

Meeting of the  
 OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
 February 18, 2000

**AGENDA ITEM # 23-b:**

Articulation.

**SUBJECT:** ADN/BSN and LPN/ADN Articulation Agreements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the State Regents acknowledge revisions to the Associate Degreed Nurse (ADN)/Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Articulation Agreement and approve revisions to the Oklahoma Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)/ ADN Articulation Agreement.

**BACKGROUND:**

**ADN/BSN Articulation**

In response to the 1989 Senate Concurrent Resolution No.39 requesting an analysis of Oklahoma nursing manpower needs, the State Regents established the ADN/BSN Taskforce on Articulation with a charge to make recommendations regarding the improvement of the articulation of nursing programs. At the August 16, 1991 meeting, the State Regents endorsed the ADN/BSN Articulation Agreement.

The Chair of the Oklahoma Council of Deans and Directors of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Nursing Programs requests support for the recent revisions to the Oklahoma Articulation Model, detailed below in the "revised" column.

Current	Revised
1. All baccalaureate nursing programs will accept the same courses as prerequisites for admission.  2. ADN students will receive credit for approximately one-half of the nursing requirements for the BSN program under the following conditions: a) student is a graduate of an ADN program accredited by the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC); b) student graduated from program within the previous five years;	1. All baccalaureate nursing programs will accept the same courses as prerequisites for admission.  2. ADN students will receive credit for approximately one-half of the nursing requirements for the BSN program under the following conditions: a) student is a graduate of an ADN program accredited by <del>the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC)</del> <u>a United States Department of Education recognized accrediting agency</u> ; b) <del>student graduated from program within the previous five years;</del>

<p>c) student passed the NCLEX examination for registered nurses;</p> <p>d) student completed one year of satisfactory work experience in a clinical setting;</p> <p>e) student completed an ADN program with a 2.5 GPA on a 4-point scale; and</p> <p>f) student completed satisfactorily all prerequisites to the nursing program.</p> <p>3. Baccalaureate institutions should identify the major providers of ADN students and work cooperatively with faculty to facilitate articulation.</p>	<p>c) student passed the NCLEX examination for registered nurses, <u>is in good standing, and is practicing as a Registered Nurse;</u></p> <p>d) <del>student completed one year of satisfactory work experience in a clinical setting;</del></p> <p>e) <del>student completed an ADN program with a 2.5 GPA on a 4-point scale; and</del></p> <p>f) student completed satisfactorily all prerequisites to the nursing program <u>and meets other program admission requirements.</u></p> <p>3. Baccalaureate institutions should identify the major providers of ADN students and work cooperatively with faculty to facilitate articulation.</p>
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The Oklahoma Council of Deans and Directors of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Nursing Programs requests State Regents' acknowledgement of the revised conditions. State Regents' approval is not required, because it is consistent with the State Regents' Transfer Policy.

**LPN/ADN Articulation**

The State Regents' "Standards of Education Relating to Credit for Extracurricular Learning" (II-2-76) allows students to receive credit for academic learning that has occurred outside the formal college classroom setting via demonstration of learning by standardized tests approved for such purposes, institutional examinations meeting specified criteria, learning recognized by the American Council on Education, and military occupational specialties. At the August 14, 1992 meeting, the State Regents approved the Oklahoma LPN/ADN Articulation Agreement as an exception to the Advanced Standing Policy. This action constituted an exception to policy in that students' knowledge would not be validated on a course-by-course basis.

Current	Proposed
<p>The LPN/ADN Articulation Agreement allows institutions to award up to 15 credit hours toward the Associate in Applied Science in Nursing for vocational-technical LPN courses if the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• student graduated from the LPN program within the past five years;</li> <li>• student is currently licensed as an LPN in the state of Oklahoma;</li> <li>• student graduated from an Oklahoma Practical Nursing School accredited by the NLNAC; and</li> </ul>	<p>The proposed requirements allow institutions to award up to half of the total nursing hours, which represents an increase from 15 to a maximum of 22 credit hours, toward the Associate in Applied Science in Nursing for vocational-technical LPN courses if the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>student graduated from the LPN program within the past five years;</del></li> <li>• <del>student is currently licensed as an LPN in the state of Oklahoma</del> <u>holds a valid LPN license in good standing and practices as an LPN;</u></li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the number of credit hours (up to one semester) will be determined by the individual institution.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• student <del>graduated from an Oklahoma Practical Nursing School</del> <u>must be a graduate of a program which is accredited by the NLNAC;</u></li><li>• the number of credit hours (<del>up to one semester</del>) <u>(up to half of the total nursing hours)</u> will be determined by the institution.</li><li>• <u>student must meet individual program admission requirements; and</u></li><li>• <u>student demonstrates knowledge via (a) nursing practice experience or (b) a refresher course or equivalent.</u></li></ul>
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The Oklahoma Associate Degree Nursing Directors' Council requests approval of the proposed revisions.

#### LPN/BSN Articulation

The LPN/BSN Articulation Committee has been meeting for the past year to develop a statewide articulation plan involving all three levels of nursing: LPN, ADN, and BSN. The committee members are LPN and ADN directors and BSN deans.

#### **POLICY ISSUES:**

Acknowledgement of the revisions to the 1991 ADN/BSN Articulation Agreement is consistent with the State Regents' actions regarding nursing articulation. Approval of the revisions to the 1992 LPN/ADN Articulation Agreement is consistent with the State Regents' original approval of the agreement as an exception to the "Standards of Education Relating to Credit for Extracurricular Learning" (II-2-76). Approval constitutes an exception to policy in that student learning would not be validated on a course-by-course basis.

#### **ANALYSIS:**

#### ADN/BSN Articulation

This voluntary articulation agreement between State System BSN and ADN nursing directors and deans allows ADN transfer students to forgo upper-division nursing courses that duplicate completed lower-division courses.

Since the 1991 agreement, institutions have awarded credit toward the BSN for lower-division coursework in accordance with the Extracurricular Learning Policy. In response to a need to provide BSN upper-division education to ADN trained registered nurses in Oklahoma who did not meet the requirements of the initial agreement, the BSN nursing directors reviewed the 1991 agreement and decided to delete the requirements that the

student must have graduated within the last five years, completed one year of satisfactory work experience in a clinical setting, and graduated with a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Additionally, the requirement that the student must be a graduate of an NLNAC accredited program is modified to read "graduate of an ADN program accredited by a United States Department of Education recognized accrediting agency." This change was requested in anticipation the USDE would recognize another accrediting agency for nursing (the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education). The experience gained in the past nine years through the use of the 1991 articulation agreement indicated that some of the original criteria were not necessary, and that these barriers to participation could be removed. These changes will allow ADN graduates of programs accredited by an USDE-recognized agency who graduated more than five years ago, have not worked for a year satisfactorily in a clinical setting, and earned less than a 2.5 GPA to be eligible for admission to a BSN program via the articulation agreement. It is expected that these changes will increase the number of nurses in BSN programs and ease the nursing shortage.

#### LPN/ADN Articulation

Proposed revisions to this articulation agreement will allow students from other states to qualify; increase the number of possible credits to half of the total nursing credits or up to a maximum of 22 credit hours; eliminate the "graduate-within-five-years" limitation; and specify when validation is not required. Graduates of NLNAC-accredited programs must demonstrate knowledge in one of two ways: 1) via nursing practice experience; or 2) via a "refresher" course or its equivalent. Graduates are not required to validate knowledge on a course-by-course basis as required by the State Regents' Extracurricular Learning Policy.

The current articulation agreement represents the first phase of the original two-phase project. As originally conceived, the first phase would be a pilot project that would provide the opportunity for LPN nurses to obtain up to 15 hours of credit for their previous training and experience if they meet the stated criteria. The second phase would increase the total number of hours to be awarded to half of the nursing hours or a maximum of 22 credit hours. The expansion of the agreement to include LPN's from other states and LPN's who have graduated more than five years ago will increase the number of nurses admitted to ADN programs and will ease the nursing shortage.

It is recommended that the State Regents acknowledge the revisions to the ADN/BSN Articulation Agreement and approve the revisions to the LPN/ADN Articulation Agreement.

#### LPN/BSN Articulation

The LPN/BSN Articulation Committee, which consists of LPN and ADN directors and BSN deans, developed a statewide articulation plan involving all three levels of nursing. The Committee was awarded the \$100,000 Helene Fuld Grant for Nursing Mobility. The director and staff for the grant program will be housed at Oklahoma City University. The grant will further the work of this committee to build a model for nursing articulation in the state. Specifically, the LPN/BSN Committee will develop and implement a statewide

articulation plan, incorporating all levels of nursing. The Committee will:

- identify nursing competencies and learning objectives common to each level;
- develop a curricular grid and outline nursing concepts and content at each level;
- identify the competencies to be articulated;
- explore mechanisms to award credit for identified competencies;
- develop a statewide articulation model based on the curricular grid;
- disseminate the articulation model statewide; and
- develop a plan of implementation for the model.

RECOMMEND:

*Marilee Nagle Cindy R...*

CONCUR:

*[Signature]*