

THE ARKANSAS NURSING EDUCATION PROGRESSION MODEL

PHILOSOPHY

The discipline of nursing is pluralistic and multifaceted. It has various entries and exits provided by numerous types and levels of educational programs. A common core of knowledge is shared by all of nursing education. Educational programs that recognize this common core better serve the individual nurse, as well as the public and the nursing profession. This recognition facilitates the educational mobility of students. “Educational mobility allows movement of the nurse from one type of licensure to another and from one type of program (LPN, LPTN, Diploma, ADN, BSN, MSN) to another with maximum ease and recognizes the value of prior nursing education” (Arkansas Nurse Educators’ White Paper, 1990, pg. 1).

Efficient and effective educational mobility of individuals is promoted by articulation agreements and progression models among institutions. The progression model facilitates educational mobility by one program’s courses being comparable with courses in another program that offers a higher level of education (Arkansas Nurse Educators’ White Paper, 1990, pg. 1). Educational mobility should be limited only by the nurse’s ability and personal choice. The following assumptions support an articulation model to facilitate nurses’ continued education within the State of Arkansas.

1. Reality mandates the necessity for educational mobility within the discipline of nursing.
2. The public and the nursing profession are best served by a statewide nursing education progression model characterized by admission of students with advanced standing.
3. Nurse educators are best qualified to design and implement nursing education progression models.
4. Each nursing educational program is unique within itself and its community.
5. Learning outcomes of educational programs verify achievement of the graduate regardless of entry characteristics of the student.
6. The discipline of nursing is ever changing; therefore, a nursing education progression model must be periodically evaluated.

NURSING EDUCATION PROGRESSION MODEL ELEMENTS

Nursing education programs participating in the Arkansas Nursing Education Progression Model agree to the following:

- Non-nursing credits from regionally accredited institutions of higher learning may be transferred, subject to individual college/university policies.
- Non-nursing credits from non-regionally accredited institutions of higher learning are not transferable.
- Nursing credits from previous nursing education program are held in escrow until graduation, at which time it is noted on the transcript as being accepted.
- Minimum number of nursing semester credit hours that will be awarded for previous nursing learning and the maximum number of nursing semester credit hours that will be required to be completed in the program will be adhered to as specified in Tables 1 & 2 below.
- Requirements for testing/non-testing and work experience will be adhered to as specified in Table 3 below.

Table 1: Nursing Credit Parameters for the Progressing LPN or LPTN

The LPN or LPTN articulating to:	Associate Degree in Nursing *	Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing	Diploma in Nursing
Will be awarded <u>at least</u> the following number of semester credit hours	6 semester hours in nursing	11 semester hours in nursing	25 semester hours in nursing
Will be required to complete <u>no more than</u> the following number of semester credit hours	40 semester hours in nursing	59 semester hours in nursing	60 semester hours in nursing

* LPN-to-RN Associate Degree Programs, which admit only LPNs and no unlicensed students, might not record the articulating credit on the student’s transcript and still meet this parameter.

Table 2: Nursing Credit Parameters for the Progressing RN who graduated from an associate degree or diploma program that was NLNAC or ACEN accredited; or, Arkansas State Board Approved at the time of graduation

The RN progressing to:	Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing*
Will be awarded <u>at least</u> the following number of semester credit hours in nursing by either transfer credit OR progression but not BOTH	33 semester hours in nursing
Will be required to complete <u>no more than</u> the following number of semester credit hours in nursing.	38 semester hours in nursing

* RN-to-Baccalaureate Degree Programs, which admit only RNs and no LPNs or unlicensed students, might not record the progression credit on the student’s transcript and still meet this parameter.

Table 3: Progression Testing and Work Experience Requirements

< 12 Months After Graduation	> 12 Months After Graduation
No testing for progression required – some programs may require math competency exam for articulation. No work experience required – except it may be required for accelerated tracks within programs.	No testing for progression required if during past 12 to 24 months have had at least 1000 hours of nursing employment. For progression to Associate Degree Programs this work experience must be in acute or long-term care settings. Individual schools may have special requirements for work experience settings. The individual school may require testing if work experience requirement not met.

Abbreviations: LPN – Licensed Practical Nurse; LPTN – Licensed Psychiatric Technical Nurse;
RN – Registered Nurse

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Your signature below indicates your support for and implementation of the Arkansas Nursing Education Progression Model for the indicated nursing program:

(Signature of Chief Nursing Education Officer, Dean, Director, Chair, Head)

(Name and address of nursing program/governing institution)

Please return your signed form to:
The Arkansas State Board of Nursing
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