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CCNE-ACCREDITATION

CCNE Seeks Applicants to Serve as On-Site Evaluators

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is seeking applications from educators and practicing nurses to serve as volunteer evaluators on its accreditation review teams. The deadline for submitting an application to be considered for the Spring 2016 evaluator training program is January 8, 2016. To learn more about serving as a volunteer evaluator, please watch *Volunteering as a CCNE Evaluator in the Accreditation Process*, available [here](#).

CCNE is a nationally recognized accrediting agency that ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs. CCNE began conducting accreditation reviews in 1998 and currently accredits 1,389 baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs at 705 colleges and universities in the United States and its territories. CCNE fosters continuing self-assessment by these programs and supports continuing growth and improvement, while allowing for innovation in nursing education.

Volunteer evaluators who comprise the CCNE accreditation teams are designated as representing nursing education or nursing practice:

- The **educator** who serves on the evaluation team has depth of knowledge in one or more areas of nursing expertise and is familiar with nursing education and program development. He or she is responsible for helping the team understand the special nature of nursing education and the importance of preparing safe and effective nurses. Educators assist the team in evaluating curricula, faculty roles and qualifications, internal governance, student services, and student and faculty outcomes. It is expected that educator applicants have doctoral preparation and teaching experience at the baccalaureate and/or graduate levels in nursing. Special consideration will be given to faculty and chief nurse administrator applicants a) who are from institutions that do not currently have any CCNE trained on-site evaluators; b) who are clinical nurse leaders, clinical nurse specialists, and/or nurse practitioners; and c) who have experience teaching in or administering a CCNE-accredited Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.
- The **practicing nurse** who serves on the evaluation team a) regularly engages, as his or her primary professional role, in the provision of nursing care; or b) has worked full-time in nursing practice for a minimum of 10 years and maintains currency in practice by providing nursing care at least 200 hours per year. The practicing nurse has knowledge about nursing in general and depth of knowledge in at least one area of nursing practice relevant to the program(s) under review. Nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, clinical nurse educators, nurse administrators, and clinical nurse leaders are encouraged to apply. Special consideration will be given to practicing nurse applicants a) who hold a master's degree in nursing (or higher); b) who have taught in an academic setting and/or who are currently affiliated with an academic institution (e.g., as a preceptor or adjunct faculty member); and c) whose employers would support their volunteer service as an evaluator, if selected.

CCNE reimburses all training participants for the actual expenses associated with their attendance at the training program and with their participation on evaluation teams. However, like most higher education accrediting agencies whose practices are based on a voluntary, peer review process, CCNE does not pay an honorarium.

An on-site evaluation of a nursing program, which could be located at a college or university anywhere in the United States or its territories, typically occurs over a three-day period, plus travel to and from the campus site. CCNE typically conducts on-site evaluations during the spring (January through April) and fall (September through November). In addition to traveling to the institution to participate in the on-site evaluation, each evaluator is expected to work collaboratively with other members of the team; read the nursing program's self-study document in advance; and, while on site, review program materials, interview program constituents, and observe classroom and clinical activities. Additionally, each member of the team is responsible for writing an assigned portion of the accreditation team report.

To be considered, applicants must be available to commit to serving on at least one on-site evaluation per year, if asked. Because of the resources CCNE expends in the training process, it is expected that the applicant plans to remain professionally active for at least three years following training. In addition, willingness and ability to travel nationally, computer literacy, word processing skills, access to email, and strong writing skills are essential.

To be considered for service as a volunteer on-site evaluator in the CCNE accreditation review process, please click [here](#) to access the application form and to upload a current curriculum vitae/resume. Two letters of recommendation must be submitted directly to CCNE from individuals who can address the applicant's qualifications and suitability to serve as a CCNE on-site evaluator. The letters of recommendation can be uploaded by clicking [here](#). CCNE will only consider applications that are submitted using CCNE's online application form and that include two letters of recommendation.

For more information, please contact Dina Recor, CCNE Accreditation Coordinator, at drecor@aacn.nche.edu or 202-887-6791 x252.

