

SUBCHAPTER 4 – EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

SECTION.

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Challenge and validation
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SECTION.

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17-87-401. Nursing education programs.

(a) An institution desiring to conduct a nursing education program to prepare professional, advanced practice, nurse practitioner, practical, and psychiatric technician nurses shall apply to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and submit evidence that:

(1) It is prepared to carry out a program in professional nursing education, advanced practice nursing education, nurse practitioner nursing education, practical nursing education, or psychiatric technician nursing training, as the case may be; and

(2) It is prepared to meet such standards as shall be established by this chapter and by the board.

(b)(1) A survey of the institution and its entire nursing education program shall be made by an authorized representative of the board, who shall submit a written report of the survey to the board.

(2) If, in the opinion of the board, the requirements for an approved nursing education program are met, the program shall be approved as a nursing education program for professional, advanced practice, nurse practitioner, practical, and psychiatric technician nurses.

(c)(1) From time to time, as deemed necessary, it shall be the duty of the board, through its authorized representative, to survey its nursing education programs in the state.

(2) Written reports of such surveys shall be submitted to the board.

(3) If the board shall determine that any approved nursing education program under its supervision is not maintaining the standards required by the statutes and by the board, notice thereof in writing specifying the defect or defects shall be immediately given to the institution conducting the program.

(4) A program which fails within a reasonable time to correct these conditions to the satisfaction of the board shall be withdrawn after a hearing.

17-87-402. Institutions of higher education – Challenge and validation examinations.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) “Challenge examination” means a test designed to determine the level of knowledge of the person being tested in the subject area of the test. Challenge examinations may cover any area of academic pursuit; and

(2) “Validation examination” means an evaluation of prior knowledge, experience, or skills. Validation examinations are administered to determine the proper placement of the examinee within the nurse training program.

(b) The Department of Higher Education shall:

(1) Encourage and supervise the development of methods of validation of nursing knowledge and skills through written and clinical testing mechanisms;

(2) Review and approve validation and challenge examinations for fairness and relevant content;

(3) Set uniform passing scores to be used by institutions of higher education in this state for passing standardized validation and challenge examinations when the passing scores are not determined at the national level; and

(4) Require schools using individual school-made tests to select one (1) standard passing score for each test which any level of student must achieve to receive credit.

(c) All institutions of higher education in this state shall use standardized validation and challenge examinations or devise their own. All challenge examinations and all validation examinations shall be submitted to the Department of Higher Education for its approval. Upon the successful passing of a validation examination or challenge examination, the examinee shall be given credit for the course which is the subject of the test.

(d) Each Arkansas institution of higher education shall accept the credit given by other Arkansas institutions of higher education for the successful passing of a challenge examination or a validation examination on any course required in the nursing curriculum.

(e)(1) Licensed practical nurses and licensed psychiatric technician nurses may transfer or challenge by test, or validate, up to thirty (30) semester credit hours from the total nursing program curriculum upon entering diploma, associate degree, or baccalaureate degree programs in nursing in Arkansas. This does not include other hours they may have earned which may also be transferred.

(2) Registered nurses may transfer or challenge by test, or validate, up to sixty (60) semester credit hours from the total nursing program curriculum upon entering a baccalaureate degree program in nursing in Arkansas. This does not include other hours they may have earned which may also be transferred.

17-87-403. Nursing recruitment and admission.

Upon request, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall provide assistance to publicly supported institutions of higher education in implementing programs offered under § 6-60-212.