



## **NMNEC Degree Residency Waiver Statement – 5.1.19**

### **Background/Goals:**

The New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) was formed in 2009 with the primary goals to:

1. Increase number of nurses with BSN and graduate degrees in New Mexico
2. Improve efficiency, quality, and educational outcomes of nursing education through cooperation among community colleges and universities
3. Increase workforce diversity by improving nursing education for minorities, particularly in rural areas

### **Statewide Mission:**

The mission of the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium is to prepare nurses for entry and educational advancement through developing and sustaining a resource-efficient and unified system of accessible, innovative, and state-of-the-art nursing education.

### **Common Statewide Pre-Licensure Nursing Curriculum**

In implementing the country's first true, shared statewide curriculum, NMNEC has allowed students to transfer seamlessly between NMNEC schools. As the curriculum and associated policies were built, the impetus was that transfer between institutions would occur without loss of program credits. Further, the minor variances between prerequisite requirements for entry have been addressed so that students who took, for example, a four-credit pathophysiology course with eight credits of anatomy and physiology (with labs) would be accepted into another school's nursing courses by waiving a second three-credit pathophysiology 2 course rather than requiring them to delay progression in core nursing courses.

### **Waive Degree Residency**

Since inception, another barrier to graduation has been identified for transferring students: degree residency, particularly at the community college (CC). NMNEC is respectfully recommending that CC partners be empowered to waive degree residency, up to five (5) credits, for students transferring into the last semester of the nursing program. This would facilitate students in good standing (see definition below) transferring to a new CC without delaying graduation by a semester or taking additional coursework on top of the required nursing coursework. Both of these factors diminish program outcomes and delay student success.

NMNEC believes that waiving residency for students in good standing is in alignment with improving nursing education opportunities for minorities and other at-risk student populations by keeping program costs low and minimizing the amount of time and resources spent on attaining degree completion. Further, waiving degree residency is in alignment with the mission statement to keep nursing education resource-efficient and unified. This will also decrease the number of unused and/or unnecessary courses for our transferring students. These situations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the institution accepting the transfer.

NMNEC Leadership Council