

NORTH CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION
Continuing Education Approver Unit

SUMMARY OF RECENT CHANGES IN ANCC COA CRITERIA/GUIDELINES – July 2009

Specific areas of change include (but are not limited to):

- The minimum amount of contact hours that may be awarded for an educational activity is 0.5 contact hours (30 minutes).
- Provider units that targeted more than 50% of their educational activities provided in the previous calendar year to nurses in multiple regions (use the DHHS regions:<http://www.hhs.gov/about/regions/>) must apply to be accredited providers.
- Continuing Nursing Education units that targeted more than 50% of their activities provided in the previous calendar year to the nurses in a single state or region (or a state contiguous to that region) may apply to a Constituent Member Association for approval as providers.
- A fourth category of accreditor was added for the national nursing organization based outside the United States. It may approve activities or providers within its constituency (within its country).
- Lead Nurse Planner responsibilities are clarified.
- Nurse Planners must maintain expertise in educational design and adult learning theories, receive orientation to, and maintain responsibility for, implementing ANCC Accreditation Program criteria in their performance of the Nurse Planner role.
- Supporting evidence is clearly referred to as “required” evidence.
- The rules for logo usage were revised.
- A provider is ineligible for accreditation or approval (approval of an activity or approval as a provider) if it is a commercial interest as defined in the “Standards for Commercial Support.”
- As previously, the Nurse Planner must have education or experience in the field of education or adult learning. The revised manual provides further guidance on evaluating the “experience in the field of education or adult learning” by stating that “The Nurse Planner must demonstrate competence in performing successfully at the expected level. Accepted demonstration of competence can be evaluated by review of the Nurse Planner’s professional portfolio.”
- Conflict of interest must be disclosed relative to each activity. An original signature is not required. However, if an original signature is not used, the unit is advised to keep documentation supporting the source of the information.
- Enduring documents must include a statement that explains how long contact hour(s) will be awarded for an activity. This statement must appear on all marketing materials and on the title page of the educational material.
- Criterion 3 now addresses unit operations.
- Criterion 4 now addresses unit outcomes evaluation.
- The provider is tasked with identifying the appropriate people to be involved in the evaluation of the provider unit.
- Specific approved provider criteria have been included in Appendix F.
- Specific peer review/approval instructions for the learner-directed activity are included.
- A statement for the activity ‘pending approval’ is provided.
- Specific monitoring requirements of the accredited approver unit are identified.
- Definitions in the glossary were added and revised.
- Approved providers may co-provide activities.
- Approved activities may be co-provided.
- The Commission on Accreditation may decide to grant probationary status to a re-accreditation applicant.