



## **Additional Guidance to Prelicensure Nursing Education Programs** **March 24, 2020**

This guidance supplements the Ohio Board of Nursing's March 5 and 16, 2020 communications to nursing program administrators.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has significantly impacted the teaching methods and facilities available to nursing programs. During these extraordinary times of public health emergency, program administrators may seek alternative methods for providing laboratory experiences, that if combined with students' prior clinical achievements may be sufficient to give their students the opportunity to achieve course objectives and successfully complete the nursing program. It is imperative that program administrators ensure that students completing the program are prepared as safe and effective health care providers in providing nursing care across the lifespan.

State of Ohio Orders requiring social distancing have necessitated nursing programs to continue instruction on a remote and online-only basis. The Board does not intend through its approval process to penalize programs for their implementation of these options. However, to the extent creative options, such as remote or virtual simulations, online instruction and other modalities are used, please exercise judgment in making those decisions to ensure that students are well-prepared to enter the nursing workforce and have met the nursing program's curriculum objectives. In determining whether to proceed with instruction or defer students' program completion to a later date each program administrator should:

Consider the Board's current rules that allow movement of clock hours between clinical experiences and laboratory experiences within a course (Rule 4723-5-13, OAC, for RN programs and Rule 4723-5-14, OAC, for PN programs).

Review the definition of terms in Rule 4723-5-01, OAC, especially for "laboratory experience," which is not defined in relation to a location or specific place; "patient simulation;" and definitions for types of simulation fidelity.

Apply the above to the nursing program's unique curriculum, and make determinations based on the program's circumstances, resources, institutional governing body directives, and individual students' program achievements.