

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR  
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control 610 Department or Agency Alabama Board of Nursing  
Rule No. 610-X-3-01  
Rule Title: Nursing Education Programs - Definitions  
       New X        Amend        Repeal        Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? Yes

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare? Yes

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation available that could adequately protect the public? No

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services involved and, if so, to what degree? No

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the public than the harm that might result from the absence of the proposed rule? No

Are all facets of the rulemaking process designed solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary effect, the protection of the public? Yes

Does the proposed action relate to or affect in any manner any litigation which the agency is a party to concerning the subject matter of the proposed rule? No

\*\*\*\*\*  
Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? No

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Services Agency.



Signature of certifying officer Peggy Sellers Benson, RN, MSHA, MSN, NE-BC

Date May 18, 2018

(DATE FILED)  
(STAMP)

APA-2  
11/96

**ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING**

**NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

**AGENCY NAME:** Alabama Board of Nursing

**RULE NO. & TITLE:** 610-X-3-.01 Nursing Education Programs -  
Definitions

**INTENDED ACTION:** The Alabama Board of Nursing proposes to amend the definitions related to nursing education.

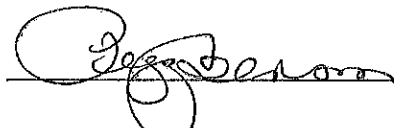
**SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:** The Alabama Board of Nursing proposes to amend Administrative Code, 610-X-3-.01, Nursing Education Programs - Definitions. A copy of the proposed rule may be found on the Board's web site, [www.abn.alabama.gov](http://www.abn.alabama.gov), under "laws" and then "proposed rule changes." The proposed changes ensure consistency in the use of regulatory terms.

**TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:** Written or verbal comments will be received by the Board of Nursing until 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, July 5, 2018. Verbal or written comments should be directed to Peggy Benson, Executive Officer, at P.O. Box 303900, Montgomery, AL 36130-3900 or via electronic mail at [Peggy.Benson@abn.alabama.gov](mailto:Peggy.Benson@abn.alabama.gov) or via telephone at 334-293-5210.

**FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:**

The record closes at 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, July 5, 2018.

**CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:** Peggy Benson, Executive Officer.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Officer

610-X-3-.01 Definitions.

(1) Approved Program: A nursing education program that meets all of the standards as specified in these rules.

(2) Articulation: A planned process between two or more educational programs or systems to assist students to make a smooth transition from one program to another without duplication in learning or coursework.

(3) Clinical and Theoretical Competence: The possession of knowledge, skills, and abilities and the ability to apply these attributes to meet current standards of nursing practice and education as specified in Chapter 610-X-6, Standards of Nursing Practice, Chapter 610-X-3, Nursing Education Programs, and Chapter 610-X-4, Licensure.

(4) Clinical Learning Experiences: Organized plan of learning experiences that provides nursing students an opportunity to develop competencies in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of nursing care appropriate to the scope of practice for the level and type of program.

(5) Pre-clinical Learning Experience: An organized plan occurring prior to the learning experience, with information to span the lifespan for varied clinical settings, to ensure a safe transition to nursing practice in complex environments with pre- and post-clinical conferences.

(6) Simulation: A technique to expand "real-life" learning with guided experiences that replicate significant aspects of reality of acute, chronic, and community health settings in an interactive manner utilized across the life span.

(7) Clinical Supervisor: A licensed registered nurse, acting in a supervisory capacity of clinical learning experiences, who is accessible to assign or prescribe a course of action, give procedural guidance, direction, and evaluation for a nursing student(s).

(8) Curriculum: An organized plan of study in nursing that includes both theoretical and clinical learning experiences essential for preparing students to be eligible upon graduation to apply for licensure as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

(9) Curriculum Outcomes: A common set of competencies expected of a program's graduates upon completion of an organized plan of study. Outcomes are clear, measurable demonstrations of student learning that occurs at or after the end of a

comprehensive set of learning experiences.

(10) Deficiency(ies): Failure of a nursing education program to meet one or more of the standards as stated in Chapter 610-X-3, Nursing Education Programs.

(11) Distance Education: A formal educational process in which the majority of the instruction in a course/program occurs when instructors and students are not physically in the same location. The educational process may use various methodologies consistent with this chapter for communication, instruction, and evaluation.

(12) Nursing Faculty: Registered professional nurse, with at least one graduate degree in nursing or a health-related field, appointed by the parent institution.

(13) Licensed Hospital: A facility described in Code of Ala. 1975, Section 22-21-20(1), other than a health maintenance organization, which has an organized medical staff or which employs the services of a medical director who is a physician licensed to practice medicine in Alabama. The term hospital shall not include the private offices of physicians or dentists, whether in individual, group, professional corporation, or professional association practice.

(14) Nursing Program Administrator: Registered professional nurse with a Master's or higher degree in nursing who has primary accountability and responsibility for administration of the nursing program.

(15) Survey: A comprehensive, Board-authorized on-site evaluation or review of a written report for a proposed or existing program that serves to assess the program's compliance with the Board's education standards.

(16) Systematic Plan of Evaluation: A comprehensive written document that reflects ongoing evaluation of all program components that includes, but is not limited to, collection of objective data, evaluation of outcomes, and results in improvements based on evaluative data.

(17) Unencumbered License: an active license that has no current stipulations, conditions, or limitations.

(18) Governing Institution Administrator: Person with overall administrative authority for the campus location where the nursing program is located.

(19) Pass Rate Calculation: For each year, the Board shall determine a program's annual pass rate by calculating the percentage of those graduates taking the national licensure

examination for the first time within six months of program completion who achieve a passing score on the national licensure examination on the first attempt. The three year rolling average for a program is determined by averaging the three most recent annual pass rates calculated as set forth in this definition. Beginning in January 2018, the annual pass rates will be based on the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). In 2019, the three-year average will include the previous two fiscal years average and the 2018 calendar year average. In 2021, the three-year average will include all averages from the three prior calendar years.

(20) External Exam: A standardized means of testing readiness to practice nursing, usually administered following completion of a program of study in nursing education.

(21) Notice of Deficiency: An official notice by the Board identifying areas of deficiency and expected date of correction. The notice may require that documents, evaluations, and reports be sent to the Board at periodic intervals.

(22) Notice of Correction: An official notice by the Board issuing a letter of correction of previous areas of deficiency and reestablishing approval without deficiency.

**Author:** Alabama Board of Nursing

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-21-2(2).

**History:** **New:** Filed September 25, 2006; effective October 30, 2006. **Amended:** Filed September 21, 2007; effective October 26, 2007. **Amended:** Filed November 19, 2010; effective December 24, 2010. **Amended:** Filed November 21, 2016; effective January 5, 2017. **Amended:** Filed May 18, 2018

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**Chapter 610-X-3**

**Nursing**

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610-X-3-.03 Distance Education.

(1) A distance-learning program offering courses in Alabama shall have accreditation by a national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education by January 1, 2022.

(2) Delivery of instruction by distance education methods shall enable students to meet the goals, competencies, and objectives of the education program and the standards of the Board, including supervised clinical learning experiences.

(3) A distance-learning program shall establish a means for assessing individual student and program outcomes.

(4) A distance-learning program offering courses in Alabama shall have accreditation by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

(5) Comply with all standards of this Chapter, including those related to clinical supervision of student learning experiences. The Board may request periodic reports for the purpose of data collection or to determine compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

(6) Nursing Faculty located outside of the state who are employed by the governing institution for delivery of instruction by distance education methods, online instruction, or satellite instruction for an Alabama nursing program shall meet the minimum qualifications for faculty as set forth in this chapter, including licensure in Alabama.

**Author:** Alabama Board of Nursing

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-21-2(2).

**History: New:** Filed September 25, 2006; effective October 30, 2006. **Amended:** Filed September 21, 2007; effective October 26, 2007. **Amended:** Filed November 19, 2010; effective December 24, 2010. **Amended:** Filed November 21, 2016; effective January 5, 2017. **Amended:** Filed May 18, 2018