Board of Nursing Approval of Registered Nurse Education Programs

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Board of nursing (BON) approval of registered nurse (RN) education programs is vital for protecting the public. The purpose of BON program approval is to ensure the program comprehensively covers the knowledge and skills that students will need to be licensed as an RN and to practice safely and competently as new graduate nurses. Most states require BONs to approve a nursing program before it is open for enrollment and then monitor all programs on an ongoing basis. This article presents key regulatory components of RN education programs, discusses the BON approval process of RN education programs, and identifies challenges and ideas for future consideration.

[illegible] (T [illegible]2).

Continuing Approval of Programs

[illegible]

- [illegible] , 2016), [illegible]
- [illegible]
- T [illegible]
- A [illegible]
- [illegible] (, 2012).

[illegible] (2012) [illegible]

Program Approval Status

[illegible]

TABLE 2

Differences Between BON Approval and National Nursing Accreditation by ACEN, CCNE, or NLN CNEA

	BONs	National Nursing Accreditors
Authority	Legal authority to close programs not meeting state standards	Authority to remove accreditation
Cost	Less costly – approximately half the states charge nothing	More costly
Federal regulations for funding	BONs do not make programs eligible for federal funding	May be linked to federal funding and related regulations
Fraudulent programs	Positioned to seamlessly work with state agencies for cease-and-desist orders; BONs network through FITS[a] about fraudulent programs that might cross state lines	More difficult to work with state agencies; no national networking system for fraudulent programs
Initial approval/ accreditation	A program must achieve full state approval before enrolling students	Full accreditation is not awarded until the first graduating class
Length of approval/ accreditation	States vary from 1 to 5 or more years, or as needed	8 to 10 years for program visits, unless standards are not met
Mission	Public protection	Ensure quality of nursing programs
Perspective	Statewide – e.g., know availability of faculty, clinical placements, etc.	National – less of a pulse on the regional or state needs
Programmatic	More focus on public protection and state standards: Faculty qualifications less stringent; knowledge of NPA; clinical supervision; standards of practice in some states; faculty/student clinical ratios	More focus on the institution and program excellence; congruence of goals and philosophy; governance; academic policies; continuous quality improvement
Requirement	Integral to licensure - mandated in all states to make students eligible for the NCLEX	Voluntary, although 20 states require it as collaborative oversight
Response to complaints	When complaints are serious (e.g., faculty not showing up to clinical; sudden attrition), BONs can respond immediately	Response takes longer; must go through their procedures
Service	Serves the public	Serves the nursing programs in a business relationship
Structure	State government	Private nonprofit

[a] FITS (Fraudulent Identity Tracking System) is a members-only database through which BONs can communicate about fraudulent or questionable programs that cross state lines, as well as those programs that cross state lines and have their approval status lowered.

Note. ACEN = Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing; BONs = boards of nursing; CCNE = Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; NLN CNEA = National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation.

Factors That Impact Program Success

[illegible]

References

[illegible] (201). [illegible]

[illegible] (201). [illegible]

[illegible] (2015). [illegible]

[illegible] (2015). [illegible]

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Objectives

- State the purpose of board of nursing (BON) approval of nursing education programs.
- Explain the key components regulators consider when evaluating nursing programs.
- Dwngula

11 Nursing literature has identified which concept as a potential future metric?

a. Cli ical k   ledge
b. P ac ice eadi e
c. Tech ical kill
d. C i ical hi ki g abili

12 Which of the following is not a key component that regulators use to evaluate nursing programs:

a. Cli ical lea i g e ie ce
b. E al a i   la
c. Fac l   alifica i a d e   ibili ie
d. N be f allied   fe i   g a

Evaluation Form (required)

1 Rate your achievement of each objective from 5 (high, excellent) to 1 (low, poor)

- State the purpose of board of nursing (BON) approval of nursing education programs.

  1   2   3   4   5

- Explain the key components regulators consider when evaluating nursing programs.

  1   2   3   4   5

- Describe initial and ongoing approval processes of a nursing education program.

  1   2   3   4   5

- Distinguish the role of the BON from the role of national accreditors in the approval of nurse education programs.

  1   2   3   4   5

- Discuss future implications for nursing education program requirements.

  1   2   3   4   5

2 Rate each of the following items from 5 (very effective) to 1 (ineffective):

$ We e he a h   k   ledgeable ab   he   bjec ?

  1   2   3   4   5

$ We e he e h d f   e e a i (e , able , fig e , e c.) effec i e?

  1   2   3   4   5

$ Wa he c   e ele a   he   bjec i e ?

  1   2   3   4   5

$ Wa he a icle ef l   i   k?

  1   2   3   4   5

$ Wa he e e gh i e all ed f hi ac i i ?

  1   2   3   4   5

C   e : _____

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