

IHL as State Regulatory Authority for Registered Nursing Education Programs

Report due to IHL: October 1st

Template(s) and Format(s): Please refer to Annual Nursing Report guidelines

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning is empowered and required by the State Legislature (Miss. Code [1991 Supp.] § 37-129-1, et seq.) to (a) establish by rules and regulations and promulgate uniform standards for accreditation of schools of nursing in the State of Mississippi (i) in so far as concerns the eligibility of graduates of such schools to take the examination prescribed by law to become registered nurses authorized to practice the profession of nursing as registered nurses in Mississippi, and (ii) in so far as concerns student nurses attending such schools being eligible to participate in any student nurse scholarship programs or other program of assistance now existing or hereafter established by legislative enactment. The Board is required to issue to such Schools of Nursing upon an annual basis certificates of accreditation as may be proper under such standards.

It is expected that all Nursing Education Degree Programs:

- Will consult with the State Director of Nursing Education during the planning phase of nursing education program proposals, including unit/program/certificate requests, modifications, suspensions, deletion, and substantive changes; and
- Will meet mandatory State nursing accreditation standards; and
- Will have achieved and maintained or be in the process of achieving nursing accreditation by one of the three national, non-profit accrediting bodies, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), and The National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA).

Processes for Registered Nursing Education Degree Programs at IHL:

1. Annual Nursing Report data is due by October 1st each year. The Board of Trustees will receive the Institutional Accreditation Report as information at the May meeting.
2. Annual recommendations for accreditation for Schools of Nursing are presented by OASA to the Board of Trustees at the May meeting. Recommendations are based on annual report data, outcome of accreditation site visits and other issues that occur during the year.
3. Contact the State Director of Nursing Education during the planning phase of proposing changes to any aspect of the nursing education program. Substantive changes may only require review/approval by OASA.
4. Once appropriate institutional approval has been received, the proposed changes shall be submitted for review and approval by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs before being submitted for approval to the Board of Trustees (if required).
5. Refer to the state nursing standards and procedures available on the IHL Nursing Education website for additional guidance:
 - a. Mississippi Nursing Degree Programs Accreditation Standards
 - b. Mississippi Nursing Degree Programs Accreditation Standards Procedure Manual