

MEMO

DATE: February 13, 2023
TO: Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
FROM: Davis Florence, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division
SUBJECT: **Nursing Faculty Ratios and Education Requirements**

This memorandum is in response to your request for information regarding nursing ratios and licensing of nursing supervisors. Upon further research into the topic of nursing ratios and supervision, it appears nursing program faculty is the subject of interest. Nursing faculty are supervisors of nursing students during their clinical training sessions and are required by regulation to be with no more than eight students at one time while in clinical settings.

For this request, I spoke with staff from the State Board of Nursing, specifically: Cathy Dinauer, M.S.N., R.N., Executive Director ([775] 687-7734, cdinauer@nsbn.state.nv.us), and Michelle Johnson, Ed.D., R.N., C.P.N.P.-P.C., Director of Nursing Education ([702] 668-4528, mxjohnson@nsbn.state.nv.us).

NURSING FACULTY LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN NEVADA

The [State Board of Nursing](#) regulates nursing school programs and courses in Nevada. *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) [632.430](#) and [632.440](#) authorize the Board of Nursing to prescribe standards and curricula for schools of practical nursing and schools and courses of professional nursing, respectively. *Nevada Revised Statutes* sections also set forth accreditation of such schools. The Board has instituted a series of regulations that outline the requirements to be a nursing faculty member. *Nevada Administrative Code* (NAC) [632.675](#) sets forth the education requirements to be a faculty member and faculty-to-student ratios.

FACULTY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Subsection 2(a) of NAC 632.675 requires 75 percent of the nursing faculty to hold at least a master's degree with a major in nursing. Subsection 3 authorizes the Board's Executive Director of the Board to waive this requirement for good cause shown. According to Board staff, the waiver of education requirements for nursing faculty is currently being utilized by 45 individuals teaching in Nevada.

FACULTY-TO-STUDENT RATIO

Subsection 5 of NAC 632.675 provides the faculty-to-student ratio as one faculty member for every eight students. This requirement may also be waived by the Executive Director. Board staff stated the waiver of the faculty-to-student ratio is currently not utilized by any Nevada nursing program. Ms. Dinauer said she would approve a waiver request from a school if a nursing program were to request such waiver. When approved, it would allow them to have more than eight students per one faculty member.

CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO NURSING SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

According to Board staff, it appears none of these education waivers have been requested by nursing schools because of accreditation standards set by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The CCNE sets [standards within the accreditation](#) process that require faculty who teach within a nursing program to have a graduate degree in nursing. Nevada institutions currently accredited by CCNE are: (1) Nevada State College; (2) Roseman University of Health Sciences; (3) Touro University Nevada; (4) University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and (5) University of Nevada, Reno.

NURSING FACULTY REQUIREMENTS IN OTHER STATES

The [National Council of State Boards of Nursing](#) has conducted a [member education survey](#) that contains the education requirement and student-to-faculty ratios for supervised acute-care clinical experience for every state in the United States.

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO FOR PRACTICAL NURSE PROGRAMS

- Eight to One: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, North Dakota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming;
- Ten to One: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington;
- Fifteen to One: Pennsylvania;
- No specified ratio: Iowa, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Vermont, Washington D.C., and Wisconsin; and
- Do not regulate ratio: Alaska, California, Minnesota, and Missouri.

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO FOR REGISTERED NURSE PROGRAMS

- Eight to One: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, North Dakota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming;
- Ten to One: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Montana, North Carolina, Nebraska, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Washington;
- No specified ratio: Alaska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., and Wisconsin; and
- Do not regulate ratio: California, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee, Vermont, and West Virginia.

MINIMUM EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM FACULTY

- Master's degree in nursing: Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Washington, D.C., and Wisconsin;
- Master's degree, non-nursing: Minnesota and Texas; and
- Bachelor's degree in nursing: California, Colorado, Hawaii, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

CONCLUSION

I trust that this information is helpful in addressing your questions about nursing faculty-to-student ratios and education requirements for nursing school faculty. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Davis.Florence@lcb.state.nv.us or (775) 684-6421 if you have further questions or concerns. Finally, as this information was requested pursuant to a potential bill draft request, I have copied Eileen O'Grady, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), on this memorandum.

DF/ch:W231036

Cc: Eileen O'Grady, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB