

ADVISORY OPINION

OPINION: Out-of-State Nursing Programs
ADOPTED: 8/13/2026
REVISED:
REAFFIRMED:

Nebraska Board of Nursing

This Nebraska Board of Nursing advisory opinion is issued in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216 (2). As such, this advisory opinion is for informational purposes only and is non-binding. The advisory opinions define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of nursing.

Approval of Out-of-State Nursing Education Programs

Nebraska Administrative Code, Title 172, Chapter 097, Section 019 Approval of New Prelicensure Education Programs outlines the approval of new prelicensure programs in registered or practical nursing. Program approval protects the public as determined by Board of Nursing standards to ensure graduates meet the educational and legal requirements for licensure. As distance learning continues to expand, guidance for out-of-state nursing programs seeking to offer a prelicensure nursing education program in Nebraska is outlined. Distance education is instruction offered by any means where the student and faculty are in separate physical locations (Lowery & Spector, 2014).

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) guidelines state that prelicensure distance programs must meet the same standards and approval criteria as campus-based programs; distance delivery does not exempt programs from regulatory requirements (NCSBN, 2015). The Nebraska Board of Nursing does not differentiate between where the program has legal domicile, referred to as the home state, or the state/jurisdiction outside the home state where students participate in supervised clinical experiences or didactic course work, referred to as the host state. A nursing program, located in another state/jurisdiction, that wishes to offer a prelicensure nursing education program, including those nursing programs that intend to offer distance education with clinical experiences in Nebraska, must obtain Nebraska Board of Nursing approval before admitting students as outlined in Nebraska Administrative Code, Title 172, Chapter 097, Section 019 Approval of New Prelicensure Education Programs.

Guidance:

The Board offers the following guidance related to out-of-state prelicensure nursing education programs.

Program Approval

Any prelicensure nursing education program providing education to students in Nebraska must contact the Nebraska Board of Nursing. Program approval is required. Approval of New Prelicensure Education Programs requirements and estimated timeline are outlined in Nebraska Administrative Code, Title 172, Chapter 097, Section 019 Approval of New Prelicensure Education Programs. The Nebraska Board of Nursing does not regulate post-licensure programs (online or other delivery methods).

The Nebraska Board of Nursing approves prelicensure nursing programs offered to Nebraska residents. Out-of-state prelicensure nursing education programs are required to obtain initial approval and submit periodic reports for full and continuing program approval. Reports may include but are not limited to evidence of successful completion of board survey from the program home state, submission of the program's ongoing systematic evaluation plan, clinical faculty roster, clinical facilities roster, preceptor roster, and/or student enrollment. Out-of-state prelicensure nursing education programs are evaluated concurrent with graduation of first class eligibility for National Council Licensure Examination and reevaluated every 4 to 5 years with a survey visit, or at the discretion of the Board, to ensure continuing compliance with regulations. Out-of-state prelicensure nursing programs may be required to submit evidence of an annual report from their home state and may need to provide additional information as part of the Nebraska Board of Nursing Annual Survey.

Faculty

The Nebraska Board of Nursing follows the recommendation set forth by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. Practice is where the student is located. Therefore, if the student is located in a state different from the home state of the nursing program, faculty require licensure in the state where the student is located. Just as nurses who work in clinical settings and care for patients in another state via telehealth, faculty who teach online students located in another state require additional nurse licensure. Faculty teaching APRN students require APRN licensure in Nebraska. Faculty qualifications for prelicensure nursing programs are outlined in Nebraska Administrative Code, Title 172, Chapter 097, Section 007 Faculty.

Preceptors

Nursing programs are responsible for working directly with clinical facilities to arrange preceptors for students. Preceptors require licensure in the state where the student is located. Preceptor qualifications for post-licensure programs are established by the nursing program. Preceptor guidelines and qualifications for prelicensure nursing programs are outlined in Nebraska Administrative Code, Title 172, Chapter 097, Section 008 Preceptors.

Definitions

Distance education

Instruction offered by any means where the student and faculty are in separate physical locations. Teaching methods may be synchronous or asynchronous and shall facilitate and evaluate learning in compliance with BON approval status/regulations (adapted from Commission on Regulation and Postsecondary Distance Education, 2013 as cited by Lowery & Spector, 2014)

Distance learning

A mode of delivering education and instruction to students who are not physically present in the same location.

Prelicensure nursing education program

An educational program approved by the Board which prepares the registered or practical nursing graduates to qualify for the license of registered nurse or licensed practical nurse upon passing the required licensing examination, and meeting other licensure requirements.

Home State

The state/jurisdiction where a nursing program has legal domicile (adapted from National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, 2014 as cited by Lowery & Spector, 2014).

Host State

The state/jurisdiction outside of the home state where students participate in supervised clinical experiences or didactic course work (adapted from National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, 2014 as cited by Lowery & Spector, 2014).

References

Lowery, B., & Spector, N. (2014) Regulatory implications and recommendations for distance education in prelicensure nursing programs. *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 5(3) 24-33. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2155-8256\(15\)30046-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2155-8256(15)30046-6)

National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2015, February). Nursing regulation recommendations for distance education in prelicensure nursing programs. https://www.ncsbn.org/public-files/15_DLC_White_Paper.pdf