BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Nursing

(Amendment)

201 KAR 20:360. Continuing approval and periodic evaluation of prelicensure registered nursing and licensed practical nursing programs.

RELATES TO: KRS 314.111

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 314.131(1)

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: This certifies that this administrative regulation complies with the requirements of KRS 13A.105(2)(a) because the amendments to this regulation will not have a major economic impact.

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 314.131(1) authorizes the Board of Nursing to promulgate administrative regulations to implement KRS Chapter 314. KRS 314.111 requires nursing programs to be approved by the board. This administrative regulation establishes evaluative standards to assure that the programs of nursing provide the necessary instruction and services to prepare graduates for licensure eligibility as registered nurses or as practical nurses.

Section 1. Program of Nursing Accredited by a National Nursing Accrediting Body.

(1)

(a)

1. A prelicensure registered nursing or licensed practical nursing program that is accredited by a national nursing accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education shall be deemed to be in compliance with the standards of 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360.

2. A national nursing accrediting body shall include:

a. The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN);

b. The Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA);

c. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); or

d. Any other national nursing accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

3. The accredited program shall comply with Sections 3 through 10 of this administrative regulation.

(b) The board shall retain jurisdiction over accredited programs and may conduct site visits or other investigations into any allegation that may constitute a violation of 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360. The board may also conduct site visits in accordance with Section 5 of this administrative regulation or when a national nursing accreditation board visits the program.

(2) A prelicensure program of nursing that is accredited by a national nursing accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education shall submit all correspondence and reports to and from the accrediting body to the board within thirty (30) days of submission or receipt.

Section 2. Programs of Nursing Not Accredited by a National Nursing Accrediting Body.

(1) A program of nursing that is not accredited by a national nursing accrediting body on the effective date of this administrative regulation shall:

(a) Obtain candidacy status with a national nursing accrediting body within three (3) years; and

(b) Obtain full accreditation within four (4) years of the effective date of this administrative regulation.

(2) A program of nursing that is not accredited by a national nursing accrediting body on the effective date of this administrative regulation shall submit a copy of all

correspondence and reports to and from the national nursing accrediting body within thirty (30) days of submission or receipt.

(3) A program of nursing that does not obtain or maintain accreditation from a national nursing accrediting body may have its approval withdrawn by the board pursuant to section 7 of this administrative regulation.

Section 3. Reports and Evaluation.

(1) A program of nursing shall submit the Annual Report of the Program of Nursing to the board regarding its compliance with 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360. It shall also submit the benchmarks set out in Section 5(2)(f) of this administrative regulation.

(2) The Annual Report shall be provided by the board and shall collect the following data from each program of nursing:

(a) Demographics of the program, including accreditation, location, curriculum, and support services;

(b) The program administrator, education, experience, and responsibilities;

(c) Faculty, including the number of faculty members, their education, experience, and training;

(d) Students, including the number of students enrolled, number of seats, and demographics;

(e) Evidence-based quality Indicators, in accordance with subsection (5) of this section;

(f) Benchmarks, in accordance with Section 4 of this administrative regulation.

(3) ~~[(2)]~~ To verify continued compliance with 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360, the program of nursing shall submit progress reports or periodic supplemental reports, completed questionnaires, surveys, and other related documents as requested by the board.

(4) ~~[(3)]~~ Pursuant to 201 KAR 20:260, Section 2(7)(a), the faculty shall engage in an evidence-based~~[evidence based]~~ planning and evaluation process that incorporates a systematic review of the program of nursing that results in continuing improvement. This process shall result in an evaluation report that is submitted to the board.

(5) ~~[(4)]~~ Data collection for the evaluation report shall be on-going and shall reflect aggregate analysis and trending.

(6) ~~[(5)]~~ The evaluation report shall include specific responsibilities for data collection methods, individuals or groups responsible, frequency of data collection, indicators of achievement, findings, and outcomes for evaluating the following aspects of the program:

(a) Organization and administration of the program of nursing;

(b) Curriculum;

(c) Resources, facilities, and services;

(d) Teaching and learning methods including distance education;

(e) Faculty evaluation;

(f) Student achievement of program outcomes;

(g) Graduation rates;

(h) Licensure examination pass rates;

(i) Employment rates of graduates; and

(j) Clinical resources, including laboratory and simulation.

(7) ~~[(6)]~~ If a program of nursing utilizes distance education for didactic instruction, it shall evaluate and assess the educational effectiveness of its distance education program to ensure that the distance education program is substantially comparable to a campus based program.

(8) ~~[(7)]~~ The evaluation report shall provide evidence that the outcomes of the evaluation process are used to improve the quality and strength of the program.

Section 4. Benchmarks. The board shall utilize the following benchmarks to evaluate a program of nursing. Except for the pass rate, the benchmarks shall be calculated annually from July 1 to June 30. The board shall calculate the pass rate for a program of nursing on an annual basis from January 1 to December 31 for all first time takers of the NCLEX.

(1) The pass rate for first time takers of the NCLEX who tested within twelve (12) months of the program completion date that have been verified as students who have successfully completed the applicable curriculum for licensure and the requirements for graduation in accordance with 201 KAR 20:070;~~[as reported on the Certified List of Kentucky Program of Nursing Graduates or the Certified List of Out-of-state Program of Nursing Graduates incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 20:070;]~~

(2) The faculty turnover rate. A faculty member whose employment ends on or before June 30 of any year shall be counted in that year's calculation;

(3) The program administrator turnover rate;

(4) The graduation rate;

(5) The faculty grievance rate; and

(6) The student grievance rate.

Section 5. Site Visits.

(1) The board may conduct site visits at any time.

(2) The following situations may be cause for a site visit to determine if the standards of 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360 are being met:

(a) Denial, withdrawal, or change of status by a national nursing accrediting agency;

(b) Providing false or misleading information to students or the public concerning the program;

(c) A written complaint received from faculty, students, or the general public relating to a violation of 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360;

(d) A change in physical facilities;

(e) Information received by the board that may indicate a violation of 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360;

(f) A change in any of the benchmarks listed in Section 4 of this administrative regulation as follows:

1. A pass rate as calculated by Section 4 of this administrative regulation that:
   a. Is less than an average of eighty (80) percent for three (3) consecutive years; or
   b. Varies above and below eighty (80) percent from year to year over the previous five (5) years;
2. A faculty turnover rate greater than thirty (30) percent for two (2) consecutive years;
3. A program administrator turnover rate of more than three (3) individuals in five (5) years;
4. A graduation rate of less than sixty (60) percent of the original admitted cohort of newly-enrolled students within the standard length of the program of nursing. The graduation rate shall be calculated by comparing the number of students who started in each graduating cohort within the reporting period to those who graduated on time from the cohort. The graduation rate calculation may exclude students who have left the program of nursing due to documented extenuating circumstances, such as hospitalization, long-term illness, family obligations, relocation, financial barriers, or decisions to change majors or transfer to another institution;
5. Twenty-five (25) percent or more of the total number of nursing faculty who file grievances or appeals that are substantiated; or
6. Substantiated student grievances and appeals of more than ten (10) percent of the student population enrolled in the nursing program each year; or

(g) Failure to submit reports as required by 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360.

(3) A program of nursing that fails to meet one (1) or more benchmarks for a year shall submit a report that examines the factors that contributed to the failure to meet and shall provide a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.

(4)

(a) The board shall annually compile information on how the programs of nursing met the benchmarks. This information shall be published on the board's Web site.

(b) A program of nursing shall post a link to the information compiled pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection on the program of nursing's Web site. The link shall be easy to locate on the program's home page.

Section 6. Action Following Site Visit.

(1)

(a) Following a site visit and prior to board consideration, a draft of the site visit report shall be made available to the program administrator for review and correction of factual data.

(b) The program administrator shall be available during the discussion of the report at the board committee to provide clarification.

(c) If the site visit results in a finding of non-compliance with 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360 by the program of nursing, a letter shall be sent to the program administrator regarding any requirements to be met.

(d) The board shall notify the program of nursing of the time frame within which it shall meet the requirements. The board shall verify that the requirements have been met.

(2)

(a) If the program of nursing is unable to meet the requirements in the time set by the board, it may request additional time. The board, in its discretion, may grant or deny this request based on the rationale for the request.

(b) If the board denies the request for additional time, it shall begin the process established in Section 7 of this administrative regulation.

Section 7. Withdrawal of Approval.

(1) If, in the opinion of the board, the standards established by 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360 are not being met, the board shall send notice to the program administrator of the affected program of nursing of its intent to withdraw approval. The notice shall be sent return receipt requested.

(2) When making this determination, the board shall consider the following factors:

(a) The number and severity of the deficiencies;

(b) The length of time in which the deficiencies have existed; and

(c) Any exigent circumstances.

(3) Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice, the program administrator of the affected program may request an administrative hearing pursuant to KRS Chapter 13B. If an administrative hearing is not requested, program approval shall be withdrawn and the program shall be closed. A closed program shall comply with subsection (5) of this section.

(4)

(a) If a program of nursing requests an administrative hearing, that hearing shall be held within sixty (60) days of the request.

(b) The hearing shall be held before a hearing officer or before the full board.

(5)

(a) A program of nursing whose approval has been withdrawn by the board shall be removed from the official approved status listing upon the effective date of the decision. Students currently enrolled in the last semester or quarter of the program may complete the program. If the student graduates, he or she may apply for licensure and

make take the licensure examination. Any other student shall not be allowed to apply for licensure or take the licensure examination, unless the student graduates from another approved program of nursing.

(b) The program of nursing that has been closed shall assist a currently enrolled student to transfer to an approved program of nursing.

Section 8. Voluntary Closure of a Program.

(1) A governing institution seeking to close a program of nursing shall submit written notification to the board at least six (6) months prior to the planned closing date.

(2) A governing institution may choose one (1) of the following procedures for closing a program of nursing as established in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection.

(a) The governing institution shall continue the program of nursing until the last class enrolled has graduated.

1. The program shall continue to meet the standards until all students enrolled in nursing courses have graduated or transferred.

2. The official closing of the program shall be the date on the degree, certificate, or diploma of the last graduate.

3. The governing institution shall notify the board in writing of the official closing date.

(b) The governing institution shall close the program following the transfer of students to other approved programs.

1. The program shall continue to meet the standards until all students have transferred.

2. The names of students who have transferred to approved programs and the date of the last student transfer shall be submitted to the board by the governing institution.

3. The date of the last student transfer shall be the official closing date of the program.

(3) Custody of records.

(a) The governing institution that continues to operate shall retain responsibility for the records of the students and graduates. The board shall be advised of the arrangement made to safeguard the records.

(b) The governing institution that ceases to exist shall transfer the academic transcript of each student and graduate to a third party vendor approved by the Council for Postsecondary Education for safekeeping.

Section 9. Change in Ownership or Organization of the Governing Institution.

(1) The governing institution shall notify the board in writing of any intent to transfer administrative authority or ownership. The new administrative authority or owner shall inform the board of its plans for immediate and future operation.

(2) The board shall conduct a site visit to ensure adherence by the program of nursing to 201 KAR 20:260 through 20:360.

(3) Following this site visit, approval of the program of nursing shall continue under the new ownership or administrative authority if the approval standards continue to be met.

~~[Section 10.] [Incorporation by Reference.]~~

~~[(1)] ["Annual Report of the Program of Nursing", 3/2024, Kentucky Board of Nursing, is incorporated by reference.]~~

~~[(2)] [This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Kentucky Board of Nursing, 312 Whittington Parkway, Suite 300, Louisville, Kentucky 40222, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This material is also available on the board's Web site at https://kbn.ky.gov/General/Pages/Document-Libary.aspx.]~~

AUDRIA DENKER, President

APPROVED BY AGENCY: October 22, 2026

FILED WITH LRC: November 4, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on January 26, 2027, at 10:00 AM at Kentucky Board of Nursing, 312 Whittington Parkway, Ste 300, Louisville, Kentucky 40222. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by January 19, 2027, five workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing was received by that date, the hearing may be cancelled. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through January 31, 2027. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person or submit a comment at: https://secure.kentucky.gov/formservices/Nursing/PendReg.

CONTACT PERSON: Jeffrey R. Prather, General Counsel Kentucky Board of Nursing 312 Whittington Parkway, Suite 300

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

Contact Person:Jeffrey R. Prather, Phone: (502) 338-2851, Email: Jeffrey.prather@ky.gov

Subject Headings:

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does:
It sets standards for continued approval of programs of nursing.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:
It is authorized by KRS 314.111.

(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:
By setting standards for programs of nursing.

(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:
By setting standards and providing regulatory framework for program evaluation.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:

(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation:
The amendments incorporate into the body of the regulation data that programs of nursing annually report to the board and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). The amendment removes the static form of the annual report currently included in the material incorporated by reference. Instead, the amendments update the regulation to state within the body of the regulation's text the classes of data to be collected, such as information about the program administrator and faculty, student body, quality indicators, and benchmarks. In addition, the regulation is being amended to conform with the proposed language of 201 KAR 20:070 to state the pass rate shall be from the students who have been verified as successfully completed the applicable curriculum for licensure and the requirements for graduation and remove the reference to certified lists.

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation:
The Board, in collaboration with NCSBN, collects Annual Report data each year. The survey is based on core data results of a large, mixed-methods study of nursing program quality indicators. The board collects descriptive results of the nursing programs, as well as the raw data of each program. Annually, NCSBN receives an aggregate report of all participating boards to compare their programs to the aggregate. The report is based upon national reporting standards and updated annually by NCSBN; therefore, a static form incorporated into the regulation becomes obsolete when the questions are updated and amended each year to track trends. The amendment to the regulation will provide more flexibility to draft the report to conform with the national standard but continue to cover the same general topics from year to year. The regulation is also being amended to conform with the new graduation verification process proposed in 201 KAR 20:070.

(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:
KRS 314.111 requires the Board to set standards and the annual report provides data regarding those standards to evaluate the program.

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:
By streamlining and standardizing reporting.

(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years?No.

(4) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation:
Programs of nursing in Kentucky, approximately 120.

(5) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (4) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (4) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment:
No new actions are required, the reporting requirements will remain the same.

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (4):
The program will be incompliance with KRS 314.111 and the administrative regulation.

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (4):
The program will be incompliance with KRS 314.111 and the administrative regulation.

(6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation:

(a) Initially:
None.

(b) On a continuing basis:
None.

(7) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation or this amendment:
Agency funds.

(8) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment:
No increase in fees or funding is required.

(9) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees:
No new fees are established directly or indirectly.

(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied?
Tiering is not applied.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(1) Identify each state statute, federal statute, or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation:
KRS 314.111 and KRS 314.131.

(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and if so, identify the act:
KRS 314.111 and KRS 314.131.

(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions:
Kentucky Board of Nursing.

(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:None.

For subsequent years:None.

2. Revenues:

For the first year:None.

For subsequent years:None.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:None.

For subsequent years:None.

(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts):
None.

(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:None.

For subsequent years:None.

2. Revenues:

For the first year:None.

For subsequent years:None.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:None.

For subsequent years:None.

(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a):
Programs of nursing.

(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:None.

For subsequent years:None.

2. Revenues:

For the first year:None.

For subsequent years:None.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:None.

For subsequent years:None.

(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a)

(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation:
There will not be a fiscal impact on the entities.

(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:
Not applicable.

(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a "major economic impact", as defined by KRS 13A.010(14):
There will not be a major economic impact.

(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:
Not applicable.