

Question :

Dear Maryland Board of Nursing,

I represent the University of XYZ with campus locations in [multiple states] . Univ of XYZ is planning to offer an online Master of Science in Nursing program and we are trying to confirm if the Maryland Board of Nursing regulates and approves post licensure nursing programs such as an MSN program.

As part of the CCNE New Applicant Status requirements, we are required to provide evidence that approval or authorization by the state board of nursing is not necessary.

4. Evidence that the nursing program is approved or otherwise authorized by all applicable state boards of nursing. The institution provides an explanation if the program is on probation, warning, show cause, or similar status with the state board of nursing. The institution provides an explanation if such approval or authorization is not necessary for a particular nursing program.

If approval is not required, what is the procedure and/or process to obtain a letter from the MD Board of Nursing independently confirming approval of post licensure nursing programs is not required by the MD Board of Nursing?

Thank you for any guidance you can share on this matter.

Response:

Dear Univ of XYZ,

The Maryland Board of Nursing approves state schools/programs that provide the pre-licensure education for initial PN or RN license.

Maryland is a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARS usually referred to as SARA). Online programs that include a field experience (i.e., clinical) in Maryland with a simultaneous enrollment of 10 or fewer students at a single site for each online program, must complete the online certificate of registration process (www.mhec.state.md.us). If more than 10 students are simultaneously enrolled, at a single site, the full certificate of authorization (COA) registration must be completed. If you are a SARA member institution, your institution is exempt from either process. Online registered institutions/programs are vetted by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) in terms of their accreditation, financial standing, and student refund policy, among other things. The **MHEC contact is Ms. Monica Wheatley** (monica.wheatley@maryland.gov), Associate Director, Collegiate Affairs.

Nevertheless, all new programs, regardless of the degree, certificate or teaching method(s), out-of-state students or MD students in an out-of state program which use MD clinical facilities and non-SARA members **must obtain permission from MHEC** to open or use health delivery facilities. Clinical facilities may be traditional (hospitals, clinics, etc.) or non-traditional health delivery sites, such as laundromats, battered women shelters, barber shops, as well as health delivery and non-health delivery personnel, etc. To arrange for a program, program instruction or a preceptorship in MD, contact Ms. Wheatley.

Though the program is not physically located in MD, the Board needs to be kept abreast of your program's presence, course offerings (brief descriptions, numbers of students, nursing student licenses and expiration dates), MD teaching faculty (credentials, brief CV, specialty, license number and its expiration) and clinical facilities. Out-of-state nurse clinical faculty/preceptors, nursing program officials who visit/consult with students or facility personnel must be licensed in Maryland.

Please submit this information to our departmental email account MDBON.NBEXAM@maryland.gov