

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 410-8 REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS, BOARD RULE 410-8-.01 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, BOARD
RULE 410-8-.03 ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION, BOARD RULE 410-8-
.05 FACULTY AND BOARD RULE 410-8-.12 DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND NOTICE
OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED BOARD RULE CHAPTER 410-8
REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS, BOARD RULE 410-8-.14
APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE PRE-LICENSURE NURSING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS TO CONDUCT CLINICAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN GEORGIA
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Rule 410-8-.01 General Requirements

Rule 410-8-.03 Organization and Administration

Rule 410-8-.05 Faculty

Rule 410-8-.12 Development and Implementation of New Nursing Education Programs

**Proposed Rule 410-8-.14 Approval of Out-of-State Pre-Licensure Nursing Education
Programs to Conduct Clinical Learning Activities in Georgia**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Nursing (hereinafter “Board”) proposes amendments to Board Rule Chapter 410-8 Registered Nursing Education Programs, Board Rule 410-8-.01 General Requirements, Board Rule 410-8-.03 Organization and Administration, Board Rule 410-8-.05 Faculty and Board Rule 410-8-.12 Development and Implementation of New Nursing Education Programs and proposes to adopt Board Rule Chapter 410-8 Registered Nursing Education Programs, Board Rule 410-8-.14 Approval of Out-of-State Pre-Licensure Nursing Education Programs to Conduct Clinical Learning Activities in Georgia (herein after “proposed rule(s)").

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule(s), and a synopsis of the proposed rule(s) are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule(s), and a synopsis of the proposed rule(s) may also be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 3920 Arkwright Rd, Suite 195, Macon, Georgia 31210. The documents will also be available for review on the Board’s website at <https://sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-nursing> for laws and rules. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at 404-424-9966.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule(s) at a public hearing to be held at **4:00 p.m., August 24, 2026**, virtually via Webex. Please see the Board’s website for information on how to join the meeting via Webex.

Interested parties affected by the rule may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on **August 17, 2026**. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Todd Zandrowicz, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Board of Nursing, 3920 Arkwright Rd, Suite 195, Macon, Georgia 31210.

During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

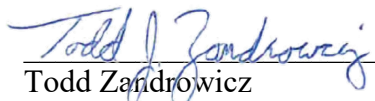
The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meeting on July 15, 2026. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of this proposed rule(s) does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule(s) cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 20-3-250.8, 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-3, 43-26-5, 43-26-7, 43-26-8, 43-26-32, 43-26-36 and 43-26-62. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 20-3-250.8, 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-3, 43-26-5, 43-26-7, 43-26-8, 43-26-32, 43-26-36 and 43-26-62 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of this proposed rule(s) will impact every licensee in the same manner, and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of registered nursing.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Nursing has the authority to adopt proposed rule(s) pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 20-3-250.8, 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-3, 43-26-5, 43-26-7, 43-26-8, 43-26-32, 43-26-36 and 43-26-62.

For further information, contact the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 23rd day of July, 2026.



Todd Zandrowicz
Division Director

Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: July 23, 2026

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 410-8 REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS, BOARD RULE 410-8-.01 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Purpose: The purpose of this rule amendment is to clarify that simulation, as a clinical learning activity, may not be used to satisfy more than fifty percent (50%) of the required clinical hours.

Rule 410-8-.01 General Requirements

- (1) Rules for nursing education programs shall provide reasonable and uniform standards within which flexibility and creativity, based upon prevailing educational principles, are possible.
- (2) A parent institution is defined as an educational institution that is part of the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia or a nonprofit postsecondary institution. The board reserves the right to approve any parent institution outside of these categories.
- (3) The course of study for initial licensure may be offered through an approved combination of on site, distance learning, or online teaching/learning strategies. Clinical learning activities may not be offered exclusively through electronic modalities. Simulation may not be used to satisfy more than 50% of the total clinical hours required for program completion. The remaining clinical hours shall be completed through direct patient care in an approved practice setting.
- (4) The majority of learning activities in practice settings must be taught by nursing faculty members according to Rules 410-8-.05 and 410-8-.06.
- (5) A parent institution shall grant degrees and maintain the locus of control and fiscal responsibility for the planning, implementation, teaching, and evaluation of the nursing education program.
- (6) All nursing education programs must be accredited or show satisfactory progression, as determined by the Board, towards accreditation by December 31, 2020 by a national nursing accrediting body recognized by the Board.
- (7) Board representatives shall conduct scheduled site visits to nursing education programs within six months of a national nursing accreditation site visit. At its discretion, the Board may schedule site visits more frequently. A nursing education program may request a site visit.

- (8) Representatives of the parent institution and/or the nursing education program shall be notified of any Board meeting at which action is to be taken relative to the program and shall be sent documentation of the action(s) in writing.
- (9) Representatives of the parent institution and/or the nursing education program may appeal any board action within 90 days of written notification.
- (10) To be approved as first-time writers of the licensing examination, applicants must have graduated from a nursing education program with Initial, Full or Conditional Approval at the time of graduation.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2 and 43-26-5.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 410-8 REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS, BOARD RULE 410-8-.03 ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

Purpose: The purpose of this rule amendment is to clarify that accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is not the only acceptable form of institutional accreditation. The amendment provides that accreditation by any accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education satisfies this requirement.

Rule 410-8-.03 Organization and Administration

- (1) The nursing education program must be an integral part of a parent institution accredited by ~~the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~ an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- (2) The relationship of the nursing unit as a program, department, division, school, or college to the parent institution must be delineated on a current organizational chart in accordance with the structural or functional plan of the parent institution.
- (3) The nurse administrator shall assume authority and responsibility for the administration, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the nursing education program. This will include oversight of and budgeting for the program, selection and evaluation of qualified faculty, and evaluation of program outcomes. A percentage of time for, and description of, administrative responsibilities and must be identified. The Board must be notified within 30 days of a change in the nurse administrator.
- (4) The minimum length of a nursing education program shall be six (6) academic quarters or four (4) academic semesters, each of which shall include nursing courses with learning activities in classes, simulated settings, and practice settings.
- (5) If a nursing education program has an accelerated option for students who have earned a baccalaureate or higher degree in another discipline, or a bridge program for healthcare professionals, the minimum length of study as identified in Rule 410-8-.03(4) may be shortened as approved by the Board. The course of study must be comparable to that required for prelicensure students graduating from the same nursing education program. Healthcare professional means a licensed practical nurse, paramedic, military medical corpsman, or respiratory therapist.
- (6) Adequate financial resources shall be provided for the effective operation of the nursing education program and the professional development of faculty.

- (7) A faculty/student ratio of at least one (1) full-time nursing faculty member for each twenty-five (25) students enrolled in the nursing education program (including audited courses) shall be maintained.
- (8) The nursing education program shall have a plan for continuous quality assessment and improvement which includes, but is not limited to: organization and administration; curriculum; faculty; students; performance of students and graduates; and educational facilities and resources.
- (9) Implementation of the plan for continuous quality assessment and improvement, findings, and relevant actions and/or decisions shall be documented.
- (10) All information, course materials, and documentation pertaining to the nursing education program shall be accurate and current.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-3, 43-26-5, 43-26-32 and 43-26-36.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 410-8 REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS, BOARD RULE 410-8-.05 FACULTY**

Purpose: The purpose of this rule amendment is to clarify that a candidate for nursing administrator may satisfy the teaching experience requirement through experience in any type of nursing education program, rather than being limited to a prelicensure nursing education program. Additionally, faculty without a graduate degree may require additional oversight and mentorship compared to graduate-prepared faculty, and this revision provides greater clarity regarding that expectation.

Rule 410-8-.05 Faculty

- (1) A nursing faculty member includes any registered nurse, appointed by the parent institution, regardless of the institutional designation, who is engaged in teaching/evaluation in classes, simulated settings, and practice settings.
- (2) The nurse administrator and nurse faculty members of any nursing education program must be currently licensed as registered nurses in Georgia and authorized as advanced practice registered nurses (if applicable) from the initial date of appointment.
- (3) Faculty who are assigned to practice settings in another state or country shall comply with the relevant nurse practice act in that jurisdiction.
- (4) 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 ~~leading to initial registered nurse licensure or completion of a higher degree in nursing.~~
- (5) Any registered nurse, appointed by the parent institution, who is engaged in teaching/evaluation in classes, simulated settings and practice settings, must hold at least a baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing.
- (6) For any given academic term, the nursing education program must be able to provide evidence that at least the majority of faculty members are full time in didactic settings with an exemption for clinical settings and that at least three-fourths of individual full-time faculty members hold one (1) or more earned graduate degrees in nursing.
- (7) 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 ~~directed~~ overseen by a faculty member with at least one (1) earned graduate degree in nursing.

- (8) Faculty members shall have the graduate nursing education, expertise, and professional development necessary to enable the goals/outcomes of the curriculum.
- (9) For any course with a nursing title and number, a qualified registered nurse faculty member must be the coordinator.
- (10) Faculty members must be available to direct, coach, mentor, and critique students engaged in learning activities in classes, simulated settings, and practice settings.
- (11) A faculty/student ratio of at least one (1) registered nurse faculty member providing direct supervision for no more than ten (10) students engaged in direct patient care in inpatient practice settings must be maintained to provide for the safety of patients/clients, students, and faculty members.
- (12) Faculty members shall participate in and document the development, implementation, and evaluation of the nursing education program.
- (13) Policies in effect for nursing faculty, including workload, shall be consistent with those in effect for all faculty appointed by the parent institution.
- (14) The process of selection, approval, and role development, and delineation of responsibilities of full-time and part-time faculty members shall be documented.
- (15) Out of state nursing education programs that have faculty and students engaged in learning activities in Georgia practice settings must comply with the Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act.
- (16) An international nursing educator, who is not licensed as a registered professional nurse in Georgia and who is participating as an exchange visitor in a nursing education program, may direct, coach, mentor, and critique students engaged in learning activities in classes and simulated settings under the following conditions:
 - (a) Responsibility for any course, in which the international nursing educator participates, must be assumed by a faculty member appointed by the parent institution;
 - (b) Monetary compensation to the international nursing educator must not be provided by the parent institution;

- (c) Until licensure by examination has been granted, the international nursing educator must not be involved in actual, interactive learning activities with students and patients/clients in practice settings; and
- (d) In advance of the exchange period, the Board of Nursing must be notified of the academic and regulatory credentials of the international nursing educator for a one-time period not to exceed all or part of a quarter or semester.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-3 and 43-26-5.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 410-8 REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS, BOARD RULE 410-8-.12 DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Purpose: The purpose of this rule amendment is to clarify that accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and regional accreditors, is not the only acceptable form of institutional accreditation. The amendment provides that accreditation by any accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education satisfies this requirement.

Rule 410-8-.12 Development and Implementation of New Nursing Education Programs

- (1) To obtain approval by the Board for the development of a new nursing education program, the chief administrative officer of a parent institution proposing the development and implementation of a new nursing education program must submit a letter of intent to the Board. The following information must be included:
 - (a) A completed application signed by the chief administrative officer of the parent institution;
 - (b) Documentation from the highest governing body of the parent institution granting permission to proceed with development of a nursing education program;
 - (c) A board-approved feasibility study, completed within one year of the date of the letter, which includes, but is not limited to: rationales for the establishment of the proposed nursing education program documenting an educational need which cannot be met by existing nursing education programs; financial resources; educational facilities and resources; faculty members; resources for electronic and simulated learning; and practice settings;
 - (d) Evidence of accreditation of the parent institution by ~~the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (also referred to as the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools)~~ or other regional an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education;
 - (e) A written plan for the recruitment and appointment of a qualified nurse administrator and faculty members to teach courses across the curriculum; and
 - (f) The nonrefundable, required fee which does not guarantee any approval status;

- (g) Documentation of the appointment of a registered nurse, currently licensed in Georgia, with the graduate nursing education and expertise necessary to develop and implement the proposed nursing education program and assess its outcomes;
 - (h) Documentation of projected revenue sources (federal, state, private, grants, gifts) and expenditures for five (5) fiscal years to support the development and implementation of the proposed nursing education program. The information must include, but is not limited to: appointment of sufficient qualified nursing faculty members (consistent with Rule 410-8-.05); appointment of administrative personnel and support services; and provision of print and non-print learning resources, academic support courses, and educational resources in compliance with Board rules;
 - (i) A written description for each practice setting proposed for learning activities with a letter of commitment from practice setting personnel to include the possible impact on existing, affiliating nursing programs; and
 - (j) A five-year timeline for the development and implementation of the nursing education program which includes cohorts of students and faculty members; and
 - (k) A proposed timeline for initiating and expanding the program.
- (2) The nurse administrator and at least two (2) (full-time or part-time) faculty members with the graduate nursing education and expertise necessary to develop and implement the nursing education program and assess its outcomes, must be appointed by the parent institution to submit the following materials for Board review at least twelve (12) months prior to the enrollment of students in the first nursing course(s):
- (a) Faculty qualification records for the nurse administrator and faculty members;
 - (b) Program purpose or mission statement;
 - (c) Program philosophy/assumptions;
 - (d) Goals/outcomes of the curriculum;
 - (e) Written plan for the organization and development of the curriculum;
 - (f) Curriculum plan, consistent with Rule 410-8-.04, showing the placement, sequence, and credit distribution of all nursing and non-nursing courses;
 - (g) Syllabus for each nursing course to include the title, credit distribution, prerequisites and corequisite courses, goals/outcomes, and course outline;

- (h) Plan for continuous quality assessment and improvement consistent with Rule 410-8-.03(8);
 - (i) Information specific to the nursing education program, including but not limited to, admissions, options for advanced placement, acceleration, part-time study, articulation, progression, graduation, health requirements, the potential for criminal background checks and expanded medical profiles, and appeals;
 - (j) A current financial report including expenditures to date consistent with Rule 410-8-.12(1)(h);
 - (k) A plan for the recruitment of students; and
 - (l) Current catalog and student handbook for the parent institution.
 - (m) Any substantive changes since the review of previous reports;
 - (n) Detailed information for each nursing course in the curriculum consistent with Rule 410-8-.04;
 - (o) Faculty qualification records for any new faculty members;
 - (p) A description of any additional practice setting(s) with a written commitment from practice setting representatives to include the possible impact on existing affiliating nursing programs; and
 - (q) An update on projected enrollment;
- (3) Board representatives will conduct site visits to a developing nursing education program as necessary.
- (4) Nursing education programs with Initial Approval are required to comply with all Board rules.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2 and 43-26-5.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 410-8 REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS, BOARD RULE 410-8-.14 APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE PRE-
LICENSURE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO CONDUCT CLINICAL
LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN GEORGIA**

Purpose: The purpose of the adoption of this proposed rule is to create a pathway for out-of-state nursing education programs to place their students in clinical learning experiences in Georgia.

Rule 410-8-.14 Approval of Out-of-State Pre-Licensure Nursing Education Programs to Conduct Clinical Learning Activities in Georgia

(1) Definitions.

For purposes of this Rule:

- (a) “Initial Approval” means the initial authorization granted by the Board for an out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program to begin operation in Georgia through demonstration of compliance with Board requirements. Initial approval shall be time-limited and subject to ongoing Board oversight until the program qualifies for continuing approval.
- (b) “Continuing Approval” means the continued authorization granted by the Board to an out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program that maintains ongoing compliance with Board requirements. Continuing approval shall be granted annually and remains subject to Board oversight and renewal requirements.
- (c) “Established Program” means a nursing education program with an established history of operation in the state of origin and full approval status from the state board of nursing or nursing regulatory authority. Programs operating under initial, provisional, conditional, or temporary approval shall not qualify as established programs.
- (d) “Good Standing” means that the nursing education program maintains all required approvals and authorizations from the state board of nursing or nursing regulatory authority in the state of origin and is not subject to disciplinary action, probation, restriction, or other adverse action.
- (e) “Face-to-Face Laboratory Learning Experiences” means planned, in-person educational activities conducted under the oversight of qualified faculty in a

- laboratory setting in which nursing students directly participate in hands-on learning, skills development, clinical application, and evaluation of learning outcomes.
- (f) “Face-to-Face Clinical Learning Experiences” means planned, in-person educational activities conducted under the oversight of approved faculty or preceptors in a healthcare setting in which nursing students directly participate in hands-on learning, skills development, clinical application, and evaluation of learning outcomes.
- (g) “Clinical Coordinator” means an approved registered nurse employed by the nursing education program who is physically present in Georgia and responsible for coordinating Georgia-based educational and clinical learning activities.
- (h) “Preceptor” means an approved healthcare professional employed by a healthcare facility who provides direct supervision, instruction, and evaluation of nursing students in coordination with nursing program faculty.
- (i) “Faculty” means an approved registered nurse employed by a nursing education program who is responsible for teaching, supervising, and evaluating students in didactic, laboratory, simulation, and clinical learning activities.
- (j) “Clinical Learning Activities” means a planned, supervised face-to-face clinical learning experience in which approved faculty or preceptors provides direct oversight, instruction, and evaluation of nursing students in an approved clinical facility.
- (l) “Majority” means fifty-one percent (51%) or more of instructional contact or clock hours.
- (m) “Clinical Facility” means a contracted healthcare agency or practice setting utilized by the parent institution for clinical learning activities.

(2) General Requirements.

- (a) Any out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program that intends to provide nursing education in Georgia through distance education modalities and on-ground clinical activities shall obtain Board approval and comply with this Rule.
- (b) The Board may conduct site visits of any proposed or approved clinical facility utilized by an out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program. The program shall provide access to records, personnel, faculty, students, and facilities as requested by the Board.

- (c) Programs delivering didactic instruction through distance education modalities shall provide supervised face-to-face laboratory and clinical learning activities sufficient to validate and support student application of didactic instruction.
- (d) Programs with faculty, preceptors, or students engaged in learning activities within Georgia shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Georgia Nurse Practice Act and Board rules.
- (e) The majority of clinical learning activities must be taught by nursing faculty physically present in Georgia.

(3) Out of State Nursing Education Program Approval.

- (a) An out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program shall initiate the approval process with the Board no fewer than four (4) months prior to the anticipated start date of clinical activities in Georgia.
- (b) To obtain initial approval by the Board, a completed application and the non-refundable fee are required. The fee does not guarantee any approval status.
- (c) Approval designations shall remain in effect for no more than one academic year and shall apply through the academic terms comprising that academic year, as established by the nursing education program.
- (d) Following initial approval, a program shall submit an application and the non-refundable fee for continuing approval on or before the due date established by the Board, irrespective of the initial approval date. The fee does not guarantee any approval status.
- (e) Any changes to information previously submitted to the Board shall be reported as part of the continuing approval process.
- (f) The Board may deny, restrict, revoke, suspend, or decline to renew approval of an out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program for failure to comply with this Rule, the Georgia Nurse Practice Act, or any other applicable Board rule.

(4) Organization and Administration.

To qualify for approval, an out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program shall:

- (a) Maintain authorization from the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC), when required by law, to conduct educational activities within Georgia;

- (b) Be offered by a parent institution accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education;
- (c) Be an established program fully approved by the state board of nursing or nursing regulatory authority in the state of origin;
- (d) Remain in good standing with the state board of nursing or nursing regulatory authority in the state of origin;
- (e) Notify the Board in writing within thirty (30) days of any change in approval status or any disciplinary, probationary, restrictive, or adverse action taken by the state board of nursing or nursing regulatory authority in the state of origin; and
- (f) Maintain national nursing accreditation.

(5) Performance of Graduates.

The program's official NCLEX® examination pass rate for the preceding calendar year shall be at least eighty percent (80%).

(6) Faculty.

- (a) Didactic faculty providing instruction through distance education modalities and clinical faculty supervising clinical learning activities shall hold an active license in the state of origin and either:
 - 1. Hold an active Georgia nursing license; or
 - 2. Hold an active multistate license issued pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact.
- (b) Faculty must hold at least a baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing.
- (c) 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 directed by a faculty member with at least one (1) earned graduate degree in nursing.
- (d) A faculty-to-student ratio of no more than one (1) faculty member to ten (10) students shall be maintained during clinical learning activities.
- (e) The program shall employ at least one faculty member physically located in Georgia to serve as the Clinical Coordinator.

(7) Learning Activities with Preceptors.

- (a) Clinical learning activities with preceptors shall be permitted on a limited basis.

(b) The student shall be enrolled in the course in which the learning activities with preceptors occur and shall not be compensated by the practice setting during this time.

(c) Preceptors supervising clinical learning activities shall:

1. Hold an active Georgia nursing license; or

2. Hold an active multistate license issued pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact.

(d) The preceptor shall be educated at preferably the same or higher level as the student and have at least one year of work experience in the practice setting in which the learning activity occurs.

(e) The preceptor shall interact with no more than two (2) students at any given time.

(8) Educational Facilities, Resources, and Practice Settings.

(a) The parent institution shall maintain a written agreement with each practice setting in which actual, interactive learning activities occur that delineate the responsibilities of involved parties.

(b) A written description for each practice setting proposed for learning activities, with a letter of commitment from practice setting personnel to include the possible impact on existing, affiliating nursing programs.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-3-250.8, 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-3, 43-26-5, 43-26-7, 43-26-8 and 43-26-62.

**RULES OF
GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING
CHAPTER 410-8
REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS
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**410-8-.14 Approval of Out-of-State Pre-Licensure Nursing Education Programs to
Conduct Clinical Learning Activities in Georgia**

Rule 410-8-.01 General Requirements

- (1) Rules for nursing education programs shall provide reasonable and uniform standards within which flexibility and creativity, based upon prevailing educational principles, are possible.
- (2) A parent institution is defined as an educational institution that is part of the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia or a nonprofit postsecondary institution. The board reserves the right to approve any parent institution outside of these categories.
- (3) The course of study for initial licensure may be offered through an approved combination of on site, distance learning, or online teaching/learning strategies. Clinical learning activities may not be offered exclusively through electronic modalities. Simulation may not be used to satisfy more than 50% of the total clinical hours required for program

completion. The remaining clinical hours shall be completed through direct patient care in an approved practice setting.

- (4) The majority of learning activities in practice settings must be taught by nursing faculty members according to Rules 410-8-.05 and 410-8-.06.
- (5) A parent institution shall grant degrees and maintain the locus of control and fiscal responsibility for the planning, implementation, teaching, and evaluation of the nursing education program.
- (6) All nursing education programs must be accredited or show satisfactory progression, as determined by the Board, towards accreditation by December 31, 2020 by a national nursing accrediting body recognized by the Board.
- (7) Board representatives shall conduct scheduled site visits to nursing education programs within six months of a national nursing accreditation site visit. At its discretion, the Board may schedule site visits more frequently. A nursing education program may request a site visit.
- (8) Representatives of the parent institution and/or the nursing education program shall be notified of any Board meeting at which action is to be taken relative to the program and shall be sent documentation of the action(s) in writing.
- (9) Representatives of the parent institution and/or the nursing education program may appeal any board action within 90 days of written notification.
- (10) To be approved as first-time writers of the licensing examination, applicants must have graduated from a nursing education program with Initial, Full or Conditional Approval at the time of graduation.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2 and 43-26-5.

Rule 410-8-.03 Organization and Administration

- (1) The nursing education program must be an integral part of a parent institution accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- (2) The relationship of the nursing unit as a program, department, division, school, or college to the parent institution must be delineated on a current organizational chart in accordance with the structural or functional plan of the parent institution.
- (3) The nurse administrator shall assume authority and responsibility for the administration, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the nursing education program. This will include oversight of and budgeting for the program, selection and evaluation of qualified faculty, and evaluation of program outcomes. A percentage of time for, and description of, administrative responsibilities and must be identified. The Board must be notified within 30 days of a change in the nurse administrator.
- (4) The minimum length of a nursing education program shall be six (6) academic quarters or four (4) academic semesters, each of which shall include nursing courses with learning activities in classes, simulated settings, and practice settings.
- (5) If a nursing education program has an accelerated option for students who have earned a baccalaureate or higher degree in another discipline, or a bridge program for healthcare professionals, the minimum length of study as identified in Rule 410-8-.03(4) may be shortened as approved by the Board. The course of study must be comparable to that required for prelicensure students graduating from the same nursing education program. Healthcare professional means a licensed practical nurse, paramedic, military medical corpsman, or respiratory therapist.
- (6) Adequate financial resources shall be provided for the effective operation of the nursing education program and the professional development of faculty.

- (7) A faculty/student ratio of at least one (1) full-time nursing faculty member for each twenty-five (25) students enrolled in the nursing education program (including audited courses) shall be maintained.
- (8) The nursing education program shall have a plan for continuous quality assessment and improvement which includes, but is not limited to: organization and administration; curriculum; faculty; students; performance of students and graduates; and educational facilities and resources.
- (9) Implementation of the plan for continuous quality assessment and improvement, findings, and relevant actions and/or decisions shall be documented.
- (10) All information, course materials, and documentation pertaining to the nursing education program shall be accurate and current.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-3, 43-26-5, 43-26-32 and 43-26-36.

Rule 410-8-.05 Faculty

- (1) A nursing faculty member includes any registered nurse, appointed by the parent institution, regardless of the institutional designation, who is engaged in teaching/evaluation in classes, simulated settings, and practice settings.
- (2) The nurse administrator and nurse faculty members of any nursing education program must be currently licensed as registered nurses in Georgia and authorized as advanced practice registered nurses (if applicable) from the initial date of appointment.
- (3) Faculty who are assigned to practice settings in another state or country shall comply with the relevant nurse practice act in that jurisdiction.
- (4) 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.
- (5) Any registered nurse, appointed by the parent institution, who is engaged in teaching/evaluation in classes, simulated settings and practice settings, must hold at least a baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing.
- (6) For any given academic term, the nursing education program must be able to provide evidence that at least the majority of faculty members are full time in didactic settings with an exemption for clinical settings and that at least three-fourths of individual full-time faculty members hold one (1) or more earned graduate degrees in nursing.
- (7) 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.

- (8) Faculty members shall have the graduate nursing education, expertise, and professional development necessary to enable the goals/outcomes of the curriculum.
- (9) For any course with a nursing title and number, a qualified registered nurse faculty member must be the coordinator.
- (10) Faculty members must be available to direct, coach, mentor, and critique students engaged in learning activities in classes, simulated settings, and practice settings.
- (11) A faculty/student ratio of at least one (1) registered nurse faculty member providing direct supervision for no more than ten (10) students engaged in direct patient care in inpatient practice settings must be maintained to provide for the safety of patients/clients, students, and faculty members.
- (12) Faculty members shall participate in and document the development, implementation, and evaluation of the nursing education program.
- (13) Policies in effect for nursing faculty, including workload, shall be consistent with those in effect for all faculty appointed by the parent institution.
- (14) The process of selection, approval, and role development, and delineation of responsibilities of full-time and part-time faculty members shall be documented.
- (15) Out of state nursing education programs that have faculty and students engaged in learning activities in Georgia practice settings must comply with the Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act.
- (16) An international nursing educator, who is not licensed as a registered professional nurse in Georgia and who is participating as an exchange visitor in a nursing education program, may direct, coach, mentor, and critique students engaged in learning activities in classes and simulated settings under the following conditions:

- (a) Responsibility for any course, in which the international nursing educator participates, must be assumed by a faculty member appointed by the parent institution;
- (b) Monetary compensation to the international nursing educator must not be provided by the parent institution;
- (c) Until licensure by examination has been granted, the international nursing educator must not be involved in actual, interactive learning activities with students and patients/clients in practice settings; and
- (d) In advance of the exchange period, the Board of Nursing must be notified of the academic and regulatory credentials of the international nursing educator for a one-time period not to exceed all or part of a quarter or semester.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-3 and 43-26-5.

Rule 410-8-.12 Development and Implementation of New Nursing Education Programs

- (1) To obtain approval by the Board for the development of a new nursing education program, the chief administrative officer of a parent institution proposing the development and implementation of a new nursing education program must submit a letter of intent to the Board. The following information must be included:
 - (a) A completed application signed by the chief administrative officer of the parent institution;
 - (b) Documentation from the highest governing body of the parent institution granting permission to proceed with development of a nursing education program;
 - (c) A board-approved feasibility study, completed within one year of the date of the letter, which includes, but is not limited to: rationales for the establishment of the proposed nursing education program documenting an educational need which cannot be met by existing nursing education programs; financial resources; educational facilities and resources; faculty members; resources for electronic and simulated learning; and practice settings;
 - (d) Evidence of accreditation of the parent institution by an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education;
 - (e) A written plan for the recruitment and appointment of a qualified nurse administrator and faculty members to teach courses across the curriculum; and
 - (f) The nonrefundable, required fee which does not guarantee any approval status;
 - (g) Documentation of the appointment of a registered nurse, currently licensed in Georgia, with the graduate nursing education and expertise necessary to develop and implement the proposed nursing education program and assess its outcomes;

- (h) Documentation of projected revenue sources (federal, state, private, grants, gifts) and expenditures for five (5) fiscal years to support the development and implementation of the proposed nursing education program. The information must include, but is not limited to: appointment of sufficient qualified nursing faculty members (consistent with Rule 410-8-.05); appointment of administrative personnel and support services; and provision of print and non-print learning resources, academic support courses, and educational resources in compliance with Board rules;
 - (i) A written description for each practice setting proposed for learning activities with a letter of commitment from practice setting personnel to include the possible impact on existing, affiliating nursing programs; and
 - (j) A five-year timeline for the development and implementation of the nursing education program which includes cohorts of students and faculty members; and
 - (k) A proposed timeline for initiating and expanding the program.
- (2) The nurse administrator and at least two (2) (full-time or part-time) faculty members with the graduate nursing education and expertise necessary to develop and implement the nursing education program and assess its outcomes, must be appointed by the parent institution to submit the following materials for Board review at least twelve (12) months prior to the enrollment of students in the first nursing course(s):
- (a) Faculty qualification records for the nurse administrator and faculty members;
 - (b) Program purpose or mission statement;
 - (c) Program philosophy/assumptions;
 - (d) Goals/outcomes of the curriculum;

- (e) Written plan for the organization and development of the curriculum;
- (f) Curriculum plan, consistent with Rule 410-8-.04, showing the placement, sequence, and credit distribution of all nursing and non-nursing courses;
- (g) Syllabus for each nursing course to include the title, credit distribution, prerequisites and corequisite courses, goals/outcomes, and course outline;
- (h) Plan for continuous quality assessment and improvement consistent with Rule 410-8-.03(8);
- (i) Information specific to the nursing education program, including but not limited to, admissions, options for advanced placement, acceleration, part-time study, articulation, progression, graduation, health requirements, the potential for criminal background checks and expanded medical profiles, and appeals;
- (j) A current financial report including expenditures to date consistent with Rule 410-8-.12(1)(h);
- (k) A plan for the recruitment of students; and
- (l) Current catalog and student handbook for the parent institution.
- (m) Any substantive changes since the review of previous reports;
- (n) Detailed information for each nursing course in the curriculum consistent with Rule 410-8-.04;
- (o) Faculty qualification records for any new faculty members;

- (p) A description of any additional practice setting(s) with a written commitment from practice setting representatives to include the possible impact on existing affiliating nursing programs; and
 - (q) An update on projected enrollment;
- (3) Board representatives will conduct site visits to a developing nursing education program as necessary.
 - (4) Nursing education programs with Initial Approval are required to comply with all Board rules.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-26-2 and 43-26-5.

Rule 410-8-.14 Approval of Out-of-State Pre-Licensure Nursing Education Programs to Conduct Clinical Learning Activities in Georgia

(1) Definitions.

For purposes of this Rule:

- (a) “Initial Approval” means the initial authorization granted by the Board for an out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program to begin operation in Georgia through demonstration of compliance with Board requirements. Initial approval shall be time-limited and subject to ongoing Board oversight until the program qualifies for continuing approval.
- (b) “Continuing Approval” means the continued authorization granted by the Board to an out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program that maintains ongoing compliance with Board requirements. Continuing approval shall be granted annually and remains subject to Board oversight and renewal requirements.
- (c) “Established Program” means a nursing education program with an established history of operation in the state of origin and full approval status from the state board of nursing or nursing regulatory authority. Programs operating under initial, provisional, conditional, or temporary approval shall not qualify as established programs.
- (d) “Good Standing” means that the nursing education program maintains all required approvals and authorizations from the state board of nursing or nursing regulatory authority in the state of origin and is not subject to disciplinary action, probation, restriction, or other adverse action.
- (e) “Face-to-Face Laboratory Learning Experiences” means planned, in-person educational activities conducted under the oversight of qualified faculty in a

- laboratory setting in which nursing students directly participate in hands-on learning, skills development, clinical application, and evaluation of learning outcomes.
- (f) “Face-to-Face Clinical Learning Experiences” means planned, in-person educational activities conducted under the oversight of approved faculty or preceptors in a healthcare setting in which nursing students directly participate in hands-on learning, skills development, clinical application, and evaluation of learning outcomes.
 - (g) “Clinical Coordinator” means an approved registered nurse employed by the nursing education program who is physically present in Georgia and responsible for coordinating Georgia-based educational and clinical learning activities.
 - (h) “Preceptor” means an approved healthcare professional employed by a healthcare facility who provides direct supervision, instruction, and evaluation of nursing students in coordination with nursing program faculty.
 - (i) “Faculty” means an approved registered nurse employed by a nursing education program who is responsible for teaching, supervising, and evaluating students in didactic, laboratory, simulation, and clinical learning activities.
 - (j) “Clinical Learning Activities” means a planned, supervised face-to-face clinical learning experience in which approved faculty or preceptors provides direct oversight, instruction, and evaluation of nursing students in an approved clinical facility.
 - (k) “Majority” means fifty-one percent (51%) or more of instructional contact or clock hours.
 - (l) “Clinical Facility” means a contracted healthcare agency or practice setting utilized by the parent institution for clinical learning activities.

(2) General Requirements.

- (a) Any out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program that intends to provide nursing education in Georgia through distance education modalities and on-ground clinical activities shall obtain Board approval and comply with this Rule.
- (b) The Board may conduct site visits of any proposed or approved clinical facility utilized by an out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program. The program shall provide access to records, personnel, faculty, students, and facilities as requested by the Board.
- (c) Programs delivering didactic instruction through distance education modalities shall provide supervised face-to-face laboratory and clinical learning activities sufficient to validate and support student application of didactic instruction.
- (d) Programs with faculty, preceptors, or students engaged in learning activities within Georgia shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Georgia Nurse Practice Act and Board rules.
- (e) The majority of clinical learning activities must be taught by nursing faculty physically present in Georgia.

(3) Out of State Nursing Education Program Approval.

- (a) An out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program shall initiate the approval process with the Board no fewer than four (4) months prior to the anticipated start date of clinical activities in Georgia.
- (b) To obtain initial approval by the Board, a completed application and the non-refundable fee are required. The fee does not guarantee any approval status.

- (c) Approval designations shall remain in effect for no more than one academic year and shall apply through the academic terms comprising that academic year, as established by the nursing education program.
- (d) Following initial approval, a program shall submit an application and the non-refundable fee for continuing approval on or before the due date established by the Board, irrespective of the initial approval date. The fee does not guarantee any approval status.
- (e) Any changes to information previously submitted to the Board shall be reported as part of the continuing approval process.
- (f) The Board may deny, restrict, revoke, suspend, or decline to renew approval of an out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program for failure to comply with this Rule, the Georgia Nurse Practice Act, or any other applicable Board rule.

(4) Organization and Administration.

To qualify for approval, an out-of-state pre-licensure nursing education program shall:

- (a) Maintain authorization from the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC), when required by law, to conduct educational activities within Georgia;
- (b) Be offered by a parent institution accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education;
- (c) Be an established program fully approved by the state board of nursing or nursing regulatory authority in the state of origin;
- (d) Remain in good standing with the state board of nursing or nursing regulatory authority in the state of origin;

- (e) Notify the Board in writing within thirty (30) days of any change in approval status or any disciplinary, probationary, restrictive, or adverse action taken by the state board of nursing or nursing regulatory authority in the state of origin; and
- (f) Maintain national nursing accreditation.

(5) Performance of Graduates.

The program's official NCLEX® examination pass rate for the preceding calendar year shall be at least eighty percent (80%).

(6) Faculty.

- (a) Didactic faculty providing instruction through distance education modalities and clinical faculty supervising clinical learning activities shall hold an active license in the state of origin and either:

1. Hold an active Georgia nursing license; or
2. Hold an active multistate license issued pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact.

- (b) Faculty must hold at least a baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing.

- (c) 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 directed by a faculty member with at least one (1) earned graduate degree in nursing.

- (d) A faculty-to-student ratio of no more than one (1) faculty member to ten (10) students shall be maintained during clinical learning activities.
- (e) The program shall employ at least one faculty member physically located in Georgia to serve as the Clinical Coordinator.

(7) Learning Activities with Preceptors.

- (a) Clinical learning activities with preceptors shall be permitted on a limited basis.
- (b) The student shall be enrolled in the course in which the learning activities with preceptors occur and shall not be compensated by the practice setting during this time.
- (c) Preceptors supervising clinical learning activities shall:
 - 1. Hold an active Georgia nursing license; or
 - 2. Hold an active multistate license issued pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact.
- (d) The preceptor shall be educated at preferably the same or higher level as the student and have at least one year of work experience in the practice setting in which the learning activity occurs.
- (e) The preceptor shall interact with no more than two (2) students at any given time.

(8) Educational Facilities, Resources, and Practice Settings.

- (a) The parent institution shall maintain a written agreement with each practice setting in which actual, interactive learning activities occur that delineate the responsibilities of involved parties.

- (b) A written description for each practice setting proposed for learning activities, with a letter of commitment from practice setting personnel to include the possible impact on existing, affiliating nursing programs.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-3-250.8, 43-1-25, 43-26-2, 43-26-3, 43-26-5, 43-26-7, 43-26-8 and 43-26-62.