - i. Current national certification in the advanced practice role and population focus of the course or program in which the student is enrolled;

- ii. Current Board certification in the advanced practice role and population focus of the course or program in which the student is enrolled; or
  - iii. If an advanced practice preceptor cannot be found who meets the requirements of subsection (B)(6)(d)(i) or (ii), educational and experiential qualifications that will enable the preceptor to precept students in the program, as determined by the nursing program and approved by the Board.
- C. An entity that offers a CRNA program in Arizona shall maintain full national program accreditation with no limitations from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs or an equivalent agency approved by the Board. The program shall notify the Board of all program accreditation actions within 30 days of official notification by the accrediting agency.

**R4-19-503. Application for Approval of an Advanced Practice Registered Nursing Program; Approval by Board**

- A. An administrator of an educational institution that proposes to offer a CNS or RNP program shall submit an application that includes all of the following information to the Board:
1. Role, population focus that meets the criteria in R4-19-501 program administrator and lead faculty member as required in R4-19-502(B);
  2. Name, address, and evidence verifying institutional accreditation status of the affiliated educational institution and program accreditation status of current nursing programs offered by the educational institution;
  3. The mission, goals, and objectives of the program consistent with generally accepted standards for advanced practice education in the role and population focus of the program;
  4. List of the required courses, and a description, measurable objectives, and content outline for each required course consistent with curricular requirements in R4-19-502;
  5. A proposed time schedule for implementation of the program and attaining national accreditation;
  6. The total hours allotted for both didactic instruction and supervised clinical practicum in the program;
  7. A program proposal that provides evidence of sufficient financial resources, clinical opportunities and available faculty and preceptors for the proposed enrollment and planned expansion;
  8. A self-study that provides evidence of compliance with R4-19-502;
- B. An entity that wishes to offer a CRNA program shall submit evidence of current accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs or an equivalent organization.
- C. The Board shall approve an advanced practice registered nursing program if approval is in the best interest of the public and the program meets the requirements of this Article. The Board may grant approval for a period of two years or less to an advanced practice nursing program where the program meets all the requirements of this Article except for accreditation by a national nursing accrediting agency, based on the program's presentation of evidence that it has applied for accreditation and meets accreditation standards.
- D. An educational institution or entity that is denied approval of an advanced practice registered nursing program may request a hearing by filing a written request with the Board within 30 days of service of the Board's order denying its 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.
- E. Approval of an advanced practice registered nursing program expires 12 months from the date of approval if a class of students is not admitted within that time.

**Education Committee/Board Meeting**

Your application will be considered at the next Education Committee meeting if submitted by the packet deadline. Please plan to have a program representative present at the Education Committee meeting. The recommendations of the Education Committee will be considered at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Following the Board meeting you will be notified of the Board action. The most likely options the Board may consider are:

1. Grant approval,
2. Grant approval with conditions,
3. Postpone a decision and request more information or deny approval