

BSN Pre-accreditation Information Comparison

	ACEN	CCNE
Eligibility requirements and procedural steps	<p>Institution must be legally authorized to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. provide secondary education 2. grant credentials for the nursing program <p>Institution must: Be accredited or approved to pursue accreditation from an organization recognized by ACEN</p> <p>Program representative reaches out to ACEN to indicate interest in Candidacy.</p> <p>ACEN Director discusses timing of application and initial site visit with nursing program administrators and faculty</p> <p>Program applies for initial accreditation and submits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Candidacy Eligibility Application 2. Submit payment of required fees 3. Prepare and submit the Candidacy Presentation <p>For Institutions that have authority to grant nursing credentials but do not hold (or are ineligible to hold) accreditation recognized by ACEN, the institution must</p>	<p>Programs must be part of a parent institution accredited by an agency approved by the US Dept of Education.</p> <p>Institutional accreditation must be maintained while seeking and/or maintaining CCNE accreditation.</p> <p>Applicant programs must be aware of and in compliance with accreditation requirements and notify CCNE within 7 days of action against the parent institution's accreditation status.</p> <p>Program must submit a request for new applicant status.</p> <p>Request must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter of request, signed by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Academic Officer of the parent institution, and the Chief Nursing Administrator. The letter must include the date of desired accreditation and a proposed on-site visit date. 2. Evidence of parent institution accreditation. 3. Evidence of authorization to offer the new nursing program from their accrediting agency, as well

	<p>obtain approval from a supervisory state education department, public school system, or district before ACEN makes its initial accreditation decision.</p> <p>Before ACEN makes its decision regarding accreditation, the nursing administrator must notify ACEN of any change in accreditation or approval status from other agencies. (ACEN, 2023)</p>	<p>as state approval if applicable.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Evidence of approval/authorization of all program levels by the relevant State Board of Nursing. 5. Fee 6. Completed application form 7. Catalogues from institution and nursing programs (electronic or print) 8. Brief (< 5 page) summary of the program's ability to meet the established accreditation standards, including a description of the institution, the program's mission, goals, and expected outcomes, and a description of curriculum and supporting resources. <p>(CCNE Accreditation, n.d.)</p>
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"Academic accreditation is a pivotal process in nursing education, ensuring program quality, consistency, and graduate readiness for professional practice" (Hashish et al., 2025, abstract section). While the accreditation process is essential for program quality and continuous improvement, it can also be a daunting task. Preparation for the accreditation process needs "multi-year planning of layered components and an extensive team effort to ensure that the program is successful in achieving all standards. It also provides the opportunity for self-assessment, identification of areas of program strength and areas for program improvement" (Haverkamp, et al., 2017, Introduction section).

References

- ACEN. (2023). ACEN 2023 accreditation manual. Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.
- CCNE Accreditation. (n.d.). <https://www.aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation/resource-documents/ccne-standards-professional-nursing-guidelines>
- Hashish, E. a. A., Alnajjar, H., & Rawas, H. (2025). Voices on academic accreditation: Lived experiences of nurse educators, administrators, students, and alumni in nursing education. *BMC Medical Education*, 25(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-025-06657-2>
- Haverkamp, J., Ribar, A. K., Ball, K., Ballard, K., Butz, S., Chovan, J. D., Fried, E. M., Garrett, B., Hughes, K., Keane, P., Prusinski, R., & Shoemaker, J. R. (2017). A map for successful CCNE accreditation. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 34(3), 182–188. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.profnurs.2017.09.003>