

NMNEC Update

Building Multiple Pathways for Nursing Education

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The New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) is a collaborative of every state-funded nursing program across the state with a common pre-licensure core nursing curriculum that supports multiple pathways into nursing. The statewide common pre-licensure curriculum is currently offered in fifteen different locations/programs. Thirteen of these offer the BSN and nine offer the ADN. In addition, the consortium is building seamless pathways for licensed LPNs and NMNEC ADN-prepared RNs to continue their education.

The consortium recently developed the "NMNEC LPN Mobility Admission Policy," providing credit-for-prior-learning for licensed LPNs wishing to continue their education to earn an ADN. LPNs may apply to any of the nine NMNEC ADN programs and enter at Level 2 (the second semester of the program) once they meet the Candidate Criteria. This criterion consists of pre-requisite courses, a mobility exam, skills demonstration, and successful completion of the online module "NMNEC Introduction to Nursing Concepts Credit-for-Prior-Learning."

The LPN Education Task Force members involved in developing the policy consist of LPN Program Directors from across the state joined by NMNEC ADN and BSN faculty. Sabrina Ezzell, from UNM-Gallup, serves as Chair for this collaborative group. The Task Force will soon develop a plan to inform programs of this exciting opportunity and will develop measurable outcomes. The momentum of this group led the NMNEC Leadership Council to investigate building an RN-to-BSN pathway for NMNEC ADN-prepared RNs.

The NMNEC RN-to-BSN Education Task Force, chaired by Dr. John Scarbrough from WNMU, is developing an articulation agreement for use across the state to enable NMNEC ADN graduates to continue their education without the time and expense of repeating courses. The Task Force recognizes the unique design of the NMNEC curriculum, where much of the ADN coursework is identical to, and embedded within the BSN coursework. For example, one course that is often duplicated in RN-to-BSN programs is the "Assessment" course. The solution to duplication became apparent when the Task Force pointed out that the NMNEC curricular course, "Assessment and Health Promotion," is a 100/200 level course on ADN transcripts. However, the same course appears on BSN transcripts as a 300 level course. This NMNEC course can be waived, with duplication avoided, if state-funded RN-to-BSN programs agree to participate in the articulation pathway for NMNEC ADN graduates. The RN-to-BSN Task Force is also considering the development of shared nursing electives that can be offered at collaborative RN-BSN schools.

| NMNEC Common Curriculum Nursing Programs | Locations | ADN at Community College | BSN at University | Dual Degree: ADN/BSN at Community College |
|--|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---|
| UNM | Abq | | X | |
| UNM | Rio Rancho | | X | |
| CNM | Abq | X | | X (UNM) |
| SJC | Farmington | X | | X (UNM) |
| SFCC | Santa Fe | X | | X (UNM) |
| UNM-Taos | Taos | X | | X (UNM) |
| UNM-Gallup | Gallup | X | | X (UNM) |
| UNM-Valencia | Los Lunas | X | | X (UNM) |
| NMJC | Hobbs | X | | X (UNM) (last cohort Fall-2018) |
| NMSU | Las Cruces | | X | |
| NMSU-Alamogordo | Alamogordo | | X | |
| NMSU-Grants | Grants | | X | |
| WNMU | Silver City | X (last cohort Fall-2016) | X | |
| LCC | Las Vegas | X | | X (WNMU) (Fall-2019) |
| CCC | Clovis | X | | |

Partnerships between universities and community colleges are an integral part of this innovative curriculum. UNM College of Nursing now offers their pre-licensure BSN in eight other locations through partnerships with community colleges. NMSU offers their pre-licensure BSN in two additional locations. WNMU will partner with Luna CC to offer the BSN in Fall-2019.

For additional resources regarding the statewide consortium: www.nmnecc.org

