

APA-1  
11/96

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR  
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control 610 Department or Agency Alabama Board of Nursing  
Rule No. 610-X-3-.02  
Rule Title Standards for Approval  
     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

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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.

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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 Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer 

Date February 19, 2015

DATE FILED  
(STAMP)

APA-2  
11/96

**ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING**

**NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

**AGENCY NAME:** Alabama Board of Nursing

**RULE NO. & TITLE:** Rule 610-X-3-.02 Standards for Approval

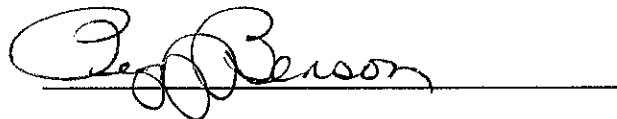
**INTENDED ACTION:** The Alabama Board of Nursing proposes to amend Rule 610-X-3-.02 Standards for Approval.

**SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:** The Alabama Board of Nursing proposes to amend Rule 610-X-3-.02 Standards for Approval

**TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:** Written or oral comments will be received by the Board of Nursing until 4:30 P.M. on Monday, April 6, 2015. Verbal or written comments may be directed to Peggy Benson, Deputy Director/Interim 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 Monday, April 6, 2015.

**CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:** Peggy Benson, Deputy Director/Interim Executive Officer.



Deputy Director/Interim Executive Officer

### 610-X-3-.02 Standards for Approval

(1) The governing institution, nursing program administrator, and nursing faculty are accountable for the standards, processes, and outcomes of the nursing education program.

(2) The governing institution offering the nursing program shall be:

(a) A postsecondary educational institution that is accredited by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

(b) Approved and licensed by the appropriate State of Alabama educational agency(ies) as required by law.

(3) The governing institution shall provide financial support and resources sufficient to meet the outcomes of the nursing education program. Resources include, but are not limited to:

(a) Financial.

(b) Educational facilities.

(c) Equipment.

(d) Learning aids.

(e) Technology.

(f) Administrative, instructional and support personnel.

(4) The governing institution's administrator or program administrator shall notify the Board, in writing, of any substantive changes in the program, including but not limited to:

(a) Nursing program administrator.

(b) Governing institution administrator.

(c) Governance structure of the institution.

(d) Accreditation status.

(e) Ownership or merger of parent institution

(f) School name

(g) Relocation

(h) Curriculum changes

(5) There shall be an organizational chart that depicts the authority, responsibility, and channels of communication of the nursing program to the governing institution and other comparable programs within the governing institution.

(6) A nursing education program shall be administered by a qualified program administrator who is accountable for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the program. Minimum qualifications of a nursing program administrator shall include:

(a) An active unencumbered Alabama registered nurse license.

(b) A master's or higher degree in nursing.

(c) Be academically and experientially qualified to administer a nursing program.

(d) Prior experience in nursing education and nursing practice. For purposes of this requirement, prior experience in continuing education and/or patient teaching is insufficient to meet the rule. The required teaching experience is in a nursing program.

(7) The governing institution and nursing program administrator shall provide sufficient numbers of qualified faculty to assure that curriculum implementation and expected program outcomes are achieved. Minimum

qualifications of nurse faculty shall include:

- (a) An active unencumbered Alabama registered nurse license.
  - (b) At least one graduate degree in nursing or health-related field.
  - (c) Be academically and experientially qualified to teach in the area assigned.
- (8) Institutional and program policies and procedures shall:
- (a) Be written, published, and publicly available.
  - (b) Address students' ability to assume clinical assignments including, but not limited to, educational preparedness and physical, mental, and emotional behaviors.
  - (c) Provide opportunities for students to regularly participate in the development and evaluation of the program.
- (9) Faculty are accountable for curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation.
- (10) The curriculum of a nursing education program shall:
- (a) Enable the student to develop the nursing knowledge, skills and abilities required for entry-level practice, consistent with the scope and standards of nursing practice.
  - (b) Comply with the standards set forth in this chapter.
  - (c) Be evidence-based, and outcome focused.
  - (d) Provide theoretical and clinical experiences specific to the expected scope of practice of graduates from each type of entry level nursing education program and shall include:
    - (i) Content for students to attain knowledge and competence in providing a safe and effective care environment based on the practice analysis of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the Board of Nursing standardized procedure annual report as well as the results of the systematic plan of evaluation.
    - (ii) Prevention of illness.
    - (iii) Maintenance, promotion, and restoration of health.
    - (iv) Psychological integrity of individuals across the life span.
    - (v) Clinical reasoning skills to assist in recognizing, analyzing, and applying relevant knowledge and skills to nursing care.
    - (vi) Clinical learning experiences to provide opportunities for students to develop cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills in the provision of nursing care.
  - (e) The curriculum content of a nursing education program shall include:
    - (i) Liberal arts and sciences supportive of the nursing program.
    - (ii) Anatomy and physiology with a corresponding lab. Utilizing a 'virtual lab' in lieu of a 'hands-on' lab is considered a substantive change and requires Board notification.
    - (iii) Nursing foundations, pharmacology, nutrition, and community-based nursing.
    - (iv) History and trends of nursing, cultural diversity, legal and ethical responsibilities, and nursing practice responsibilities including leadership, management, delegation, and health care delivery systems.
    - (v) Theory and clinical learning experiences in the areas of adult, maternal, child, and psychiatric/mental health nursing that includes any form of

simulation, laboratory time and direct patient care.

(vi) Safe and Effective Care Environment, Health Promotion and Maintenance, Psychosocial Integrity and Physiological Integrity.

(vii) Microbiology for students pursuing an associate or baccalaureate degree

(11) The governing institution, nursing program administrator, and nursing faculty are accountable for selecting and evaluating the teaching methods, delivery modalities, and processes used to achieve expected program outcomes.

(12) Clinical supervision of students shall comply with the standards set forth in this Chapter.

(a) Clinical activities shall be supervised by a registered nurse who is documented knowledgeable of educational strategies and subject matter, and is experienced in the clinical technologies essential to the safe practice of nursing

(b) The registered nurse shall hold an unencumbered license to practice professional nursing in Alabama.

(c) The clinical supervisor shall be readily accessible to assign or prescribe a course of action, give procedural guidance, direction and evaluation for students engaged in the clinical learning experience.

(d) The faculty-student ratio in clinical practice shall be collaboratively determined by the professional nursing faculty, the School of Nursing administration and the professional nurse administrator, or designee, in the clinical agency. In licensed hospitals that provide inpatient acute care, the faculty to student ratio shall not exceed 1:8 during clinical learning experiences. The faculty-student ratio shall be determined according to the:

(i) Complexity of the educational experience.

(ii) Acuity of the patient(s).

(iii) Physical layout of the clinical setting.

(iv) Student's level of knowledge and skills to provide safe patient care.

(e) The nursing education program shall work with clinical agencies for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of clinical experiences.

(f) Clinical learning experiences shall include the development of skills in clinical judgments, management of care for groups of patients, delegation to, and supervision of other health care personnel.

(g) Nursing faculty shall maintain responsibility and accountability for planning, implementation, and evaluation of all student clinical learning experiences.

(13) Nursing programs that offer only simulations or clinical testing do not meet the requirements for providing clinical learning experiences for nursing students.

**Author:** Alabama Board of Nursing

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

**History:** September 27, 1982. Amended May 6, 1985. Amended May 23, 1997.

**Repealed and Replaced:** Filed July 22, 2002. Effective August 26, 2002.

Amended effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed September 25, 2006.

Effective October 31, 2006. **Amended:** Filed March 12, 2007. Effective April 16, 2007. **Amended:** Filed September 21, 2007. Effective October 26, 2007.

**Amended:** Filed November 19, 2010. Effective December 24, 2010. **Amended:** Filed March 16, 2012. Effective April 20, 2012.