



Statement: 2022 National Task Force Standards for Quality NP Education

In April 2022, the *2022 Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education* (6th edition) was released, updating a prior version from 2016. With each iteration of the National Task Force Criteria (now termed *Standards*), PNCB staff or Board members have been active members of work groups, and value the collegial consensus-based process used to update such an influential document. Like other nursing certification boards, we are committed to supporting quality NP education as a member of the larger stakeholder group.

PNCB understands the need for change, amidst a healthcare environment that continues to change so rapidly. The *2022 Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education* (6th edition) was built over many months of iterative work between December 2019 to February 2022, which included 'listening sessions' for many stakeholders. As leaders and facilitators of this effort, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) sought feedback and endorsement from each stakeholder organization, including membership groups and certification boards.

The PNCB Board of Directors initially did not endorse a version of the NTF Standards which had a required minimum of 1,000 clinical practice hours. The Board later endorsed the final version with a requirement for a minimum of 750 clinical practice hours to support competency development in caring for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

PNP academic programs have already been moving in the direction of increasing clinical practice hours. Given the range of hours from recognized single-track PNP programs, only 27% currently require students to complete 750 clinical practice hours. While most programs anticipate that adjustments will need to be made, as of 2022, the average number of hours required in a single-track (acute care or primary care) masters' programs has been 620, while single-track BSN-to-DNP programs have required an average of 787 hours of clinical practice.

In order to implement standards of this magnitude there are numerous operational changes that must take place within each organization, including PNCB. We will monitor how other stakeholder groups implement these Standards, and will have ongoing discussions with PNP faculty about their ability to make changes set forth in the 6th Edition.

Only after understanding all factors and systematically making necessary changes will PNCB begin to require that candidates have completed a minimum of 750 clinical practice hours. To support faculty and candidates, PNCB will announce any change in requirements with ample notice, approximately 2 years before an effective date.