

# NLNAC

National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.

## **NLNAC ACCREDITATION MANUAL**

---

## **SUPPLEMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

*Assuring Quality for the Future of Nursing Education*

NLNAC

## **POSITION STATEMENT ON ACCREDITATION OF INTERNATIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

NLNAC is committed to quality in all types of nursing education programs and encourages self evaluation, peer review, and the promotion of educational equity, access, and mobility through the functions of accreditation. Recognizing that educational institutions are expanding their programs to foster access and that such expansion initiatives increasingly involve global outreach efforts, NLNAC will extend the benefits of accreditation to include those programs with activities of global engagement.

NLNAC asserts that accreditation is a voluntary, self-regulatory process by which non-governmental entities recognize educational institutions or programs that have been found to meet or exceed standards and criteria for educational quality. NLNAC acknowledges that nursing education programs located outside of the United States and its territories can benefit from adherence to best practices and generally-accepted guidelines for nursing education incorporated in the NLNAC Standards and Criteria. In order to fulfill its mission to support the interests of nursing education, nursing practice, and the public, NLNAC seeks to broaden the impact of accreditation to encompass nursing education programs across the globe.

Therefore, in a spirit of cooperation, openness, and mutual respect consistent with its organizational values, NLNAC has initiated the development of a model for accreditation and related services for international nursing education programs.

APPROVED BY BOC FEBRUARY 26, 2010

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Nursing education programs in any location must meet the following eligibility requirements as listed in the Accreditation Manual, Policy # 3:

- Placement within a governing organization that is accredited by an approved accrediting agency or holds unconditional approval by the appropriate regulatory agency that has legal authority for education programs.
- Placement within a governing organization that is authorized to grant the credential awarded at the completion of the program.

Nursing education programs located outside the United States must meet the following additional eligibility requirements.

- Program faculty and students must speak and understand English proficiently. Program must produce all documents and written materials which are required for the accreditation processes in English. All fiscal documents must be in English with currency equivalents in U.S. dollars.
- Program has been in operation for a minimum of five years and has graduated a minimum of three classes of nursing graduates.
- The region in which the program is located must not be identified as hazardous for travel by the U.S. State Department.
- Program must agree to host a minimum of two onsite visits including a mandatory onsite consultation visit and the onsite accreditation visit.
- Program has financial resources adequate to meet all fiscal responsibilities related to the NLNAC accreditation processes including application, Candidacy, and two onsite visits.
- The nursing program must establish and provide documentation that it has obtained requisite governmental and regulatory approval to seek NLNAC accreditation.

## **INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES**

Nursing education units that are located outside the U.S. which are considering accreditation by NLNAC should contact NLNAC to begin the process. International programs must complete and submit the International Candidacy Application to determine their eligibility for International Candidacy Status. The International Candidacy Application must be accompanied by an application fee of \$5,000 (\$2,500 of which is refunded if the program is determined not to be eligible for accreditation by NLNAC).

NLNAC professional staff determine a program's eligibility and suitability for NLNAC accreditation by reviewing the application. Possible results of the review include the following:

- a. The program is deemed eligible to pursue International Candidacy Status.
- b. The program is asked to submit additional information/clarification.
- c. The program is deemed ineligible to pursue International Candidacy Status and will be withdrawn from the process.

## **NLNAC Accreditation Manual—Supplement for International Programs**

International nursing education programs determined to be eligible for International Candidacy Status will be scheduled for a mandatory onsite consultation visit. In preparation for the onsite consultation visit, programs will submit an International Candidacy Presentation which will be provided to site visitors a minimum of twelve (12) weeks prior to the onsite visit.

The International Candidacy Presentation will address the following:

- Qualifications and position description for the nurse administrator;
- Faculty academic and experiential qualifications for all faculty or instructional personnel teaching in the nursing program;
- The entire curriculum/program of study including materials related to all courses;
- Resources to deliver the program including learning resources, facilities (classrooms, laboratories, clinical and offices), technology, and fiscal resources; and
- Quantified student learning outcomes and program outcomes.

The onsite consultation visit will be conducted by at least one NLNAC program evaluator and one member of the NLNAC professional staff. The purpose of the onsite consultation visit is to determine whether a program may proceed with the accreditation process. Following the onsite consultation visit, a Consultation Visit Report (CVR) is submitted by the site visitors. Based on the recommendations of the site visitors, NLNAC will take one of the following actions:

- Approve International Candidacy Status: onsite accreditation visit to be scheduled within one year. Approval of International Candidacy Status does not guarantee that the program will achieve initial accreditation.
- Extension of Time to Achieve Candidacy: the Program is asked to complete specified actions/implement specific changes or modifications within one year of notification. To proceed, the program must submit an International Candidacy Presentation Addendum within one year of notification describing how the recommended actions/concerns have been addressed. When a program is not able to demonstrate compliance within one year of notification, NLNAC withdraws the program and discontinues the accreditation process. If the Addendum is approved by the NLNAC professional staff, International Candidacy Status is conferred with the onsite accreditation visit to be scheduled within one year.
- Denial of International Candidacy Status: NLNAC withdraws the program from the accreditation process. Programs denied International Candidacy Status must wait for a minimum of one year before re-applying. No fees will be refunded if a program is withdrawn.
- Programs are not eligible: NLNAC withdraws the program from the process. No fees will be refunded if a program is withdrawn.

## **SELF-REVIEW AND SELF-STUDY REPORT**

The sections of the NLNAC Accreditation Manual available online at [www.nlnac.org](http://www.nlnac.org) related to the Self-Review and Self-Study Report apply to all programs, including those located outside the United States and the U.S. territories. All programs electing to participate in accreditation activities are required to abide by the policies and procedures as outlined in the Accreditation Manual.

**THE SITE VISIT**

The section of the Accreditation Manual related to the Site Visit applies to all programs including international programs. The following additional information applies to programs located outside the United States and the U.S. territories.

Length of Visit

Accreditation visits for international (non-U.S.) nursing programs will be a minimum of five days.

Assignment of Site Visit Team

International site visitors will be selected from a pool of program evaluators who have received additional education and training related to international accreditation activities. The number of visitors will be determined based on the program type(s), length of travel, geographic location, and number of students and faculty.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Team Chair, Team Members, and Nursing Education Unit as listed in the NLNAC Accreditation Manual apply to all nursing programs including those located outside the United States. The following additional responsibilities apply in reference to visit arrangements:

Area	Responsibility	
	Nursing Education Unit	Site Visitor
Travel	<p>Responsible for all travel costs incurred for each site visitor; travel will be at business class or higher for each visitor</p> <p>Responsible for arranging all local and on-ground transportation during the onsite visits subject to NLNAC approval</p>	<p>Responsible for booking airfare in accordance with NLNAC travel policy</p>
Hotel Accommodations	<p>Responsible for arranging hotel accommodations for site visitors; accommodations must include a separate, private room for each visitor at a hotel pre-approved by NLNAC</p> <p>Responsible for costs for hotel accommodations subject to NLNAC approval</p>	

**NLNAC Accreditation Manual—Supplement for International Programs**

<p>Translation Services</p>	<p>Responsible for providing and arranging translation services during the conduct of the visit subject to NLNAC approval</p>	
<p>Cultural Sensitivity</p>	<p>Provide information in advance of each visit related to customs, traditions, and expectations related to dress and food</p>	<p>Familiarization with local customs and traditions</p> <p>Abide by customs and traditions to the fullest extent possible during the onsite visit</p>
<p>Agenda for Site Visits</p>	<p>Proposed detailed agenda for each visit due to NLNAC a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of the visit</p> <p>Responsible for arranging interviews between NLNAC site visitors and the nurse administrator, administrators of the governing organization, faculty, clinical agency representatives, current students, graduates, and student services personnel</p> <p>Agenda to include time for visitors to work in review of program materials/documents</p>	<p>Team Chair drafts agenda in collaboration with the nurse administrator</p>
<p>Security</p>	<p>Assessment will be made at the time of the visit to determine security needs for site visitors. Arrangements and associated costs are the responsibility of the nursing program. All arrangements are subject to NLNAC approval.</p>	

## **THE SITE VISITORS' REPORT**

Information related to the Site Visitors' Report as published in the Accreditation Manual applies to all programs seeking accreditation including those located outside the United States or U.S. Territories.

## **EVALUATION REVIEW PANEL**

Information related to the Evaluation Review Panel as published in the Accreditation Manual applies to all programs seeking accreditation including those located outside the United States or U.S. Territories.

## **COMMISSION**

Information related to the Commission as published in the Accreditation Manual applies to all programs seeking accreditation including those located outside the United States or U.S. Territories.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Information related to Policies and Procedures as published in the Accreditation Manual applies to all programs seeking accreditation including those located outside the United States or U.S. Territories.

## **STANDARDS AND CRITERIA**

The current Standards and Criteria apply to all programs seeking NLNAC accreditation including those located outside the United States or U.S. Territories.

## **GLOSSARY**

The definitions as published in the Glossary in the Accreditation Manual apply to all programs seeking NLNAC accreditation including those located outside the United States or U.S. Territories.