



**Commission for Nursing
Education Accreditation**



Joint Statement on National Nursing Education Accreditation and Academic Progression

National nursing education accrediting agencies are dedicated to fostering high quality nursing programs that prepare the nursing workforce to lead change and transform health care. The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), and the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA) acknowledge that nurses need access to seamless academic progression to meet evolving workforce demands and patient needs of the future. According to the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) report *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* (2010), more nurses prepared at the baccalaureate level are critical to ensure the workforce has the necessary competencies for community or population-based care, public health, systems-level change, health policy, evidence-based practice, research, leadership, and interprofessional collaborative practice. The report calls on nurses to "achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression" (IOM Report, Recommendation 4, p. 281).

The national nursing education accrediting agencies encourage nursing programs to pursue partnerships with institutions that establish educational pathways for seamless academic progression. The accrediting agencies collectively affirm a shared commitment to maintaining an open dialogue that will promote quality and innovation in academic progression models. Nursing programs pursuing such partnerships are encouraged to contact their respective accrediting agencies and regulatory bodies to learn more about substantive change notifications and other reporting requirements.

As important advancements in academic progression are undertaken by nursing programs across the country, nursing education accreditation continues to ensure that nursing programs prepare nurses to provide quality patient care.

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