



NPA Change Advisory: Updates to Divisions 21 and 51

Summary

During the June meeting, the Board adopted changes to Divisions 21 and 51 of the Nurse Practice Acts, the most significant of which is **the migration of Division 51 rules into 21 and the repeal of 51 altogether**. The Rule Advisory Committee discussed the proposed changes to Divisions 21 and 51 on July 30, 2024, August 20, 2024, October 10, 2024, and February 5, 2025. The RAC was advised that proposed updates to Division 21 would be timed with the repeal of rules in Division 51. These revisions ensure that nursing education programs requirements are no longer divided based on level of program, and programs have one unified set of standards for approval.

Impact

External: Changes impact nursing education programs at the PN, RN, and APRN level.

Details

Division 21		
Rule Number	Current Rule	Revision Outcomes
	Division Title: Standards for Approval of Education Programs in Nursing Preparing Candidates for Licensure as Practical or Registered Nurses	Renamed to <i>Standards for Approval of Nursing Education Programs</i>
021-0000 (Amend)	Title: Purpose of Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Revisions in this rule simplify or clarify existing language.The listed items have been updated to align with the changes that follow in Division 21.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Process for ApprovalNew accreditation requirementsStandards for programsRemoved items about rules on re-entry programs, and standards for approval of out of state programs
021-0010 (Amend)	Title: Approval of New Nursing Education Programs	Title: Renamed to <i>Establishment and Approval of New Nursing Education Programs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Simplified the 5-step process to a 3-step process, as recommended by NCSBN model rules:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Step 1 (Letter of intent, notification to others) removed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steps 2 and 3 (Preliminary and Development applications) combined ○ Step 4 and 5 (Initial and Full approval) remain with language clarified and simplified. • Revising this process removes barriers for establishing a new nursing education program. • Incorporated APRN requirements relocated from 851-051-0030 that is being repealed.
021-0012 NEW (Adopt)	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title: Accreditation Requirements of Nursing Education Programs • Establishes the requirement of national nursing accreditation, timelines, and required documentation from nursing programs. • Accreditation is awarded to programs that demonstrate commitment to quality; quality in education is essential to produce safe nurses. This requirement serves our mission of public protection. • APRN program process and expectations relocated to 021-0012 from OAR 851-051-0040 that is being repealed.
021-0015 (Amend)	Title: Periodic Evaluation of Nursing Education Programs	Title: Renamed to Continuing Board Approval of Nursing Education Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed references to agency staff authorizing a survey without discussion with Board. • Simplified process of surveying nursing programs; allow programs to submit accreditation self-study reports without need for OSBN specific reports. • Better align continuing approval to accreditation timelines. • Clarified why the Board can authorize a survey, timeline, and expectations. • Overall reorganization of this rule to focus on routine procedures first (positive reframing; focus on continuing approval first, before items that can trigger a survey).

021-0018 (Repeal)	Title: NCLEX® Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules relating to NCLEX pass rates were moved to 021-0070 Outcomes and Evaluation. As this data relates to outcomes and evaluation of the program, this simplifies our rules.
021-0020 (Repeal)	Title: Denial or Withdrawal of Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content moved to OAR 851-021-0015 <i>Continuing Board Approval of Nursing Education Programs</i>. By relocating this information to 021-0015 we have simplified our rules, having all information related to the outcome of a survey and approval decision in one rule.
021-0025 (Amend)	Title: Reports and Approvals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reorganized this rule to focus on routine procedures first (positive reframing). Clarifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what information needs reported to the Board. existing language about major curricular changes needing Board approval. Allows programs to submit the same documents they submit to their accrediting agency for these changes. approval process for RN programs with a PN option. Removed the requirement that the Board approve the nurse administrator; empower institutions and programs. (The nurse administrator must continue to meet our qualifications established in 021-0045(3)). Reduced or removed barriers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removes the requirements of notification and approval when admitting +/- 8 students. shortens the timeline requirements for documentation. easier for approved programs to add an extended campus Updated language to ensure nursing programs can continue to see approval for innovative approaches that may significantly alter the approved program. Relocated and simplified rules from -021-0045 related to nurse faculty and administrator exceptions.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APRN program process and expectations relocated to 021-0025 from OAR 851-051-0050 that was repealed.
021-0030 (Repeal)	Title: Consultative Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeal of rule removed reference to Board representative offering consultation services to programs regarding Division 21.
021-0035 (Amend)	Title: Closing of an Approved Nursing Education Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplified and clarified expectations around closing a program. Aligned with standards as prescribed by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for the closing of education institutions.
021-0040 (Amend)	Title: Standards for Approval: Organization and Administration	<p>Title: Renamed to <i>Nursing Education Program Organization and Administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified the responsibilities of the nurse administrator Removed requirement of Board approval of the nurse administrator and any interim administrators; empowers programs and institutions (The nurse administrator must continue to meet our qualifications established in 021-0045(3)) Relocated information from 021-0060 about student record retention and clarified documents and timelines. APRN nurse administrator and faculty roles, expectations, qualifications from OAR 851-051-0020 that is being repealed, are incorporated into 021-0040 and 021-0045.
021-0045 (Amend)	Title: Standards for Approval: Nursing Faculty	<p>Title: Renamed to <i>Nursing Faculty</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated that a nurse faculty member must evaluate a students. Removed barriers to <u>all</u> program appointments; “academically and experientially qualified” vs specific years’ experience. Empowers programs in their hiring decisions. Clarified language surrounding degree requirements for nursing faculty Removed and reduced barriers around nurse administrator qualifications (5 years

		<p>of experience → 2 years; no requirement of doctorate for BSN programs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed and reduced barriers around nurse faculty qualifications • Empower programs to appoint non-nurse faculty, as appropriate within our rules and without Board approval • Incorporated standards from 051-0020 for APRN programs • Clarified expectations for faculty professional development and support • Updated and clarified guidance on faculty-to-student ratios. Empower nursing programs to develop policies related to their specific program and planned clinical experiences. • Provides flexibility for programs to utilize a higher ratio when the clinical partnership allows for agency staff to supervise students. • Removes requirement of faculty presence for all placements except for community-based; allows programs to make determinations based on placement and student supervision needs, regardless of setting. Greatly increases flexibility for nursing programs. • Increased flexibility in ratios when the student is in a 1:1 precepted experience
021-0050 (Amend)	Title: Standards for Approval: Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title: Renamed to <i>Curriculum</i> • Clarified and simplified language throughout • Updated terminology; nursing practice experience → clinical component • Reiterated that clinical may occur in any setting where students impact a health outcome, promoting community-based clinical and providing programs more flexibility in determining placements • Removed requirement of 1:1 final practicum experience; retain the option for nursing programs

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified information in simulation rules; removed redundancies with other areas of Division 21 • Clarified that no more than 50% of traditional hours may be replaced with simulation. • Updated language for PN, RN, and APRN programs to align with Divisions 45 and 55. • Incorporated APRN curricular standards from 051-0020.
021-0051 (Adopt)	Title: Exception Requests for Clinical Experiences due to Unforeseen Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporated this temporary rule into the permanent draft Division 21 language • Provides flexibility for nursing programs to obtain approval for alternative learning experiences, when clinical placements are suddenly lost.
021-0055 (Amend)	Title: Standards for Approval: Students	<p>Title: Renamed to <i>Program Responsibilities to Students</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified standards for what information must be provided to student applicants before admission • Clarified standards for students while in the program • Clarified the expectations of articulation agreements • Removed language on Board limits on eligibility; references to Division 31.
021-0065 (Repeal)	Title: Standards for Approval: Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pertinent rules relocated and simplified in 021-0040.
021-0065 (Amend)	Title: Standards for Approval: Facilities and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title: Renamed to <i>Facilities and Resources</i> • Simplify and clarify language • Relocated information on clinical preceptors to 021-0045.
021-0070 (Amend)	Title: Standards for Approval: Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title: Renamed to <i>Outcomes and Evaluation</i> • Simplified expectations around the program systematic evaluation plan • Established NCLEX standards apply to programs in the process of obtaining accreditation.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided nursing programs flexible pathways to meet NCLEX standards, aligning expectations with accrediting agencies.
021-0080 (Repeal)	Title: Standards for Re-Entry Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeal of rules providing oversight of re-entry programs.
021-0090 (Amend)	Title: Standards for Out-of-State Programs Seeking Nursing Practice Experiences in Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title: Renamed to <i>Standards for Out-of-State Prelicensure Programs Offering Educational Experiences in Oregon</i> • Clarified and simplified the process for out-of-state programs • Removed barriers for Oregon students attending distance education programs outside Oregon that are completing clinicals in Oregon.

Division 51 (REPEALED)		
	Current	Draft Outcomes
051-0020 (Repeal)	Title: Oregon-based Educational Programs Requirements for Board Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum standards relocated to 021-0050. • Nurse administrator and faculty roles, expectations, qualifications relocated to 021-0040 and 021-0045. • Clinical preceptor information moved to 021-0045.
051-0030 (Repeal)	Title: Approval of a New Oregon Based APRN Education Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for APRN programs incorporated into 021-0010.
051-0040 (Repeal)	Title: Continuing Accreditation Requirements and Board Notification Processes for Oregon-based APRN Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process and expectations for APRN programs incorporated into 021-0012.
051-0050 (Repeal)	Title: Approval Periods, Reports, and Special Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process and expectations for APRN programs incorporated into 021-0025.