



# Change Advisory: NPA Updates to Division 21

## Summary

On May 1, 2026, amended Chapter 851 Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Division 21 Standards for Approval of Nursing Education Program go into effect. These amendments increase flexibility for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) education programs by allowing more options for the degree or certificate awarded. The changes also align Oregon’s education program standards with APRN licensing requirements, expand access for individuals seeking master’s and post-master’s pathways, and bring Oregon’s regulatory standards for APRN programs into closer alignment with those of other states.

This Change Advisory is for informational purposes only. Readers are encouraged to access OAR 851-021 directly at [www.oregon.gov/osbn/Pages/laws-rules](http://www.oregon.gov/osbn/Pages/laws-rules).

## Details

Division 21		
Rule Number	Old Rule Language	New Rule Language
<b>021-0050(7)(a)</b> (Amend)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APRN program curricula must meet all educational institution requirements for, and culminate in the award of, a <u>doctoral degree</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APRN program curricula must meet all educational institution requirements for, and culminate in the award of, a <u>graduate degree or post-graduate certificate</u></li> </ul>