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ARCHIVES DIVISION
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 851
BOARD OF NURSING

FILED
02/23/2026 9:57 AM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Division 21 - Allow APRN Education programs to award graduate degree or post-graduate certificate.

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 03/21/2026 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

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Filed By:
Brandy Ritter
Rules Coordinator

HEARING(S)

Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 03/18/2026

TIME: 1:00 PM

OFFICER: Brandy Ritter

REMOTE HEARING DETAILS

MEETING URL: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

PHONE NUMBER: 253-205-0468

CONFERENCE ID: 81602909269

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Meeting URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81602909269>

Meeting ID: 816 0290 9269

Dial in by phone: +12532050468,,81602909269#

Presenters: Only those registered to provide testimony will be called to present comments.

To register to testify for this hearing, please contact: brandy.ritter@osbn.oregon.gov at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing and provide name, address, and affiliation (This is required per OAR 137-001-0030).

Presenters may also register at the beginning of the hearing but are encouraged to pre-register to reserve time during the hearing for the presentation of testimony.

Each presenter will have 3 minutes to testify. Be prepared to summarize your comments to fit within the allotted time.

The hearing will close no later than 2:00 PM and may close earlier if all individuals that have registered to testify have had the opportunity to enter their comments into the record.

Submit Written Comments: Via email: brandy.ritter@osbn.oregon.gov.

All written comments and materials must be received by the close of the comment period on March 21, 2026 at 5:00 PM. Late comments will not be reviewed or considered.

For accommodations or questions, please contact the OSBN Rule Coordinator at least 72 hours prior to the hearing.

NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

Increase flexibility will allow advanced practice registered nurse education programs to offer more educational pathways. Availability of education pathways can promote APRN workforce in Oregon.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

OAR 851-021: <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=3925>

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

There is no anticipated impact on racial equity.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

There is no anticipated fiscal or economic impact associated with this rule amendment.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

There is no anticipated cost to compliance for a, b or c.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

N/A

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

No. No substantive change to content; change only impacts APRN programs if they wish to offer a different degree or certificate.

AMEND: 851-021-0050

RULE SUMMARY: Establishes curriculum requirements for nursing education programs. Amendment would allow advanced practice registered nursing education programs to award any level of graduate degree or post-graduate certificate.

CHANGES TO RULE:

851-021-0050

Curriculum ¶¶

- (1) The mission, goals, and expected program outcomes must be consistent with relevant professional nursing standards and guidelines for the preparation of nursing professionals.¶¶
- (2) Curriculum must: ¶¶
 - (a) Prepare the student to achieve the nursing competencies necessary at the level of licensure for safe practice based on current standards of care;¶¶
 - (b) Reflect the identified mission, goals, and learning outcomes of the nursing education program;¶¶
 - (c) Identify learning outcomes at the course and program level that show alignment and progression throughout the program; ¶¶
 - (d) Include learning activities that support student achievement of identified outcomes; ¶¶
 - (e) Include a clinical component sufficient to allow the student to form necessary links of theoretical knowledge, clinical reasoning, and demonstrate safe nursing practice; and ¶¶
 - (f) Include within PN and RN programs:¶¶
 - (A) The one-hour pain management education program described in ORS 413.572 or an equivalent pain management education program; and¶¶
 - (B) A minimum of two hours of education related to cultural competency.¶¶
- (3) The clinical component can occur in any setting where students may impact a health outcome. Over the course of the program, clinical must:¶¶
 - (a) Occur in a variety of settings;¶¶
 - (b) Be sufficient in experience to allow for students to meet course and program outcomes;¶¶
 - (c) Integrate client safety principles; ¶¶
 - (d) Include the implementation of evidence-based practices; ¶¶
 - (e) Focus on the provision of client-centered, culturally competent care; ¶¶
 - (f) Include collaboration and communication with professional teams; and¶¶
 - (g) Promote clinical judgment. ¶¶
- (4) Programs may use simulation as part of the clinical component. When utilized, the nursing program must: ¶¶
 - (a) Ensure simulation learning has adequate fiscal, human, technologic, and physical space resources to support the learning environment; ¶¶
 - (b) Follow national simulation standards; ¶¶
 - (c) Designate a simulation coordinator who is academically and experientially qualified. This individual must demonstrate continued expertise and competence in the use of simulation while managing the program; ¶¶
 - (d) Have a written plan for orienting faculty to simulation; ¶¶
 - (e) Ensure faculty involved in simulations have initial training in the use of simulation. Initial simulation training must include: ¶¶
 - (A) Introduction to simulation-based learning experiences; ¶¶
 - (B) Foundations of scenario design and curriculum integration; ¶¶
 - (C) Introduction to pre-brief and debrief; ¶¶
 - (D) Debriefing for clinical judgment; and ¶¶
 - (E) Introduction to assessment and evaluation of simulation-based education.¶¶
 - (f) Have written procedures for the method of debriefing each simulated activity; ¶¶
 - (g) Provide a mechanism for students to evaluate the simulation experience on an ongoing basis; and ¶¶
 - (h) Ensure that no more than 50% of traditional clinical hours across the program are replaced with simulation. ¶¶
- (5) Practical Nurse Programs:¶¶
 - (a) PN program curricula must meet all educational institution requirements for, and culminate in the award of, a certificate or diploma. ¶¶
 - (b) Must deliver curriculum consistent with the practice of practical nursing as described in OAR 851-045-0050 in a supervised practice that occurs at the direction and under the supervision of the RN or healthcare provider with the authority to make changes to the plan of care. ¶¶
 - (c) The PN program curricula must include content related to the following concepts: ¶¶
 - (A) Creating and maintaining a safe environment of care;¶¶
 - (B) Demonstrating professional, legal, and ethical behavior in nursing practice;¶¶
 - (C) Collecting data and performing focused nursing assessments of the health status of a client;¶¶
 - (D) Participating in the planning of the nursing care needs of a client;¶¶
 - (E) Participating in the development and modification of the nursing care plan;¶¶
 - (F) Providing safe, evidence-based, clinically competent, culturally sensitive, and client-centered care for the promotion, restoration and maintenance of wellness in a variety of care settings or for palliation across the lifespan;¶¶
 - (G) Functioning as a member of the interdisciplinary healthcare team;¶¶

- (H) Using technology to facilitate communication, manage information, and document care;¶
- (I) Providing cost-effective nursing care and participating in quality improvement strategies;¶
- (J) Participating in health teaching and counseling to promote, attain, and maintain the optimum health level of a client; ¶
- (K) Assisting in the evaluation of a client's response to nursing interventions and the identification of that client's needs; and¶
- (L) Assigning and providing oversight to assistive personnel and other PNs. ¶
- (6) Registered Nurse Programs:¶
- (a) RN program curricula must meet all institutional requirements for, and culminate in the award of, an associate, baccalaureate, or masters degree.¶
- (b) Must deliver curriculum consistent with the practice of registered nursing as described in OAR 851-045-0060.¶
- (c) RN programs that wish to offer a practice nursing exit-option must follow the process outlined in OAR 851-021-0025(4). ¶
- (d) The RN program curricula must include content related to the following concepts: ¶
- (A) Creating and maintaining safe and effective environment of nursing care; ¶
- (B) Demonstrating professional, legal and ethical behavior in nursing practice;¶
- (C) Using clinical judgment in nursing practice to assess the health status of clients to identify health care problems;¶
- (D) Prescribing nursing interventions and assessing responses to those interventions in order to direct, manage, delegate, and supervise nursing care for clients;¶
- (E) Establishing outcomes to meet identified health care needs and providing safe, clinically competent, culturally sensitive, client-centered and evidence-based care to promote, restore and maintain wellness in a variety of care settings or for palliation across the lifespan;¶
- (F) Providing culturally sensitive and evidence-based teaching, counseling, and advocacy for clients;¶
- (G) Participating within and providing leadership for an interdisciplinary team; ¶
- (H) Assigning and supervising other members of the healthcare team; ¶
- (I) Applying leadership skills to identify the need for and to promote change;¶
- (J) Using communication and information technology effectively and appropriately to collaborate with other health professionals in the management of health care;¶
- (K) Applying and integrating principles of community health and community-based care into practice;¶
- (L) Integrating concepts of resource utilization, quality improvement and systems to enhance care delivery; and¶
- (M) Delegating nursing interventions that may be performed by others as defined in OAR Chapter 851 Division 6. ¶
- (e) Baccalaureate and entry level masters programs must also include outcomes related to:¶
- (A) Applying epidemiological, social, and environmental data and principles to identify and implement health promotion goals and strategies for communities and populations;¶
- (B) Leading and effecting change through participation in teams and beginning application of management knowledge;¶
- (C) Identifying and implementing measures to improve access to healthcare for individuals and underserved groups;¶
- (D) Using the principles and practice of research to validate and improve nursing care for clients; and¶
- (E) Using teaching-learning principles to develop outcomes and provide formative and summative feedback to others. ¶
- (7) Advanced Practice Nurse Programs:¶
- (a) APRN program curricula must meet all educational institution requirements for, and culminate in the award of, a ~~doctoral degree~~ graduate degree or post-graduate certificate.¶
- (b) Must prepare students for the role of CRNA, CNS, or NP inclusive of the role of certified nurse midwife (CNM). ¶
- (c) Must deliver curriculum consistent with the advanced practice nursing role and population foci as described in OAR Chapter 851 Division 55.¶
- (d) The APRN program curricula must include content related to the following:¶
- (A) Advanced health assessment which includes assessment of all human systems, advanced assessment techniques, concepts and approaches across the lifespan;¶
- (B) Advanced physiology and pathophysiology, including general principles that apply across the lifespan;¶
- (C) Advanced pharmacology, which includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents; ¶
- (D) Health promotion, health maintenance, differential diagnosis and management of diseases across all practice settings appropriate to program focus; and¶

(E) Basic understanding of the principles of independent decision making in the identified role.
Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 678.150, ORS 678.340, ORS 678.360
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 678.150, ORS 678.360