Maryland

Nursing Education Articulation

Policies and Procedures Manual

Maryland Council of Deans and Directors

Of

Nursing Programs (MCDDNP)

April 2017

Introduction

In 2010, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in collaboration with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) published a report titled *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health.* This report addressed the challenges facing the nursing education system and offered recommendations to help address these challenges.

One of the key recommendations of this IOM report was that ‘nurses should achieve higher education levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression” (2010). Within this recommendation, the authors of the report state that there should be an increased number of nurses with a baccalaureate degrees as well as providing licensed practical nurses (LPNs) with a seamless transition to the associate’s degree in nursing (ADN), and bachelors of science with a major in nursing (BS/BSN).

 In Maryland, the Associate to Bachelor’s (ATB) degree program has been developed to allow for dual admission and/or dual enrollment for students between institutions of higher learning. The ATB curriculum model is designed to increase learning opportunities for students by decreasing redundant courses, identifying courses that could be shared, and reducing the time to complete the bachelor’s degree. Objectives of ATB programs include reducing the financial burden on students that participate in academic progression models. Partner colleges and universities should collaborate to minimize costs and share responsibilities of advising, enrolling, and tracking the progress of ATB students.

The goal of this articulation plan is to create a pathway for nurses to advance their education, thereby creating a more highly educated nursing workforce. The purpose of the Maryland Education Articulation Plan is to set forth the guidelines for colleges and universities as they develop seamless academic progression models.

Assumptions Underlying the Maryland Nursing Articulation Plan

1. While a core of nursing knowledge and skills exist that is basic to all education programs, “current healthcare reform initiatives call for a nursing workforce that integrates evidence-based clinical knowledge and research with effective communication and leadership skills. These competencies require increased education at all levels” (TricouncilEd statement, 2010).
2. Educational Program Definitions
3. Practical/Vocational Nursing Education

“Practical or vocational nursing programs are approved schools that prepare and qualify graduates to take the NCLEX-PN (National Council Licensure Examination-Practical Nurse) exam. Upon receipt of their license, graduates are entitled to be called a Licensed Practical (or Vocational) Nurse (LPN/LVN) and to provide nursing care under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN). Many licensed practical and vocational nurses are employed in long-term care facilities, where they may be the main providers of day-to-day care. LPN/LVN programs are typically offered in technical schools, high schools, or community colleges and they are usually 12 months in length, though they can vary from 10 to 18 months.” (NLN, 2010, p. 37)

1. Associate Degree Nursing Education

“Associate degree (AD) nursing education provides the basic education necessary become a registered nurse. Graduates are eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN licensing examination and, if licensed, may practice in structured care settings, including hospitals, long- term care facilities, clinics and offices. Associate degree nursing education incorporates nursing knowledge, knowledge of key biological and social sciences, and study of humanities in a program that typically requires at least two years (65-75) credits of study in a junior or community college.” (NLN, 2010, p.37)

1. Diploma Nursing Education

“Diploma nursing programs have historically been based in hospitals, though today many affiliate with community colleges. These programs are two to three years in length, upon completion, graduates earn a diploma in nursing, may earn an associate degree in science from an affiliating junior college, and are eligible to sit for NCLEX-RN licensing examination. Like graduates of associate degree programs, graduates of diploma programs may work as RNs in structured care settings, including hospitals, long term care facilities, clinics, and offices.” (NLN, 2010, p. 38)

1. Baccalaureate Nursing Education

“Baccalaureate nursing programs require a minimum of four years (120-135 credits) of study in a senior college or university… In addition to providing students with foundational knowledge and skills needed for practice as a registered nurse, baccalaureate-nursing education includes learning experiences related to community and population-focused care, leadership and management, and research. Such programs also provide graduates with the foundation to enter graduate school, which today, might be a master’s program or doctoral program.” (NLN, 2010, p.39)

1. There are multiple entry points into the practice of nursing. The purpose of the Maryland Nursing Articulation Plan is to create a seamless academic progression model.
2. Each graduate of a Maryland registered nursing program will have a common core of learning experiences as required by Maryland Nursing Practice Act. (COMAR 10.27.03)
3. Each graduate of a Maryland practical nursing program will have a common core of learning experiences as required by the Maryland Nursing Practice Act (COMAR 10.27.03)
4. Nursing education programs participating in the Maryland Nursing Articulation Plan have met the curriculum requirements of the Maryland Board of Nursing (COMAR 10.27.03)
5. All Maryland public institutions offering a major in nursing will participate in the Maryland Nursing Articulation Plan. Private colleges and universities offering a major in nursing have the option to participate in the Maryland Nursing Articulation Plan.
6. All Maryland public associate degree institutions offering a major in nursing and diploma programs (prior to 2016) will participate in the Maryland Nursing Articulation Plan.
7. All Maryland public practical nursing programs will participate in the Maryland Nursing Articulation Plan.
8. Each institution has the responsibility to establish its mission, ensure integrity of the curriculum, establish admission, progression and graduation standards and monitor the quality of its graduates.

References

*Consensus policy statement on the educational advancement of registered nurses*

*2010).* Tricouncil for Nursing. Retrieved: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/media-relations/news-releases/2010/TricouncilEdStatement.pdf>

*Maryland Nurse Practice Act.* Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Title 10,

 Subtitle 27

*Outcomes and competences for graduates of practical/vocational, diploma,*

 *associate degree, baccalaureate, master’s, practice doctorate, and research*

 *doctorate programs in nursing (2010).* New York: National League for

 Nursing. Publication Date: 2012-11-30. ISBN/ISSN: 9781934758120

*The future of nursing: leading change, advancing health (2010).* Retrieved:

 <http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reprots/2010/The-Future-of->

 Nursing-Leading-Change-Advancing-Health.aspx

Maryland Nursing Articulation Model

Criteria

RN Direct Transfer Option

Eligibility RNs holding an active and unencumbered license in Maryland

 or a compact state, who graduated from a regionally accredited

 college or university

 Institutions may enroll and grant credits according to the

 Maryland Nursing Articulation Model to RNs holding an active

 and unencumbered license from a non-compact state who have

 graduated from a nursing program approved by the originating

 board of nursing

Credits Credit for RN licensure: Students with an active unencumbered

 RN license will receive a block of 30 upper level credits applied

 towards the nursing major

 Credit for General Education/Prerequisite courses: The

 baccalaureate degree granting institution will apply 57-60

 credits of eligible general education or required prerequisite

 coursework (COMAR 138.06.0603 Section A1). Private

 institutions can accept additional credits in accordance with

 Maryland Higher Education Commission guidelines

 Credit for Nursing courses: The institution granting the

 baccalaureate degree will require 30-33 credits of nursing

 program requirements

 Total required credits: No less than 120 credits are required

 to earn the baccalaureate degree with a major in nursing

 (COMAR 138.02.02.16)

Policies According to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR),

 content includes the arts and humanities, social and behavioral

 sciences, biological and physical sciences and mathematical

 sciences (COMAR 138.02.02.16)

 The curriculum of baccalaureate in nursing programs will

 include: didactic and clinical experiences in community health

 nursing, study of nursing research and its application to

 nursing and study and practice of leadership and management

 (COMAR 10.27.03.13)

Associate to Bachelor’s Degree/Dual Admission Options

Eligibility Students accepted in Maryland Board of Nursing approved

 associate degree nursing programs who meet admission

 criteria of Maryland Board of Nursing approved nursing

 baccalaureate programs

Credits Partnering institutions will determine requirements for the

 Program of study. Nursing course credits may transfer

 Credit for General Education/Prerequisite courses: The

 baccalaureate degree granting institution will apply 57-60

 credits of eligible general education or required prerequisite

 coursework (COMAR 138.06.0603 Section A1). Private

 institutions can accept additional credits in accordance with

 Maryland Higher Education Commission guidelines

 Credit for Nursing courses: The institution granting the

 baccalaureate degree will require 30-33 credits of nursing

 program requirements

 Credit for RN licensure: Students will receive a block of 30

upper level credits applied towards the nursing major upon

achieving an active, unencumbered RN license

Total required credits: No less than 120 credits are required

 to earn the baccalaureate degree with a major in nursing

 (COMAR 138.02.02.16)

Policies Students may be concurrently admitted and/or enrolled subject

 to the policies of the partnering institutions

 Students may begin the upper division courses following

 admission to the ATB/dual enrollment/dual admission program

 and as determined by the partner institutions’ plan of study

 Partner schools should collaborate to determine efficient

 pathways for students to transition between Associate Degree

 and Bachelor of Science in nursing programs. However, each

 school reserves the right to amend its curriculum as necessary

 Partner institutions should collaborate to examine ways to avoid

 duplication of fees and minimize student costs

LPN Direct Transfer Option

Eligibility Practical nurses with an active, unencumbered Maryland

 or compact LPN license articulating to the Associate Degree

 level

Credits A maximum of one year of nursing courses in the associate

 degree program they are entering following successful

 completion of the program’s transition course(s), if required

Policies Students have met the criteria for participation in the

 articulation model

Revised: March 24, 2017

Description of the Process Used to Develop Revision

*Background:* The Maryland Action Coalition (MDAC) was formed in 2011 as a response to the Institute of Medicine report *Future of Nursing (2010).* Multiple projects have been funded in the intervening years to support the recommendations put forth in this seminal work.

 One such project is this revision of the Maryland Nursing Education Articulation Plan. This project was funded through two grant sources. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provided funds via a competitive grant process through the AARP Campaign for Action Future of Nursing State Implementation Plan IV (<https://campaignforaction.org/about/our-story/>). The second source was

the MHEC Nursing Support Program II (NSP-II).

*Process:* The Project Director solicited a work group through the Maryland Council of Deans and Directors of Nursing Programs (MCDDNP). Six work group members were selected to represent various constituents (4-year college/university, community college, HBCU, rural, urban, and suburban).

 The work group began meetings in 2015 and used an iterative process as the revisions were discussed and vetted. The Project Director took the working drafts to the MCDDNP quarterly meetings on four different occasions for feedback, comments and recommendations. Every Dean and Director of nursing programs in the state had access to the drafts and had multiple opportunities to discuss and amend the content of the document.

 In December 2016, a final draft was presented to the MCDDNP. A sub-workgroup was convened to respond to concerns raised by the discussions at this session. The sub workgroup submitted recommendations at the February 2017 MCDDNP meeting. A special meeting was called in March to finalize the revision document.

 In May 2017, an electronic survey was sent to all members of MCDDNP calling for a final vote on the revision. The revision of the articulation model was accepted with a 100% positive vote.