

**WAC 246-840-510 Approval of initial (new) in-state nursing education programs.** (1) New nursing education programs must submit a commission approved application for approval to operate a new undergraduate, post-licensure, or graduate nursing education program in Washington state.

(2) Graduate programs changing from a master's degree in nursing to a doctoral of nursing practice degree must submit a substantive change request identified in WAC 246-840-554(3).

(3) The commission shall consider the need, size, type, and geographic location when approving a program.

**Phase I: Submission of application and feasibility study**

(4) A postsecondary educational institution wishing to establish a nursing education program or additional program in nursing shall submit an application and feasibility study as follows:

(a) Submit to the commission a statement of intent to establish a nursing education program or additional program on a form provided by the commission and a completed feasibility study that includes the following information:

(i) Studies documenting the current and future supply and demand needs for nurses in the area of the proposed nursing education program;

(ii) Purposes and classification of the proposed nursing education program;

(iii) Availability of qualified candidates for the nurse administrator and faculty positions;

(iv) Budgeted nurse administrator and faculty positions over the course of five years;

(v) Source and description of adequate and acceptable clinical or practice facilities for the nursing education program;

(vi) Description of adequate and acceptable academic facilities for the nursing education program;

(vii) Potential effect on other nursing programs within a sixty mile radius of the proposed nursing education program location;

(viii) Evidence of financial resources adequate and acceptable for the planning, implementation, and continuation of the nursing education program for the next five years;

(ix) Anticipated student population;

(x) Tentative time schedule for planning and initiating the nursing education program; and

(xi) Accreditation status of the parent institution.

(b) Respond to the commission's request(s) for additional information.

**Phase II: Nursing education program development**

(5) Only after receiving commission approval for nursing education program development, the educational institution shall:

(a) Appoint a qualified nurse administrator;

(b) Provide appropriate resources, consultants, and faculty to develop the proposed nursing education program; and

(c) At least three months prior to advertising and admitting students, submit the proposed program plan including the following:

(i) Program purpose and outcomes;

(ii) Organization and administration within the educational institution and within the nursing unit or department including the nurse administrator, faculty, and nursing support staff;

- (iii) Resources, facilities, and services for students and faculty;
  - (iv) Policies and procedures as identified in WAC 246-840-519 (3) (a) through (e);
  - (v) A plan for hiring and retaining faculty, including qualifications, responsibilities, organizational structure, and faculty/student ratio in classroom, clinical, and practice experiences;
  - (vi) Curriculum, including course descriptions, course outcomes, and course topical outlines;
  - (vii) Initial year and five-year sustaining budget;
  - (viii) Projected plans for the orderly expansion and ongoing evaluation of the program.
- (d) If required by the commission, arrange a site visit to the campus to clarify and augment materials included in the written proposed program plan. The visit may be conducted by a representative of the commission before a decision regarding approval is made.

**Phase III: Initial approval**

- (6) The nursing education program may only admit students if it has received initial approval by the commission.
- (a) The nursing education program shall submit progress reports as requested by the commission.
  - (b) Site visits shall be scheduled as deemed necessary by the commission during the period of initial approval. A site survey, conducted by the commission, will determine whether graduates may test for the national council licensing examination (NCLEX) as identified in WAC 246-840-050 or graduate certification exams as identified in WAC 246-840-302 (3) (a), (b), (c) and (d) for advanced registered nurse practice.

**Phase IV: Full approval**

- (7) A self-evaluation report of compliance with the standards for nursing education as identified in WAC 246-840-511 through 246-840-556, shall be submitted to the nursing commission within six months following graduation of the first class.
- (a) The commission may conduct a site visit to determine full approval of the nursing education program.
  - (b) The commission will review the self-evaluation report, survey reports and program outcome data in order to grant or deny full approval of the nursing education program under WAC 246-840-558(1).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.010, 18.79.110, 18.79.150, 18.79.190, and 18.79.240. WSR 16-17-082, § 246-840-510, filed 8/17/16, effective 9/17/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110 and 18.79.150. WSR 05-12-058, § 246-840-510, filed 5/26/05, effective 6/26/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.110. WSR 95-21-072, § 246-840-510, filed 10/16/95, effective 11/16/95.]