

Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Model



**Adopted 2005
Revised 2014**

Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Model

Overview:

Through Act 818 of the 1991 Louisiana Legislature, the Nursing Supply and Demand Commission (NSDC) was established and charged, in part, with the responsibility of developing an articulation model that was organized and integrated in such a fashion to permit the maximum amount of prior training to be credited against the requirements of any subsequent nursing education program(s). This plan was to include nursing assistant through the baccalaureate degree in nursing. To this end, the NSDC adopted an articulation model in 1993 entitled Articulation Plan for Nursing in Louisiana and presented the report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Health and Welfare on April 6, 1993. Through this legislation, the nursing boards were charged with review of standards and action necessary to implement the articulated curricula required. In addition, there was a charge to the Louisiana Board of Regents and other education management boards relative to implementation of the plan. (Appendix A)

That model did and continues to enhance upward mobility in nursing education within Louisiana. The enclosed document reflects a refinement and update of that model that occurred in 2005 and 2014. Revisions are proposed to augment the progression of individuals through all levels of nursing education from nursing assistant to registered nurse.

The proposed revisions allow for:

- Streamlining of the current process of awarding transfer and advanced placement credit at all levels
- Continuity across programs in the process of awarding transfer and advanced placement nursing credit
- Greater ease in the transfer process for students
- Ease in awarding transfer and advanced placement credit for the educational institution
- A decrease in the time it takes a student to graduate, which addresses also, the current health care personnel shortages

The proposed revisions bring the model in line with national trends and also make it consistent with national articulation models.

Several forces lead to a second review, refinement, and update of the model that became effective fall 2014. These forces include:

- The October 2010 release of the Institute of Medicine’s landmark report on the *Future of Nursing* initiated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. One of the recommendations stemming from the report included increasing the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in the workforce to 80%. Evidence-based recommendations in the report stated in order “to respond to the demands of an evolving health care system and meet the changing needs of patients, nurses must achieve higher levels of education.”
- The growing body of compelling research linking a connection between baccalaureate nursing education and lower mortality rates and substantially fewer adverse patient outcomes.
- Settings applying for Magnet designation must show what plans are in place to achieve the IOM recommendation of having an 80% baccalaureate prepared RN workforce by 2020.
- The recent merger of technical and community colleges in Louisiana increasing the number of nursing graduates in need of articulation to the BSN degree.

Definition:

- Articulation is defined as a process through which academic programs facilitate the educational progress with minimal loss of credit and duplication of knowledge and skills.

Goals:

- To facilitate the educational mobility of nursing personnel across the state
- To increase the nursing health care workforce
- To provide seamless progression in nursing education
- To meet the educational needs of the citizens of Louisiana
- To assure a qualified healthcare workforce that meets the health care needs of the state

Assumptions:

- There is a common core of knowledge, attitudes, cognitive and psychomotor skills that graduates of all three types of nursing programs should acquire; however, there are distinct differences in the breadth, depth, scope of preparation and knowledge of each type of graduate.
- Not every individual wishes to seek credentials at the next practice level, however, the opportunity for academic progression should be available for those that wish to do so.
- Clinical experiences at each level contribute to the overall knowledge base
- Public awareness of articulation initiatives is critical to their success.

- Adherence to Louisiana Board of Regents transfer matrix for general education courses is occurring at all public post-secondary educational institutions in the state.

Implementation Standards:

- Each school must have autonomy to set admission/progression/graduation requirements.
- Nursing programs in practical, diploma, associate and baccalaureate degree programs must hold approval the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners or Louisiana State Board of Nursing.
- Registered Nurse programs (diploma, associate and baccalaureate degree) must be accredited by a national nursing accreditation agency.
- All graduates must meet minimum program and curriculum standards.
- Any articulation plan must maintain professional standards and promote quality instruction.
- Articulation plans must adhere to the standards of higher education regulatory boards.
- Articulation is a mandatory process for all nursing education programs in Louisiana.
- Adequate faculty and clinical practice facilities are available to support the program.

General Expectations of All Students:

- Student must meet admission and progression requirements of the University/College/School/Technical Program.
- Student must meet all prerequisite and/or general education core requirements
- Student must be a graduate of a Certified Nursing Assistant Program, approved Practical Nurse program or a nationally accredited Diploma or Associate degree program in nursing.
- Students must be certified as a nursing assistant or hold an unencumbered license to practice as a practical nurse or a registered nurse in Louisiana.

Articulation Plan

Nursing Assistants to LPN

Practical Nursing programs will award a minimum of three (3) semester credit hours or the equivalent to a certified nursing assistant upon validation of clinical competencies.

- Must meet admission requirements for the program
- Must be certified as a nursing assistant in Louisiana
- Competency testing may be required
- Work experience may be required

LPN to RN (Associate Degree in Nursing)

A minimum of twelve (12) semester credit hours of nursing credit will be awarded to Licensed Practical Nurses entering an Associate Degree Nursing Program in Louisiana after completion of any general education, prerequisites, and transitional course requirements.

- Must meet admission requirements of the University/College/School
- Must have completed general education/prerequisite coursework
- Must be a graduate of an approved LPN Program
- Must hold an unencumbered license as a practical nurse in the State of Louisiana
- Competency testing/credit examinations may be required.
- Work experience may be required

Once admitted to the professional component of the program, this program can typically be completed in one (1) year of full time continuous study.

LPN to RN (Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing)

A minimum of nine (9) semester credit hours of nursing credit will be awarded to Licensed Practical Nurses entering a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program in Louisiana after completion of any general education, prerequisites, and transitional course requirements.

- Must meet admission requirements of the University/College/School
- Must have completed general education/prerequisite coursework
- Must be a graduate of an approved LPN Program
- Must hold an unencumbered license as a practical nurse in the State of Louisiana
- Competency testing/credit examinations may be required
- Work experience may be required

Once admitted to the professional component of the program, this program can typically be completed in two (2) years of full time continuous study.

Associate Degree/Diploma to Baccalaureate Degree

A minimum of at least one-half (1/2) the credit hours in the nursing courses required will be awarded to the student pursuing a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Program in Louisiana after completion of the general education, prerequisites, and transitional course requirements.

- Must meet admission requirement of the University/ College/School
- Must meet general education/prerequisite requirements
- Must be a graduate of a nationally nursing accredited associate degree or diploma-nursing program
- Must hold an unencumbered license as a registered nurse in Louisiana
- Work experience may be required
- Competency testing/credit exams may be required

Once admitted to the professional component of the program, this program can typically be completed in one (1) year of full time continuous study.

Additional Notes:

Institutions will follow Institutional policy relative to the age of coursework being transferred.

All public institutions must follow the Louisiana Board of Regents Transfer Matrix for transfer of General Education Courses.

The Louisiana Board of Regents, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners adopted the Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Model which was fully implemented for all new students entering in Fall 2005.

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing took action in Spring 2013 to reconvene a task force focused on revising the current plan for implementation in Fall2014.

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners are charged with assuring compliance in implementation of and ongoing utilization of the Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Model and will report annually to appropriate official public agencies through the annual reports of the respective Boards.

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