

Arizona State Board of Nursing Substantive Policy Statement

Board Approval of Concurrent Enrollment Programs

This Substantive Policy Statement is advisory only. A Substantive Policy Statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on the regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedures Act. If you believe that this Substantive Policy Statement imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes Section 41-1033 for a review of the statement. (ARS § 41-1091)

Purpose: To inform nursing programs when Board approval is required for adding/offering a Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) to an existing associate degree nursing program.

Policy: Under R4-19-209, an RN or LPN program that wishes to impose different admission, progression or graduation requirements for one or more specific cohorts of the program, must attain Board approval prior to implementation of the program change.

A Nursing Program Administrator shall attain Board of Nursing approval if the addition of a Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) involves any of following changes:

- The program plans to reserve an allotted number of placements for CEP students
- The program is admitting a cohort of CEP students (may be taught separately or integrated with non CEP students)
- The program plans on offering priority placement to CEP students

A program would NOT need Board approval if the program is planning to offer CEP as an option to any interested nursing students without any of the above conditions.

Rationale: The Board requires nursing programs to obtain approval for substantive changes that affect student learning or program resources before implementing the change. These changes include: Substantive change in the mission or goals of the program that requires revision of curriculum or program delivery method; increasing or decreasing the academic credits or units of the program excluding pre-requisite credits; adding a geographical location of the program; changing the level of educational preparation provided; transferring the nursing program from one institution to another; or establishing different admission, progression or graduation requirements for specific cohorts of the program.

In an effort to increase the percentage of baccalaureate prepared nurses in Arizona, Maricopa Nursing Colleges in partnership with NAU, ASU and University of Phoenix proposed an innovative program in 2011 called the Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP). This program allows the student to simultaneously enroll in both a pre-licensure associate degree program and a post-licensure BSN degree completion program and enables the graduate to simultaneously attain an associate and bachelor's degree in nursing. In adopting a CEP component, some programs reserve placements for CEP students while others offer it as an option for any student. This Substantive Policy Statement clarifies which CEP changes would require Board of Nursing approval.