

Title 30: Professions and Occupations

Part 2865: PRACTICAL NURSING STATE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Part 2865, Chapter 1: Introduction

Rule 1.1 Authority.

- A. Beginning on July 1, 2019, in addition to all other powers and duties now vested by law in the State Department of Education, it is hereby empowered and required, acting in this behalf by and through its Division of Vocational Education, to:
 - 1) Contract with the Mississippi Board of Nursing to establish by rules and regulations and promulgate uniform standards for the accreditation of schools of practical nursing in this state insofar as concerns the eligibility of graduates of such schools to take the examination to become licensed practical nurses;
 - 2) Contract with the Mississippi Board of Nursing to issue to such schools' certificates of accreditation as may be proper under such standards.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 1.2 Definitions of terms for Part 2865.

- A. Accreditation Site Team: Accreditation Site Team selected by the Board and LEA to visit nursing programs for the purpose of verifying and clarifying data presented in self-study or progress report. Selection is made at the discretion of the Board Practical Nursing Education Director.
- B. Adjunct Faculty: All faculty who teach nursing courses in the program(s) being accredited and who have adjunct faculty employment status as determined by the governing institution.
- C. Administrator: The person with designated authority and responsibility to direct the practical nursing program and/or program of nursing. This person may be called the director, dean, chair, etc.
- D. Affiliation Agreement: Written agreement between the practical nursing programs and healthcare facilities.
- E. Annual Report: Report submitted annually by the administrator of the program that updates information on files with the board and validates continuing compliance with minimum standards.
- F. Assisting Staff/Personnel: Persons employed in a unit of nursing who support the nursing education program, but who are not classified as faculty by the governing institution.
- G. Board: The Mississippi Board of Nursing.
- H. Compliance: Adhering to the standards and criteria for accreditation.
- I. Complaints: A formal, written charge against a practical nursing program.
- J. Continuing Education: Planned, organized learning experiences designed to augment

- the knowledge, skill, and ability to enhance nursing practice and therefore improve health care delivered to the public.
- K. Course Objective: Course-level objectives of the nursing program.
 - L. Curricula: All courses and planned program activities designed for completing a practical nursing program as defined by the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB).
 - M. Distant Education: A formal education process which online learning is combined with traditional learning for an all-inclusive learning experience. Instructions can be synchronous or asynchronous (Commission on Regulation and Postsecondary Distance Education, 2013).
 - N. Due Process: A formal proceeding based on established rules and principles that are not unfair, arbitrary, or unreasonable.
 - O. Fiscal Resources: Financial means to purchase, obtain supplies, materials, equipment, services, and personnel.
 - P. Full-Time Faculty: All faculty who teach nursing courses in the program(s) being accredited and who have full-time faculty employment status as determined by the governing institution.
 - Q. Governing Organization: The educational agency which the practical nursing program is an integral part.
 - R. LEA: Local Educational Agency.
 - S. NCLEX®: National Council of State Board of Nursing Licensure Examination.
 - T. Online learning: A delivery model that is an interactive computer-based and internet-connected learning environment in which students are separated from the instructor by time or location or both and in which an instructor is responsible for providing instruction.
 - U. Outcomes: Performance indicators measured at the end of any activity to determine the extent to which the purposes of the activity are being achieved.
 - V. Part-Time Faculty: All faculty who teach nursing courses in the program(s) being accredited and have part-time faculty status as determined by the governing organization.
 - W. Plan of Compliance: Written program for complying with state accreditation standards submitted by the administrator for the practical nursing program at the request of the Board.
 - X. Practical Nurse: The practice of nursing by a licensed practical nurse means the performance for compensation of services requiring basic knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral, psychological and sociological sciences and of nursing procedures which do not require the substantial skill, judgment, and knowledge required of a registered nurse. These services are performed under the direction of a registered nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse, a licensed physician or licensed dentist and utilize standardized procedures in the observation and care of the ill, injured and infirm; in the maintenance of health; in action to safeguard life and health; and in the administration of medication and treatments prescribed by any advanced practice registered nurse, licensed physician or licensed dentist authorized by state law to prescribe.
 - Y. Practical Nursing Program: The department, school, division, or college within a governing organization that offers one or more nursing programs at selected sites.

- Z. Preceptors: Individuals in a practice setting who function as role models and who assist individual students in achieving specific objectives. Preceptors shall be academically/experientially prepared at or beyond the level for which the preceptor service is rendered and shall have a minimum of one (1) year of experience.
- AA. Program of Nursing: Certificate program in nursing. The total curriculum, funding, faculty, facilities, and other resources available or required by the practical nursing program or governing institution for a nursing certificate.
- BB. Self-study: Self-study in the practical nursing program shall take into consideration previous evaluation instruments and their results, number of students enrolled, attrition rate, number of students completing, number of students placed, and percentage of students passing NCLEX-PN. It shall also include clinical site usage and affiliation agreements.
- CC. Simulation: A technique, not a technology, that allows activities or events to be replicated for the purpose of practicing, learning, evaluation, or testing using scenarios, high fidelity manikins, medium-fidelity manikins, standardized patients, role playing, skills stations, and computer-based critical thinking simulation.
- DD. State Accreditation: the approval by the Board of a Practical Nursing Program.
- EE. State Accreditation Standards: Rules and Regulations for State Accreditation of Practical Nursing Programs.
- FF. State-Accredited Status: Status for a Practical Nursing Program that has met all standards set forth in “Accreditation Standards and Rules and Regulations for Mississippi Programs of Nursing.” State accreditation is required for graduates of Mississippi schools of nursing to take the licensed practical nurse examination (NCLEX-PN).
- GG. Statement of need and feasibility: Current evidence of need for professional and practical nurses, additional program(s), and community support.
- HH. Systemic Plan of Evaluation (SPE): A written comprehensive document that contains specific, measurable expected levels of achievement and appropriate assessment methods.
- II. Traditional Experience: Planned, faculty-guided learning experiences that involve direct contact with patients in an inpatient, ambulatory care, or community setting (NCSBN Model Act, 2012a).
- JJ. Traditional education: Education which instruction takes place between an instructor and students were all physically present in the same place (e.g. face-to-face).
- KK. Unencumbered license: A license without a current discipline, condition, or restriction.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 1.3 Adoption & Revision of Standards of Accreditation.

- A. The Mississippi Board of Nursing has the authority and responsibility to establish and promulgate criteria for the evaluation and accreditation of Practical Nursing Programs. These criteria take the form of Standards for State Accreditation. Board staff distributes the Standards adopted by the Board and takes the action necessary for their implementation. Standards will be subject to formal review and revision on a five (5) year cycle; however, the standards and criteria can be reviewed and revised as needed based on current trends in nursing education.
- B. Information on new standards is posted on the Board website and made available to persons, institutions, and organizations affected by the Standards.
- C. After distribution of proposed standards, interested persons, institutions, and organizations are given a minimum of thirty (30) business days to file written comments with the Board.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 1.4 State Accreditation Guidelines.

- A. The Standards of Accreditation constitute the basic document for the accreditation process forming the foundation of essentials against which a program assesses, evaluates, and improves itself.
- B. Program evaluation is a process conducted by faculty, staff, students, and the governing organization in which the program is assessed to determine if the program is in accordance with the accreditation standards.
- C. The program evaluation process should be an on-going process that allows the governing organization to make any necessary revisions to the program in order to meet the accreditation standards prior to the next accreditation review.
- D. Each practical nursing program determines its own objectives, based on the competencies identified in the Mississippi Curriculum Framework for post-secondary practical nursing.
- E. Accreditation is not intended to impose upon institutions rigid uniformity of educational objectives or school operations.
- F. Each institution is judged upon its own objectives according to the accreditation standards and criteria established by the Board.
- G. Upon accreditation, the maximum period for reexamination shall be eight years. Earlier, complete or partial reexamination, or focused visits may be required by the Board, if full accreditation is not attained.
- H. Practical nursing programs shall notify the Board PN Education Program Director immediately of changes in ownership, management, contractual affiliations with other institutions, additions or major changes of courses or facilities, and items that could

substantially affect the program's policies, staff, curricula, reputation, legal, or financial status.

- I. The practical nursing program's Certificate of Accreditation is to be surrendered by the institution upon termination of accredited status of the practical nursing program. If termination of accredited status occurs, the institution must immediately delete references and claims of accreditation from catalogs, advertising, and promotional materials, and in no event later than ninety (90) business days after termination.
- J. National accreditation status is contingent on receiving and maintaining state accreditation. A program must maintain state accreditation in order to operate in Mississippi regardless of national accreditation status.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Part 2865, Chapter 2: General Requirements.

Rule 2.1 Location of the Program.

The Practical Nursing Program must be located within the State of Mississippi and offered face-to-face in order to receive state accreditation by the Board.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 2.2 Compliance. The practical nursing program must meet all state standards of accreditation and provide documentation of compliance as set forth in these rules.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 2.3 Accreditation Fee Structure.

- A. New Program Accreditation - Institutions seeking to establish a new program shall be assessed a \$2,500.00 fee. In addition, the institution shall be responsible for all fees associated with the accreditation process. Such fees include, but are not limited to: the accreditation visit team travel, hotel accommodations, meal per diem, printing, and postage.
- B. Continuing Accreditation - Institutions seeking reaccreditation shall be responsible for all fees associated with the accreditation process. Such fees include, but are not limited to: the accreditation visit team travel, hotel accommodations, meal per diem, printing, and postage.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 2.4 Reports Required of All Practical Nursing Programs.

- A. The practical nursing program must submit an annual report, located on the Mississippi Community College website, to verify compliance with identified components of the accreditation standard. The components will include, but are not limited to: admission and retention data, faculty-to-student ratios, and NCLEX-PN® pass rates on all test takers (1st- write and repeat). The annual report is due to the Board PN Education Program Director on or before October 15th of each year.
- B. If a program fails to submit the annual report or make prior arrangement for submitting late, a letter of concern will be mailed to the College President and Program Administrator. In addition, a copy of the letter will be placed in the program's file.
- C. The Board may require additional documentation as needed to verify ongoing compliance with accreditation standards. Audits verifying the accuracy of information presented in reports and general compliance with state standards may be conducted as deemed necessary by the Board.
- D. New program directors/administrators should contact MCCB Director for Career and Technical Education to receive a user name and password to access the Practical Nursing (PN) Annual Reporting System.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 2.5 Changes in Existing Practical Nursing Programs.

- A. Practical Nursing Programs desiring to make changes to an existing program shall request and receive approval from the Board PN Education Program Director in writing before a change is made. Only programs in full approval status may make requests to establish an additional practical nursing program location, expand, or relocate an existing practical nursing program.
- B. Board approval is required prior to the following changes occurring to an existing practical nursing program, but is not limited to:
 - 1) Significant alternations in the pattern of organization
 - 2) Establishing an additional practical nursing location
 - 3) Relocating an existing practical nursing program or any of its components
 - 4) Expanding or changing the current program options
 - 5) Substantial change in program delivery modalities
 - 6) Pilot programs/projects that differ from the current approved program

C. Substantive Change Notification

- a. Practical Nursing Programs are required to notify the Board, in writing, of any substantive changes affecting the nursing program. Substantive changes include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Changes in ownership of a practical nursing program
 - 2) Change in the Director/Administrator
 - 3) A change in accreditation status by an accrediting body, to include national accrediting agency or the accreditation status of the sponsoring institution shall be submitted in writing to the Board within thirty (30) business days of notification
 - 4) A change in the name of the program shall be submitted in writing to the Board within thirty (30) business days of the change
 - 5) Significant decrease in resources required to support the program
 - 6) Substantial revision of the curriculum
 - 7) Discontinuation of a practical nursing program

D. If the decision is made, by the Program or College, to discontinue the program, the disposition of all students' permanent transcripts and final records shall be made in accordance with institutional policy.

- a. An institution desiring to reopen a practical nursing program shall reapply for approval of the newly planned program as if it were establishing a new practical nursing program pursuant to Rule 2.6 in this chapter.

E. A program intending to close shall submit the following information:

- a. Reason for closing the program.
- b. Date of the intended closure.
- c. Academic provisions for the students.
- d. Provisions made for access to and storage of vital school records.

Rule 2.6 Approval for Establishment of a New Practical Nursing Program and Criteria for Accreditation.

- A. In addition to compliance with these rules, any institution seeking approval to begin a practical nursing program must meet the minimum prescribed requirements as outlined in the Mississippi Curriculum Framework for Post-Secondary Practical Nursing, as maintained by the Mississippi Community College Board.
- B. Institutions applying to the Board to establish a practical nursing program in Mississippi shall apply using the forms supplied by the Board.
- C. An application for Stage I: Declaration of Intent must be received in advance of the proposed opening of a new program site. All institutions and facilities attempting to establish a program of practical nursing shall be visited by designated Board staff or the and evaluated by those persons selected to serve on the accreditation site visit team. The program must meet all the criteria as specified in "Criteria for Establishing a Program of Practical Nursing in Mississippi." Practical nursing programs may not award a practical nursing program certificate prior to approval by the Board.
- D. If the program has been closed for five (5) years or more, the program will apply

for reinstatement to the PN Director and a visit by the PN Director will be performed.

Part 2865, Chapter 3: Standards and Criteria for State Accreditation with Required Documentary Evidence

Rule 3.1 Standards must be met by all programs of practical nursing in Mississippi, including those programs that are nationally accredited.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 3.2: Governance.

- A. The program's mission, program outcomes, and policies are congruent with those of the governing organization. The practical nursing program must be administered by a director/administrator who is academically and experientially qualified.
- 1) The mission and program outcomes for the practical nursing program are consistent with the mission of the governing organization.
 - 2) The policies of the practical nursing program are congruent with the policies of the governing organization or differences are justified.
 - 3) There is a clearly defined organizational chart that demonstrates channels of communication between administration of the governing organization and practical nursing faculty.
 - 4) The practical nursing program must be administered by a director/administrator with credentials verifying his/her legal active status as a registered nurse with an unencumbered license to practice in Mississippi and must:
 - (a) Hold a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing,
 - (b) Have five (5) years clinical experience working as a registered nurse; or three (3) years' experience as faculty in a nursing/allied health program
 - (c) Satisfy clinical agency requirements (if responsibilities include direct clinical supervision of students), i.e., background checks, immunizations, CPR, etc.
 - 5) Job/position descriptions delineate qualifications and responsibilities of the practical nursing director/administrator.
 - 6) The practical nursing director/administrator has the authority and responsibility for the development and administration of the program and has adequate time and resources to fulfill the role.
 - 7) The practical nursing director/administrator must comply with any Continuing Education requirements as stated by the Mississippi Board of Nursing, if indicated.
 - 8) The director/administrator, faculty, and students of the practical nursing program have an opportunity to participate in the activities of the governing organization.
 - 9) Distance education, when utilized, is congruent with the mission of

the governing organization and the mission/philosophy of the nursing education unit.

B. Required Documentation. Documentation shall be available for inspection by the Board or Board's designee.

- 1) Provide a copy of the mission of the practical nursing program.
- 2) Provide a copy of the mission of the governing organization.
- 3) Provide faculty/staff meetings minutes that reflect that the practical nursing program's mission is reviewed and revised as needed.
- 4) Provide a copy of the practical nursing program outcomes/goals.
- 5) Provide a copy of the governing organizations handbooks that demonstrates the policies affecting practical nursing program are non-discriminatory and are the same as for other programs. Provide justification for any differences. (A table that outlines this information is acceptable)
- 6) Provide an organizational chart of the parent/governing organization.
- 7) Provide the personnel file for the practical nursing director/administrator.
The following items should be included, in the file:
 - (a) Official college transcript
 - (b) Verification of unencumbered registered nurse license to practice in Mississippi.
- 8) Curriculum vita (CV) reflecting that director/administrator has a minimum of five (5) years clinical experience as a registered nurse or has three (3) years of experience as faculty in a nursing/allied health program.
- 9) Clinical agency requirements, i.e., background checks, immunizations, CPR, etc.
- 10) Provide a job description for the practical nursing program director/administrator that outlines qualifications, licensure requirements, and job responsibilities
- 11) Provide roster of committees, faculty/staff meeting minutes, or any other evidence that reflects director/administrator, faculty, and students of the practical nursing program participation in activities of the governing organization.
- 12) Provide documentation of successful completion of Board approved Continuing Education activities, if indicated.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 3.3: Faculty and Staff. Practical nursing faculty and staff are academically and experientially qualified. The number of qualified faculty and staff provides for the achievement of student learning and program outcomes.

- A. Practical nursing faculty (full-time, part-time, and adjunct) must have an unencumbered registered nurse license to practice in Mississippi and must:
 - 1) Hold a minimum of an Associate's Degree in Nursing.
 - 2) Have three (3) years clinical experience working as a registered nurse; or

- have two (2) years' experience as faculty in a nursing/allied health program
- 3) Satisfy clinical agency requirements, i.e., background checks, immunizations, CPR, etc.
- B. Practical nursing faculty members (full-time, part-time, and adjunct) participate in professional development activities that support evidenced-based practice in the classroom and clinical setting.
 - C. Practical nursing faculty members (full-time, part-time, and adjunct) are evaluated according to the governing organization's policies, and evaluation data is used for professional development.
 - D. Practical nursing faculty-to-student ratios in the classroom and clinical setting shall be appropriate to meet the student learning outcomes of the program.
 - 1) Total enrollment in each practical nursing program is limited to 15 students per one FTE qualified nursing faculty.
 - 2) Faculty-to-student ratio in the classroom and campus lab is no more than 1 to 15.
 - 3) Faculty-to-student ratio in clinical settings requiring direct supervision is no more than 1 to 10; precepted clinical experiences is no more than 1 to 15.
 - E. Clinical preceptors should have an active unencumbered nursing license to practice in Mississippi and at minimum, one year of nursing experience.
 - F. Support staff is available, qualified, and sufficient in number to support the student learning and program outcomes.
 - G. Administrative/clerical support is provided to support the achievement of student learning and program outcomes.
 - H. The practical nursing faculty members must comply with any Continuing Education requirements as indicated by the Mississippi Board of Nursing, if indicated.
 - I. **Required Documentation.** Documentation shall be available for inspection by the Board or Board's designee.
 - 1) Provide a personnel file for each faculty (full-time, part-time, and adjunct).

The following items should be included in the file:

 - (a) Verification of unencumbered registered nurse license to practice in Mississippi.
 - (b) CV reflecting that faculty has a minimum of three (3) years clinical experience as a registered nurse or has two (2) years of experience as faculty in a nursing/allied health program.
 - (c) Clinical agency requirements, i.e., background checks, immunizations, CPR, etc.
 - (d) Official college transcript.
 - 2) Provide copies of the faculty members' professional development plan that reflects information from evaluations.
 - 3) Provide evidence, such as conference registrations, academic transcripts, sign-in sheets, committee lists, etc. that show practical nursing faculty engage in professional development activities which may include, but are not limited to,

participation in:

- (a) Evidenced-based practice activities related to professional nursing development
 - (b) Nursing conferences
 - (c) Webinars
 - (d) Advanced nursing education
 - (e) College provided professional development
 - (f) College committees
 - (g) Institutional effectiveness
 - (h) Student advisement and support
 - (i) Health care facilities professional development and education
- 4) Provide class rolls, clinical groupings, lab assignments, etc., that document the following:
 - a) Total enrollment in each practical nursing program is limited to 15 students per one FTE qualified nursing faculty.
 - b) Faculty- to- student ratio in the classroom and campus lab is no more than 1 to 15.
 - c) Faculty- to- student ratio in clinical experiences requiring direct supervision is no more than 1 to 10; precepted clinical experiences is no more than 1 to 15.
 - 5) Preceptor:
 - a) Verification of unencumbered nursing licensure to practice in Mississippi.
 - b) Employee verification reflecting the preceptor has a minimum of one (1) year clinical experience as a nurse.
 - 6) Provide names and credentials of administrative/clerical and support staff, as well as an explanation, such as schedule, etc., to show how staff is available and sufficient in number to support the student learning and program outcomes.
 - 7) Provide documentation of successful completion of Board approved Continuing Education activities, if indicated.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 3.4 Students. The policies of the practical nursing program and services available to practical nursing students support student learning and program outcomes. Policies in effect for practical nursing students are nondiscriminatory, consistent with those in effect for all students enrolled in the governing organization, or differences are justified.

- A. Each practical nursing program shall be permitted a 15% allowance for high risk students who do not meet the stated admission criteria.
- B. Support services for practical nursing students shall be consistent with those available for all students enrolled in the governing organization.
- C. Educational and financial records for practical nursing students shall be in compliance with the policies of the governing organization, state, and

- federal guidelines.
- D. Practical nursing program information shall be accurate, clearly stated, published, and made available to current and prospective students. Such information shall include, but is not limited to:
- 1) Admission criteria
 - 2) Withdrawal process
 - 3) Readmission process
 - 4) Progression requirements
 - 5) Graduation requirements
 - 6) Legal limitations for licensure
 - 7) Policy regarding granting credit for prior learning
- E. Changes in the practical nursing program's policies, procedures, or guidelines shall be communicated in a clear and timely manner.
- F. There shall be a written procedure to address student complaints that includes evidence of due process and resolution of complaints.
- G. **Required Documentation.** Documentation shall be available for inspection by the Board or Board's designee.
- 1) Provide a current web address for the practical nursing program
 - 2) Provide access to the institution's student handbook
 - 3) Provide access to the practical nursing handbook
 - 4) Provide a table showing any differences in policies between practical nursing students and all students enrolled in the governing organization along with the justification for such differences
 - 5) Provide the practical nursing program admission criteria
 - 6) Provide the student selection process for program admission
 - 7) Provide evidence of applicant admissions to the practical nursing program
 - 8) Provide a listing of high-risk students that were admitted into the program.
 - 9) Provide evidence (student handbook, institution handbook) that practical nursing students have access to the same student services as those available to all students in the governing organization (counseling, library, labs, etc.)
 - 10) Provide evidence regarding the maintenance of educational and financial records. (programs, admissions, financial aid, etc.)
 - 11) Provide evidence of the following and show how the information is available to current and prospective practical nursing students:
 - (a) Admission criteria
 - (b) Withdrawal process
 - (c) Readmission process
 - (d) Progression requirements
 - (e) Graduation requirements
 - (f) Legal limitations for licensure
 - 12) Provide evidence of the practical nursing program's process to grant credit for any prior learning. State the courses involved and the procedure for granting this credit.
 - 13) Provide evidence of the practical nursing program's grievance policy regarding student complaints.

14) Provide access to distance (hybrid) education policies.

Rule 3.5 Curriculum. The program of learning utilizes the Mississippi Curriculum Framework for Post-Secondary Practical Nursing for the achievement of student learning and program outcomes.

- A. The program of learning meets the requirements of the Mississippi Curriculum Framework for Post-Secondary Practical Nursing and is organized so that knowledge and skills are progressively developed.
- B. The curriculum is regularly reviewed by faculty, and faculty participate in curriculum development, implementation, and revision at the state and individual program level.
- C. A variety of evaluation methods are used by faculty for the purpose of measuring achievement of student learning outcomes.
- D. Learning experiences and methods of instruction for theory, campus lab, and clinical lab are selected by the faculty to support the achievement of student learning and program outcomes.
- E. Affiliation agreements exist between the governing organization and the clinical agencies.

F. Required Documentation:

- 1) Provide evidence that the program of learning is organized so that knowledge and skills progress from simple to complex, and that the faculty are a part of curriculum implementation and development.
- 2) Provide evidence that each course syllabus includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Competencies and objectives that support the Mississippi Curriculum Framework for Post-Secondary Practical Nursing.
 - (b) A variety of learning experiences and instructional and evaluation methods that promote and measure achievement of student learning outcomes.
- 3) Courses that include clinical instruction will provide clinical experiences to support the achievement
- 4) Provide evidence that affiliation agreements with all clinical agencies used for clinical education are reviewed periodically, revised as needed, and include the following:
 - (a) Termination clauses.
 - (b) Appropriate signatures and dates.
 - (c) Contains language designating faculty responsibility for students and for the selection of student learning experiences.
- 5) Provide evidence that students and faculty evaluate clinical agencies and that the evaluation data is used to support the achievement of student learning and program outcomes.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 3.6 Resources. Resources for the practical nursing program shall be sufficient to support the achievement of student learning and program outcomes.

- A. Fiscal resources shall be sufficient to achieve student learning and program outcomes.
- B. Faculty salaries shall be sufficient to recruit and retain qualified nursing faculty.
- C. Physical facilities shall be adequate for achievement of the student learning and program outcomes.
- D. Learning resources shall be comprehensive, current, and accessible to students and faculty. Learning resources shall include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Library Resources
 - 2) Computer Labs
 - 3) Campus Labs
- E. **Required Documentation.** Documentation shall be available for inspection by the Board or Board's designee.
 - 1) Provide a copy of the practical nursing program budget and one other healthcare program budget for comparison.
 - 2) Provide a copy of the institution's practical nursing faculty salary scale as well as the institution's salary scale for another faculty
 - 3) Provide the number of practical nursing faculty vacancies, applicants, and turnover rates for the past three years.
 - 4) Provide description of physical facilities.
 - 5) Provide description of learning resources.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 3.7 Outcomes. Evaluation of the practical nursing program shall be ongoing, systematic and demonstrate achievement of student learning and program outcomes.

- A. Systematic evaluation of the practical nursing program shall demonstrate assessment and evaluation of student learning outcomes.
- B. Program outcome achievement is demonstrated by:
 - 1) Licensure exam passage rates: the program's three-year mean on NCLEX-PN® for all test takers shall be at or above the national average
 - 2) Program completion rates: expected levels of achievement are determined by faculty and reflect program demographics and local program options. The three-year mean for program completion must be at or above the identified expected level of achievement.
 - 3) Program satisfaction: expected levels of achievement are determined by faculty and include quantitative and qualitative data that addresses graduate satisfaction measures. The three-year mean for program satisfaction must be at or above the identified expected level of achievement for graduates.

- 4) Job placement rates: expected levels of achievement are determined by faculty and are based on current employment patterns and trends. The three-year mean for job placement must be at or above the identified expected level of achievement.

C. Required Documentation. Documentation shall be available for inspection by the Board or Board's designee.

- 1) Provide evidence that the systematic evaluation plan includes:
 - a) Expected levels of achievement, time frames, and assessment methods for each criterion
 - b) Data has been collected, analyzed, aggregated, and trended
 - c) Evidence that evaluation findings are used for program improvement
- 2) Provide evidence that levels of achievement have been established and measured for licensure examination pass rates, program completion rates, program satisfaction, and job placement rates.
- 3) Provide evidence that faculty meeting minutes reflect faculty input into the systematic evaluation plan and program improvement or revisions based on results of data collection.
- 4) Provide graduate surveys.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 3.8 Additional materials required during Initial/State Accreditation Visit

- A. Documentation of current accreditation status to include the previous Accreditation Team Report, progress reports, etc.
- B. Current college catalog and student manual/information brochures.
- C. Program Director/Administrator and Practical Nursing Instructor job descriptions, personnel policies and procedures (hard copy or online access)
- D. Faculty credentials available for review (hard copy or online access)
- E. Faculty profile sheet or faculty dossier
- F. Documentation of FTE to student ratios, i.e. class rolls, etc.
- G. Faculty, committee, and advisory committee meeting minutes
- H. Student handbook
- I. Organization charts for the college, program
- J. Course syllabi, test samples, evaluations tools used in theory, lab, and clinical
- K. Systematic Plan for Evaluation of the Program (SPEP) based on the PN Standards
- L. Program evaluations from graduates
- M. Class, clinical, and lab schedules
- N. Documentation of graduate placement
- O. Clinical Education Agreements (old clinical affiliate agreements)
- P. Documentation of clinical agencies accreditation
- Q. Documentation of NCLEX-PN® pass rates for the past three reporting years to include current year (reports provided by Board of Nursing, spreadsheets, etc.)
- R. Access to student complaints reports, anecdotal reports if applicable
- S. Any other documentation that may be needed to amplify and verify the report

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 3.9 Plan of Compliance

- A. A Plan of Compliance may be submitted to the Board in a format selected by the college (narrative, spreadsheet, etc.). The Corrective Action Plan must include the following: (1) state the noncompliant criterion cited; (2) provide a sufficient remedy for each noncompliant criterion detailing a description of the corrective action to be taken; and (3) provide supporting documentation. A timeframe for the implementation of the correction action would be helpful, but not a requirement.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Part 2865, Chapter 4: Hybrid Educational Option

Rule 4.1 Criteria for Hybrid Option

- A. Approval is required from the Board prior to implementation of the program. (See Rule 2.5).
- B. The program must be located within the State of Mississippi in order to seek permission to offer hybrid education.
- C. Congruence with the mission of the governing organization.
- D. Programs must currently have a full approval accreditation status prior to implementation.
- E. Adequate resources must be available to support the distance education technology and to provide training to faculty to ensure that they have expertise in the utilization of distance learning technologies and that they are able to adapt their teaching methods accordingly.
- F. Provide students with equal access to learning resources, student services, nursing faculty, and other support services offered to students on campus.
- G. Clinical and lab must occur through traditional experience (faculty-guided experiences with direct client contact). Clinical and lab cannot be included as part of the hybrid education experience.
- H. Ongoing evaluation of the course(s) by faculty and students.
- I. Student outcomes consistent with stated mission, goals, and objectives of the program.

Part 2865, Chapter 5 Simulation Standards

Rule 5.1 Criteria for Simulation

- A. Practical nursing programs may include the use of simulation as a substitute for traditional clinical experience. Simulation may replace clinical practice up to 25%, with a practice ratio of 1:1.
- 1) In the following specialty area where clinical is limited, (i.e. Mental Health, Maternal, Pediatrics only) the amount of simulation may exceed 25%.
 - 2) Simulation clinical hours practice shall not exceed a ratio of 1:1 (one hour of simulation equals one hour of hands-on practice).
 - 3) Clinical simulation experience shall not exceed a student-to-faculty ratio of 10:1.
 - 4) Clinical simulation must be led by faculty who meet the qualifications specified in Rule 3.3.
 - 5) To meet the curriculum and course objectives, provide a simulation environment with adequate faculty, space, equipment, and supplies that simulate realistic clinical experiences.
- B. Nursing programs using simulation as a substitution for clinical experiences, shall have the following documentation available:
- 1) Number of simulated hours.
 - 2) Faculty qualification (documentation of competencies in simulation and debriefing).
 - 3) Faculty and student evaluation of simulated experiences.
 - 4) Course description and objectives.
 - 5) Method of debriefing.
 - 6) Evidence the space, equipment, and supplies are adequate to meet the clinical objectives.
 - 7) Provide information about the use of simulation, as requested by the Mississippi Board of Nursing on the annual report.

Part 2865, Chapter 6: Established Programs.

Rule 6.1 Types of State Accreditation for Mississippi Practical Nurse Programs approved by the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

- A. Full State Accreditation:
- 1) All standards are met; however, areas for improvement may be delineated.
 - 2) Full accreditation is for 8 (eight) years.
- B. Provisional State Accreditation:
- 1) One or two standards have not been met.
 - 2) A Plan of Compliance for meeting standard(s) must be submitted within sixty (60) business days of the date of the Board accreditation recommendation.
 - 3) Provisional Accreditation will be granted for a period of twenty-four (24)

months, with a required follow-up report. A revisit may be required at the discretion of the Board.

- 4) If the practical nursing program demonstrates compliance with all standards at the end of the provisional accreditation period, the program will be accredited for the full 8 (eight) years from the date of the original accreditation visit.

C. Probationary State Accreditation:

- 1) Three or more standards have not been met.
- 2) A plan of compliance for meeting standards must be submitted within sixty (60) business days of the date of the Board accreditation recommendation.
- 3) Probationary accreditation will be granted for a period of twenty-four (24) months with a required revisit at the end of the probationary accreditation period.
- 4) If the practical nursing program demonstrates compliance with all standards at the end of the probationary period, the program will be accredited for the full (8) eight years from the date of the original accreditation visit.

D. Withdrawal of State Accreditation: If the institution has not complied with all requirements within the twenty-four (24) months, **accreditation will be withdrawn at the time of completion of the presently enrolled classes.**

E. Practical nursing programs that lose state accreditation may reapply for state accreditation as a newly established program one year from the effective date of withdrawal.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 6.2 Appeals Process.

- A. An institution wishing to appeal factual errors in the Accreditation Team's Preliminary Report must submit a written statement and supporting documentation to the Board PN Education Program Director within (14) fourteen business days of the date of the accreditation team's exit interview.
- B. An institution wishing to appeal the decision of the Board, regarding accreditation status, shall do so in writing within (30) thirty business days of the date of the Board's decision.
- C. When the Board PN Education Program Director receives a request for an appeal:
 - 1) An Appeals Panel shall be convened within six (6) weeks of the request for an appeal.
 - 2) The Appeals Panel will consist of five (5) people who have knowledge of practical nursing program accreditation purposes and procedures.
 - 3) A chair of the Appeals Panel will be designated by the Board PN Education Program Director.
 - 4) The program filing the appeal may request in writing that any member of the Appeals Panel be removed, provided the program can show good cause as to why the member should be removed.

- D. Only evidence previously submitted to the Board may be included in a submission to the Appeals Panel. Following oral presentation (if any) and the Panel's consideration of the appeal, the Appeals Panel will determine the outcome of each appeal by a majority vote.
- E. The Appeals Panel can either uphold the decision of the Board or remand to the Board for reconsideration.
 - 1) If the Appeals Panel upholds the decision of the Board, the action of the Appeals Panel is final, pending approval by the Full Membership of the Board. The institution shall be notified of the decision.
 - 2) If the Appeals Panel remands the case to the Board for further consideration, the matter shall be deemed to be finally disposed of when the Board takes final action on remand.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 6.3 Accreditation Process

A. General Provisions.

- 1) Each practical nursing program in Mississippi will be visited by an accreditation site team every eight (8) years, or more often if necessary.
- 2) Each program will submit four (4) Self-Study Reports to the Board PN Education Program Director, at least six (6) weeks prior to any scheduled state accreditation visit. Failure to submit at least six (6) weeks prior to the scheduled state accreditation visit, can result in a delay scheduling the accreditation site visit.
- 3) If the practical nursing program receives national accreditation, the self-study for the national accreditation can be submitted in place of the state's self-study, if completed within the past twelve months. The self-study for national accreditation **must** be cross referenced with the state's accreditation standards. Failure to cross reference the standards can result in the accreditation visit being rescheduled.
- 4) The state's accreditation visit will not be made at the same time as a national accreditation visit, unless requested by the program director; however, the program may request that the Board PN Education Program Director be present during the national accreditation visit.
- 5) The full membership of the Mississippi Board of Nursing will approve or deny accreditation of a practical nursing program based on the accreditation visit team's final report of findings and recommendation of accreditation status.

B. Responsibilities of the Board Prior to Accreditation Visit. The Board PN Education Program Director shall:

- 1) Confirm with the institution's president and administrator, the scheduled dates of the accreditation visit for that school. Accreditation visits will be made when the school is in session.
- 2) Select accreditation team members and appoint one member of the team to serve as chair. The accreditation team is selected by Board PN Education

Program Director. The typical composition of an accreditation team consists of Board staff and three (3) members from the practical nursing education community. The team should include at least one (1) practical nursing director/administrator. Past or present administrators and faculty of the nursing program being evaluated will not serve on the accreditation team for their own program. If a practical nursing director/administrator of the school being visited objects to a particular team member with just cause, the administrator may appeal to the Board PN Education Program Director.

- 3) Submit the following to the institution:
 - (a) Accreditation Standards and Rules and Regulations for Accreditation of Mississippi Programs of Practical Nursing.
 - (b) The names of prospective accreditation site team members.
 - (c) The name of the chair of the accreditation site visit team.
- 4) Submit the following to the accreditation team members:
 - (a) All documents submitted by the institution that pertain to the accreditation visit, including but not limited to, the self-study, program reports, college catalog, program handbook.
 - (b) Accreditation Standards and Rules and Regulations for Accreditation of Mississippi Programs of Practical Nursing.

C. Responsibilities of the Institution Prior to Accreditation Visit. The director/administrator of the practical nursing program of the institution shall:

- 1) Plan and schedule all activities of the accreditation visit on the dates determined by Board PN Education Program Director.
- 2) Submit the program's Self-Study Report to the Board PN Education Program Director at least six (6) weeks prior to the scheduled visit.
- 3) Collaborate with the accreditation team chair to plan the agenda for the accreditation visit.
- 4) Reserve hotel rooms for the Accreditation Team (4) four to (6) six weeks prior to the scheduled visit.
- 5) Make provisions for the Accreditation Team meals and travel reimbursement.

D. Responsibilities of the Accreditation Team. After the dates for the accreditation visit have been set and the accreditation team has been selected:

- 1) Each accreditation team member is expected to be knowledgeable about the accreditation process, the "Standards for Accreditation," and the "Rules and Regulations for Accreditation of Mississippi Programs of Practical Nursing".
- 2) The accreditation team works together to share responsibility for all aspects of the visit.
- 3) The accreditation team chair's responsibilities include:
 - (a) Communicating with the practical nursing program director/administrator regarding major planning for the visit.
 - (b) Allocating responsibilities for various activities, prior to the accreditation visit, to assure optimum utilization of team members.
 - (c) Ensuring adequate coverage of all areas during the visit, including interviews or conferences with essential personnel.
 - (d) Acting as the official spokesperson for the accreditation team.

- (e) Requesting any additional materials as needed from the practical nursing director/ administrator during the accreditation visit.
 - (f) Meeting with the practical nursing director/administrator prior to reading the preliminary report at the exit interview.
 - (g) Reading the preliminary report at the exit interview to the practical nursing director/administrator, faculty, staff, students and administrators that may be in attendance. The chair may share the responsibility of reading the report among the accreditation team members.
- 4) The accreditation team members' responsibilities include:
 - (a) Reviewing the Self-Study Report and supporting documents, prior to the accreditation visit to become thoroughly knowledgeable with the assigned portions of content.
 - (b) Meeting on the evening prior to the accreditation visit to discuss Self-Study Report and to outline the procedures to be followed during the visit. The practical nursing program is not responsible for hosting this meeting.
 - (c) Answering any questions regarding assigned portions of accreditation visit and Self-Study Report posed by the practical nursing director/administrator and administrative personnel.
 - 5) The accreditation team's role during the accreditation visit is to verify, clarify, and amplify the information submitted by the practical nursing program in relation to the state standards for accreditation.
 - 6) Each aspect of the program must be evaluated only in terms of the evidence presented as it relates to the standards for accreditation.
- E. Conducting the Accreditation Visit. In conducting the accreditation visit, every effort is made to not interrupt the ongoing daily activities of the institution.
- 1) When planning the agenda and activities involved in the accreditation visit:
 - (a) The accreditation team ensures that any adjustments to the schedule are done at the convenience of the college whenever feasible.
 - (b) The agenda includes time set aside each day for the accreditation team to review the various materials and appropriate records.
 - (c) The agenda includes time on the second day for the accreditation team to compile the preliminary report

- (d) The institution shall plan the following activities to take place during the visit for the accreditation team:
 - 1. Preliminary, interim, and closing conferences with faculty; administrative officers of the institution;
 - 2. Observations in selected clinical settings to observe and talk with students;
 - 3. Tours of the classroom and laboratory space;
 - 4. Conferences with nursing students;
 - 5. Visits to appropriate college facilities
- (e) Accreditation team members should not request materials from the college for personal use. Only materials needed to supplement the self-study or follow-up report should be requested.

F. Preparing the Accreditation Team's Preliminary and Final Report.

- 1) The preliminary report is a report of each team member's accreditation visit findings and is:
 - (a) Drafted by the chair of the accreditation team before the team leaves the accreditation visit.
 - (b) To be read and discussed by the accreditation team members with the practical nursing director/administrator prior to reading the report to the faculty and administrators.
 - (c) The preliminary report will be read by the chair at the exit interview to the practical nursing director/administrator, faculty, staff, students and administrators that may be in attendance. The chair may share the responsibility of reading the report among the accreditation team members.
- 2) The accreditation team's Final Report must be submitted to Board PN Education Program Director within fourteen (14) business days after the conclusion of the accreditation visit and should:
 - (a) Assure that the accreditation team's report supplements and complements the program's self-study.
 - (b) Clarify questionable areas of the practical nursing program's Self-Study or follow-up report.
 - (c) Present a concise, unbiased, and complete picture of each practical nursing program that includes documentary evidence of meeting or not meeting state standards for accreditation and an assessment of the strengths and areas needing development.
 - (d) The Accreditation Team's Final Report which includes a recommendation for accreditation will be submitted to the full membership of the Mississippi Board of Nursing for a decision of accreditation status during a full Board Hearing.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Part 2865, Chapter 7: Criteria for Establishing a Program of Practical Nursing in the State of Mississippi

Rule 7.1 Types of Accreditation for Mississippi Practical Nurse Programs approved by the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

- A. Any institution seeking approval to establish a practical nursing program, in the state of Mississippi must:
 - 1) Agree to be governed by the rules and regulations of the Board with regard to Standards for Practical Nursing Accreditation,
 - 2) Meet the minimum prescribed requirements as outlined in the Mississippi Curriculum Framework for Post-Secondary Practical Nursing,
 - 3) Pay the \$2,500 **non-refundable** fee assessed to institutions seeking program approval,
 - 4) Be responsible for all fees associated with the accreditation process. Such fees include, but are not limited to: the accreditation visit team travel, hotel accommodations, meal per diem, printing, and postage.
 - 5) Successfully complete all three stages of accreditation.
- B. Stages of Accreditation:
 - 1) Stage 1: Declaration of Intent.
 - 2) Stage II: Qualify for Initial Accreditation. Upon approval of Initial Accreditation, an institution may admit students.
 - 3) Stage III: Qualify for Full Accreditation.
- C. All stages of accreditation require completion of official Board applications.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 7.2 Stage 1: Declaration of Intent.

- A. Any institution considering the establishment of a practical nursing program shall:
 - 1) Request consultation from the Board PN Education Program Director.
 - 2) Establish a local advisory committee and submit evidence of advisory committee involvement in the planning process. Advisory committee members should include representation from:
 - (a) Practical nursing education,
 - (b) Nursing services,
 - (c) Healthcare facilities,
 - (d) Educational agencies, and
 - (e) Community at large.
 - 3) Provide evidence of consult with practical nursing directors/administrators who are involved in the administration of accredited practical nursing programs.

- 4) At least six (6) months prior to the proposed opening of the program, submit to the Board PN Education Program Director, the following:
 - (a) Application for Stage I: Declaration of Intent.
 - (b) Submit \$2,500 **non-refundable** assessment fee
 - (c) Current institution catalog or electronic access to current catalog.
 - (d) Determination of availability of qualified faculty.
 - (e) Tentative timetable for initiating the proposed practical nursing program.
 - (f) Certificate of registration and an agent's permit, as required by Mississippi Community College Office of Proprietary Schools.
 - (g) Source of potential students and enrollment projections.
 - (h) Need and feasibility study (should include impact in community and purpose for establishing new program).
 - (i) Tentative budget plan including evidence of financial sustainability to plan, implement, and continue the nursing program.
 - (j) Determination of availability of clinical agencies.

- 5) United States Department of Education Agency Accreditation
 - (a) Any institution seeking approval for the establishment of a New Practical Nursing Program in the state of Mississippi must provide proof of current unencumbered accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized/authorized by the United States Department of Education. The institution must provide the Board with the documentation of accreditation status as part of the Declaration of Intent. The Declaration of Intent is the First Stage of the process for establishing a new practical nursing program.
 - (b) If the institution's United States Department of Education agency accreditation status is suspended or terminated for any reason, the practical nursing program's accreditation will be withdrawn at the completion of the presently enrolled class. Practical nursing programs that lose state accreditation may reapply for state accreditation as a newly established program (1) one year from the effective date of withdrawal.

- B. Upon receipt of the above documents and information, the Board PN Education Program Director shall:
- 1) Review the application and supporting documents.
 - 2) Submit the Application for Stage I: Declaration of Intent to the full membership of the Mississippi Board of Nursing for a decision of approval or denial.
 - 3) Send a letter informing the institution of the Board's decision explaining the following:
 - (a) Decision of approval - Upon approval of Stage I: Declaration of Intent, an institution may proceed to Stage II: Qualify for Initial Accreditation.
 - (b) Decision of denial - Upon denial of Stage I: Declaration of Intent, an institution may consult with Board PN Education Program

Director regarding the reasons for denial. The institution may revise its plan and resubmit to the Board or abandon its intention to establish a practical nursing program.

- (c) If the institution abandons the intent to establish a practical nursing program, the \$2,500 is nonrefundable.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-15-25, 73-15-27 (1972, as amended).

Rule 7.3 Stage II: Qualify for Initial Accreditation.

- A. Following approval of Stage I: Declaration of Intent by the full membership of the Mississippi Board of Nursing, the institution may apply for Stage II: Qualify for Initial Accreditation. The institution shall:
 - 1) Employ a practical nursing program director/administrator with qualifications outlined in the Standards of Accreditation.
 - 2) Submit four Self-Study Reports addressing the Standards for Practical Nursing Accreditation.
- B. Following receipt of the above items, the Board PN Education Program Director shall appoint an accreditation team.
 - 1) An accreditation team shall consist of the Board PN Education Program Director and three (3) practical nursing directors/administrators who have experience as accreditation team members.
 - 2) The accreditation team shall review the Self-Study Report, supporting documents and other documents submitted in Stage I: Declaration of Intent.
 - 3) The accreditation team will conduct an accreditation visit of the institution to amplify, clarify, and verify the information submitted in the Self-Study Report. The visit will be conducted at a time agreed on by both the Board and the institution seeking approval.
 - 4) The accreditation team and/or chair will submit the Final Report and recommendation of accreditation status to the Board PN Education Program Director within fourteen (14) days following the accreditation visit.
- C. After review of the final report, the Board PN Education Program Director shall:
 - 1) Submit the accreditation team's Final Report and recommendation of accreditation status to the full membership of the Mississippi Board of Nursing for either approval or denial of Stage II: Qualify for Initial Accreditation.
 - 2) Send a letter informing the institution of the Board's decision explaining the following:
 - (a) Decision of approval: Allows the institution to admit students. Institutions may admit a maximum of two (2) classes per calendar year until full accreditation is granted by the Board.
 - (b) Decision of denial: Upon denial of Stage II: Application for Initial Accreditation, the institution:
 - i. May NOT admit students.

- ii. May revise and resubmit the Self-Study Report to reflect corrections of standards/criteria that were found to be non-compliant as noted in the Final Report.
- iii. Revised Self-Study Report must be received within six (6) months of the date of denial. The institution's application for Stage II: Qualify for Initial Accreditation will be terminated if the revised Self-Study Report is not received within the six (6) month period.
- iv. If an institution's Application for Stage II: Qualify for Initial Accreditation expires or is withdrawn, the institution may re-apply by starting over the entire process of establishing a new practical nursing program beginning with Stage I: Declaration of Intent. All applications, forms, information, fees, etc., must be resubmitted in entirety.
- v. The revised Self-Study Report, if submitted, is reviewed by the Board PN Education Program Director and the accreditation team to determine if areas of non-compliance have been corrected. A determination will be made regarding if an accreditation visit is required.
- vi. Following review of the revised Self-Study Report, and accreditation visit, if deemed necessary, the accreditation team shall submit a Final Report and recommendation of accreditation status to the Board PN Education Program Director.
- vii. After review of the accreditation team's Final Report and recommendation of accreditation status, the Board PN Education Program Director shall submit the accreditation team's Final Report and recommendation of accreditation status to the full membership of the Mississippi Board of Nursing for either approval or denial of Stage II: Qualify for Initial Accreditation.
- viii. The Board PN Education Program Director will send a letter to the institution informing them of the decision of the Board explaining the following:
 - i. Decision of approval: Allows the institution to admit students. Institutions may admit a maximum of two (2) classes per calendar year until full accreditation is granted by the Board.
 - ii. Decision of denial: Upon a second denial of Stage II: Qualify for Initial Accreditation, the institution's application is terminated. The institution must wait a period of one (1) year before starting over the entire process of establishing a new practical nursing program beginning with Stage I: Declaration of Intent. All applications, forms, formation, fees, etc., must be resubmitted in entirety.

Rule 7.4 Qualify for Full Accreditation.

- A. Following approval of Stage II: Qualify for Initial Accreditation by the full membership of the Mississippi Board of Nursing, the institution may apply for Stage III: Qualify for Full Accreditation.
- 1) The institution shall be responsible for notifying the Board prior to the beginning of the final term of the second graduating class to schedule an accreditation visit.
 - 2) The institution must submit the application for Stage III: Qualify for Full Accreditation and a current Self-Study to the Board PN Education Program Director no later than six (6) weeks prior to the accreditation visit.
 - 3) The accreditation team chair will submit the Final Report and recommendation of accreditation status to the Board PN Education Program Director within fourteen (14) days following the Accreditation visit.
 - 4) In order for a program to be granted full accreditation:
 - (a) All accreditation standards and criteria must have been met.
 - (b) Performance on the first write of the NCLEX-PN® licensing exam by 90% of graduates in the first graduating class is at or above the national mean.
- B. After review of the final report, the Board PN Education Program Director shall:
- 1) Submit the accreditation team's Final Report and recommendation of accreditation status to the full membership of the Mississippi Board of Nursing for either approval or denial of Stage III: Qualify for Full Accreditation.
 - 2) Send a letter informing the institution of the Board's decision explaining the following:
 - (a) Decision of approval: the institution receives full accreditation for five (5) years.
 - (b) Decision of Denial –the institution will remain on initial accreditation. Board Staff will provide a copy of the site team members' written report and recommendation of accreditation status to the institution.
 - i. A plan of compliance based on identified areas of noncompliance must be received by the Board within 30 (thirty) business days of receipt of the Board's decision of denial.
 - ii. Admission privileges will be suspended until a plan of compliance has been submitted and approved. The program will have two (2) years to achieve full accreditation status after approval of plan of improvement or the institution may re-apply by starting the entire process of Establishing a New Practical Nursing Program over beginning with Stage I: Declaration of Intent. All applications, forms, information, fees, etc., must be resubmitted in entirety.