



**Joint Commission Nursing Advisory Council Report on
the Revision of the Essentials of Baccalaureate Nursing Education
February 14, 2007**

In 1986, AACN released its landmark set of core standards for baccalaureate nursing education. In 1998, an AACN task force revised the *Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* based on the new realities of health care requiring nurses to master complex information, coordinate a variety of care experiences, use technology for health care delivery and evaluate patient outcomes. In October 2006, the AACN Board of Directors created a Task Force on the Revision of the Essentials of Baccalaureate Nursing Education in response to the need to provide direction for the preparation of professional nurses for practice in the 21st century. Changes within the health care delivery system, shifting population demographics, and scientific advances require that nursing re-evaluate the roles and preparation of its future practitioners. The following is the charge given to the task force by the AACN Board of Directors:

Charge to the Task Force on Revision of the Essentials of Baccalaureate Nursing Education

The task force will engage in a collaborative effort of education and practice partners to develop a proposed document that updates the essential professional nursing competencies that should be acquired in an entry-level baccalaureate nursing program upon graduation. The task force is also charged with assuring that a wide range of opinions and feedback are sought from representatives of higher education, professional nursing education and practice, and consumers in developing its recommendations. The task force will

1. Assess the health care trends and expectations that will shape health care delivery for the next decade.
2. Assess the professional community's expectations for entry-level professional practice.
3. Review and make recommendations regarding the general education requirements that are necessary to prepare a professional for practice in complex and varied environments.
4. Develop recommendations for the competencies and role expectations for professional practice. These updated competencies will address new nursing knowledge, skills and attitudes related to professionalism and other significant patient care issues.
5. Develop recommendations for the clinical learning experiences necessary to assure that baccalaureate graduates are prepared for safe and high quality nursing practice.
6. Develop a set of quality indicators for baccalaureate nursing education which address the faculty, student, clinical learning, and other resources necessary to implement high quality learning experiences to achieve end-of-program competencies. These quality indicators should include articulation of the mutual

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accountabilities of education and practice partners to assure high quality learning experiences.

7. Develop recommendations for the post-graduation transition process for new entry-level professional nurses.

The revised *Baccalaureate Essentials* should address both pre-licensure and RN to BSN educational programs. The task force should take special care to assure that the entry level expectations for baccalaureate level professional nursing practice are distinctly differentiated from those required for advanced generalist practice and create a foundational set of expectations for professional practice that will prepare a professional for future career transitions and educational growth.

The task force should seek to complete its charge by July 2008 for review and potential approval by the AACN Board of Directors at the July 2008 board meeting and approval of the membership at the October 2008 annual meeting.

Membership

The Task Force on the Revision of the Essentials of Baccalaureate Nursing Education, chaired by Dr. Patricia Martin, is comprised of an array of individuals representing the full spectrum of constituents for baccalaureate nursing education. Both education and practice settings are represented on this task force. The following is a list of task force members:

Patricia Martin, PhD, *Chair*
Dean, Wright State University
College of Nursing and Health

Carol Ashton, PhD
Dean, Idaho State University
School of Nursing

Derryl Block, PhD
Dean, University of Wisconsin- Green Bay
Professional Program in Nursing

Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD
Dean, SUNY Downstate Medical Center
College of Nursing

Terri Murray, PhD
Director, Saint Louis University
Doisy College of Health Sciences
School of Nursing

Linda Niedringhaus, PhD
Dean, Elmhurst College
Deicke Center for Nursing Education

Donald "Chip" Bailey, PhD, *faculty representative*
Duke University
School of Nursing

Jean W. Lange, PhD, *faculty representative*
Fairfield University
School of Nursing

Roxanne A. Moutafis, MS, RN, BC, *faculty representative*
The University of Arizona
College of Nursing

Judith Sands, EdD, *faculty representative*
University of Virginia
School of Nursing

Karen Drenkard, MSN, *practice representative*
Chief Nurse Executive,
INOVA Health Systems

Polly Bednash, PhD, RN, FAAN, *staff liaison*
Executive Director

Joan Stanley, PhD, RN, FAAN, *staff liaison*
Senior Director of Education Policy

Kathy McGuinn, MSN, RN, CPHQ, *staff liaison*
Director of Special Projects

Planned Activities and Timeline

To date the task force has had three conference calls on December 8, January 9 and February 14. During these calls, the task force reviewed and discussed its charge; identified references for the work of the group; discussed the framework for the new *Essentials*; and identified the structure, process and outcomes for the work of the task force.

As part of its forward thinking strategy, the task force is convening a national interdisciplinary stakeholders' meeting on February 27, 2007 in Washington, DC. AACN is asking an array of national leaders and experts to identify from their perspective the anticipated role of the professional nurse in the 21st century and the 3-5 critical competencies that are needed to function in this role. Following the stakeholders meeting, a two day face-to-face meeting of the task force will ensue.

The goal of the task force is to have formulated a draft document by mid to late summer. The draft document describing the competencies of the entry-level professional nurse will be widely disseminated to nursing leaders, administrators, clinicians and educators through a series of regional meetings held across the country. The purpose of these meetings will be to receive input from all interested participants and to develop a national consensus. As previously stated in the charge, the work of this task force should be complete and presented to the AACN Board by July 2008. The membership of AACN will have an opportunity to vote on the new *Essentials* at the October 2008 Semiannual meeting.

The following is a list of participants for the National Stakeholders' Meeting:

AACN Cultural Advisory Group
Dula Pacquiao, EdD, RN, CTN
Associate Professor and Director School of Nursing
University of Medicine & Dentistry of NJ

Advisory Group for Genetics and Genomics
Jean Jenkins, PhD, RN, FAAN
Senior Clinical Advisor
NHGRI, NIH

American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN)
Janie E. Heath, PhD, RN, APRN, APRN-BC
Past Board Member

American Nurses Association
Pam Hagan, MSN, RN
Chief Program Officer

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
Douglas Scheckelhoff, MS, R.Ph.
Director, Pharmacy Practice Sections

Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU)
Jerry Gaff, PhD
Senior Fellow

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
Darrell Kirch, MD
President

Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing (ASTDN)
Linda Olson Keller, MS, APRN, BC
Project Director

Council on Social Work Education
Julia Watkins, PhD
Executive Director

Disaster Preparedness Expert
Tener Veneema PhD, MPH, MS, CPNP
Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing
University of Rochester

End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC)
Pam Malloy, MN, RN, OCN
Project Director, AACN

Infection Control Expert
Carol O'Boyle, PhD, RN
Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
Assistant Professor
University of Minnesota School of Nursing

Institute for Health Care Improvement (IHI)
Patricia Rutherford, MS, RN
Vice President

Institute of Medicine (IOM)
Mary Wakefield, MPH, RN
IOM Health Care Services Board

Interprofessional Professionalism Group
Jody Gandy, DPT, PT
Director, Physical Therapy Education
American Physical Therapy Association

John A. Hartford Foundation
Amy Berman, BSN, RN
Program Officer

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)
Nancy Spector, PhD, RN
Director of Education

National Environmental Education & Training Foundation
Leyla McCurdy, MPhil
Senior Director

National Quality Forum
Ellen Kurtzman, MPH
Senior Program Director

National Student Nurses Association (NSNA)
Todd Uhlman
President

Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
Jeanne Matthews, PhD, RN
Chair-elect, APHA Public Health Nursing (PHN) Section for the Quad Council of Public
Health Nursing Organizations