

August 2015

Currently, the Tennessee Board of Nursing is approving all nursing programs including pre and post licensure. Tennessee statute relative to schools, TCA §63-7-117 reads that an institution wishing to conduct a school of professional nursing in Tennessee on ground, distance, online or via other electronic means must be approved by the BON.

The Board's authority to approve schools of nursing is found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-7-117 and 118 and Administrative Rules 1000-01-.05-.10 & 1000-02-.05-.10. For a copy of the statute and regulations, go to <http://www.tn.gov/health/topic/nursing-board>, click on "Statutes" for statutes and rules.

Board approval of a school of nursing is a two-step process. The first step involves an application for approval of a letter of intent. After the Board grants the letter of intent, the second step is application for initial approval. Established programs may submit the request for initial approval concurrently with the letter of intent. Review the guidelines for filing a letter of intent for a nursing program and the guidelines for requesting initial approval to conduct the program.

As noted in the guidelines for a letter of intent, a survey of the institution or institutions and agencies with which the school is to be affiliated must be conducted prior to the board meeting appearance (eight weeks lead time for scheduling is recommended). Two copies of a draft of the materials to be presented to the Board must be submitted to the Board office prior to the survey visit.

Schools requesting to be placed on the Board of Nursing agenda must send a written request by the first day of the month preceding the month of the board meeting. After receiving the request the institution's placement on the agenda will be confirmed and instructions for mailing the application documents to the Board members will be provided.

The Board of Nursing meetings are scheduled quarterly typically in February, May, August, and November.