

Georgia Board of Nursing Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2026

Attendees: Lydia Watkins, Jessica Willcox, Sara Helton, Jennifer Corner, Jennifer Parker, Troy Heidesch, Stevan Van Hook, Shea Walker, Maura Schlairet, Wanda Allen

Absentees: Carolyn Reilly, Cindy Summerlin, Darrell Thompson

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion/Outcome</u>	<u>Action Needed</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>	<u>Action Due</u>
Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM EST		Troy Heidesch	
Administrative Announcements	Stevan Van Hook, Nursing Education Consultant for the Georgia Board of Nursing, reviewed the updates to the proposed amendment excel document with the committee members. Public announcement regarding submission of comments or feedback was also announced.		Stevan Van Hook	
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Meeting minutes were approved for the December 2, 2025, meeting. Motion #1: Wanda Allen Motion #2: Sara Helton	Post to Board website	Stevan Van Hook	January 16, 2026
PN Rule Amendment Discussion	Rule 410-9-.09 (1) (i) (3) During the meeting conducted on October 21, 2025, the consensus reached was to remove this rule when amendments are made. No further discussion was requested by the committee members. Motion #1: Sara Helton Motion #2: Jennifer Corner	Update Proposed Amendment Document; share with members	Stevan Van Hook	January 12, 2026
	Rule 410-9-.09 (1) (i) (4) During the meeting conducted on October 21, 2025, the committee members provided mixed feedback. Discussion began with the hospital setting requirement and associated definition. The suggestion was made to address direct patient care terminology in the amendment versus utilizing the term hospital setting. Discussion continued regarding the need to establish the standardized glossary with direct patient care defined. The NCSBN research regarding the requirement of 50% or more of clinical experience hours being conducted in direct patient care was also discussed as a suggestion for the rule amendment. Extensive discussion was conducted including verbiage revisions to allow for 50% or more of clinical experience hours, in each course, to be completed in direct patient care. The committee members voiced concerns regarding the removal of the requirement of 40% of clinical experience hours conducted in a hospital setting. Committee members voiced concerns regarding the challenges that may be presented for practical nursing			

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	<p>programs if the requirement for clinical experience in hospital settings was removed due to the current challenges experienced with obtaining clinical placement in hospital settings. The committee felt it would further exacerbate the challenge. Committee members also voiced the importance of practical nursing students obtaining experience in hospital settings. The committee members also voiced the need to explore and address simulation utilization in practical nursing programs prior to developing proposed amendments since currently policy 3.2 only permits up to 75% of OB and pediatric clinical hours to be substituted for simulation.</p> <p>A consensus was reached to not amend this rule and explore amendments after simulation regulations are proposed.</p> <p>Motion #1: Sara Helton Motion #2: Wanda Allen</p>			
<p>RN Rule Amendment Discussion</p>	<p>Rule 410-8-.05 (6)</p> <p>During the meeting conducted on October 21, 2025, the committee members provided mixed feedback. Feedback included removing the requirement for 75% of full-time faculty have a graduate degree in nursing while the vast majority felt it important to maintain the faculty requirement of a graduate degree. Institutional and programmatic accreditation requirements were discussed which outline specific faculty requirements. Discussion was held regarding the requirement of a baccalaureate degree in nursing but allow a graduate or higher degree in a discipline closely related to nursing. The committee requested to gather information from other jurisdictions regarding their requirements for faculty. The NCSBN National Database and the NCSBN quality indicator research were discussed.</p> <p>Additional discussion was conducted, and a consensus was reached to not amend the rule. The committee members voiced the importance of faculty members in RN programs be educated at the graduate degree level with many highlighting the importance of maintaining correlation with institutional accreditation requirements such as SACSCOC. Committee members also discussed that faculty challenges are related to compensation, which was also noted as a national issue.</p> <p>The committee also voiced the need to review Rule 410-8-.05 (8) which requires faculty to have the graduate nursing education, expertise, and professional development necessary to enable the goals/outcomes of the curriculum.</p> <p>Motion #1: Wanda Allen Motion #2: Lydia Watkins</p> <p>Rule 410-8-.05 (7)</p> <p>During the meeting conducted on October 21, 2025, the committee's discussion regarding faculty qualifications continued as this rule was discussed. The consensus was that if amended, the amendments would affect other rules that must be considered. Additional information will be gathered related to other jurisdictions, and the rule amendment discussion will continue.</p>	<p>Update Proposed Amendment Document; share with members</p>	<p>Stevan Van Hook</p>	<p>January 12, 2026</p>

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	<p>Additional discussion was conducted regarding the utilization of the term “directed” in the rule. Faculty workload related to oversight of a faculty member educated at the baccalaureate level was discussed in detail. The importance of adequate orientation and mentorship was discussed which is required as role development for new faculty. Institutional processes for faculty orientation were also discussed which included the common practice of orientation and mentorship by other faculty members. A consensus was reached to amend the verbiage from “directed” to “overseen” to provide clarity to the expectation of faculty oversight for those faculty hired with a baccalaureate degree. The proposed rule amendment is as follows: “A full-time faculty member with only a baccalaureate degree in nursing must be able to provide documentation of progress toward an earned graduate degree in nursing, have experience in the area of responsibility, and be overseen by a faculty member with at least one (1) earned graduate degree in nursing.”</p> <p>Motion #1: Wanda Allen Motion #2: Maura Schlairet</p> <p>Rule 410-8-.05 (4)</p> <p>During the meeting conducted on October 21, 2025, the committee members provided mixed feedback. The consensus was that the requirement should remain the same; however, the verbiage related to teaching in a program leading to initial RN licensure was discussed. The committee discussed amending the rule to allow teaching in any nursing education program. Additional discussion was conducted, and a consensus was reached to allow teaching in any nursing education program. The proposed rule amendment is as follows: “The nurse administrator, who is appointed with the authority and responsibility for the development, administration, and evaluation of the nursing program(s) within the nursing unit, must have at least one (1) earned graduate degree in nursing and at least three (3) years of teaching experience in a nursing education program.”</p> <p>Motion #1: Jennifer Parker Motion #2: Wanda Allen</p> <p>Rule 410-8-.03 (7)</p> <p>During the meeting conducted on October 21, 2025, the committee members provided mixed feedback. Some felt the ratio should either stay the same or decrease. Extensive discussion was held related to the rationale and justification for the overall enrollment ratio including some sharing the ratios are 1:18 or 1:24 for NLN and programmatic accreditors. Discussion was also made regarding differentiating classroom/didactic ratios from overall enrollment ratios when reviewing research. The committee members requested information be obtained regarding the overall enrollment ratio including when the rule was increased to 1:25 from 1:20. Additional information from meeting minutes and other jurisdictions will also be obtained for further discussion as the rule amendment process continues.</p> <p>Extensive discussion was conducted including review of information from the survey conducted of other jurisdictions. Based on the survey results, other jurisdictions did not have</p>			

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	<p>evidence of an enrollment ratio cap for programs. Evidence supporting an enrollment ratio cap was also discussed with limited evidence addressing enrollment ratios. Committee members discussed decreasing the ratio. The consensus was to maintain a ratio requirement for overall enrollment to ensure faculty sufficiency and associated workload challenges. The consensus reached was to not amend the rule.</p> <p>Committee members voiced the need to explore a similar ratio for overall enrollment for practical nursing programs in subsequent meetings.</p> <p>Motion #1: Wanda Allen Motion #2: Jennifer Parker</p> <p>The committee also voiced the need to discuss faculty sharing in subsequent meetings.</p>			
Next Meeting	The next meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible to continue discussions. A doodle poll for availability will be sent to all members.	Doodle poll	Committee Members	January 21, 2026
	Proposed amendment discussions will continue in subsequent meetings.		Stevan Van Hook	Next scheduled meeting- TBD
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM EST		Troy Heidesch	

