

Crosswalk of Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs (2016) & ACEN Standards & Criteria (2017)

All programs with APRN options are also expected to adhere to the current National Task Force Guidelines for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs as well as other requirements of the specialty organizations as they apply to the current ACEN Standards and Criteria. See crosswalk between ACEN Standards and Criteria and 2016 National Task Force Guidelines for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs.

Criteria for Evaluation of NP Programs/ACEN Standards & Criteria for Master's/PMC & Clinical Doctorate	Standard 1 Mission & Organizational Capacity	Standard 2 Faculty	Standard 3 Students	Standard 4 Curriculum	Standard 5 Resources	Standard 6 Outcomes
I: Organization & Administration						
I.A – The Director/Coordinator of the NP Program is nationally certified as an NP & has the responsibility of overall leadership of the NP Program.	1.7	2.1 2.2				
I.B – The faculty member who provides direct oversight for the NP educational component or track is nationally certified in the same population-focused area of practice.	1.7	2.1 2.2				
I.C – Institutional support ensures that NP faculty teaching in clinical courses maintain currency in clinical practice.		2.6			5.1	
II. Students						
II.A – Any admission criteria specific to the NP program/track reflect input by the NP faculty.			3.1			
II.B – Any progression & completion criteria specific to the NP program/track reflect input by the NP faculty			3.1	4.3		
III: Curriculum						
III.A – NP faculty provide input into the development, evaluation, & revision of the NP curriculum.				4.3		
III.B – The curriculum is congruent with national standards for graduate-level, APRN education & is consistent with nationally recognized core role & population-focused NP educational standards & competencies.				4.1		
III.C.1 – The NP program prepares graduates to meet education eligibility requirements to sit for a national NP certification examination that corresponds with the role & population focus of the NP program.				4.1 4.2 4.8		
III.C.2 – Official documentation states the NP role & population focus of educational preparation.			3.5			

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III.D – The curriculum plan demonstrates appropriate course sequencing.				4.2 4.8		
III.E – The program/track has a minimum of 500 supervised direct patient care clinical hours overall.				4.8 4.9	5.3	
III.F – Post-graduate students successfully complete graduate didactic & clinical requirements of an academic graduate NP program through a formal graduate-level certificate or degree-granting graduate-level NP program in the desired area of practice. Post-graduate certificate students are expected to master the same outcome criteria as graduate degree granting program NP students. Post-graduate certificate students who are not already NPs are required to complete a minimum of 500 supervised direct patient care clinical hours.				4.2 4.8 4.9		
IV: Resources, Facilities, & Services						
IV.A – Institutional resources, facilities, & services support the development, management, & evaluation of the NP program/track.			3.4		5.1 5.2 5.3 5.4	
IV.B – Clinical resources support NP educational experiences.				4.9	5.3	
IV.B.1 – A sufficient number of faculty is available to ensure quality clinical experiences for NP students. NP faculty having academic responsibility for the supervision & evaluation of NP students & for the oversight of the clinical learning experience. The faculty/student ratio is sufficient to ensure adequate supervision & evaluation.		2.5				
IV.B.2 – Clinical settings are diverse & sufficient in number to ensure that the student will meet core curriculum guidelines & program/track goals.				4.9		
IV.B.3 – NP faculty may share the clinical teaching of students with qualified preceptors.		2.4				
IV.B.3.a – A preceptor has authorization by the appropriate state licensing entity to practice in his/her population-focused and/or specialty area.		2.4				
IV.B.3.b – A preceptor has educational preparation appropriate to his/her area(s) of supervisory responsibility & at least one year of clinical experience.		2.4				
IV.B.3.c – Preceptor are oriented to program/track requirements & expectations for oversight & evaluation of NP students.		2.4				
V: Faculty						

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V.A.1 – NP programs/tracks have sufficient faculty with preparation & current expertise to adequately support the professional role development & clinical management courses for NP practice.		2.5 2.6				
V.A.2 – NP program faculty who teach the clinical components of the program/track maintain current licensure & national certification.		2.1 2.2 2.6				
V.A.3 - NP faculty demonstrate competence in clinical practice & teaching through a planned, ongoing faculty development program designed to meet the needs of new & continuing faculty.		2.6 2.10				
V.B – Non-NP faculty have expertise in the area in which they are teaching.		2.1 2.2 2.6				
VI: Evaluation						
VI.A – There is an evaluation plan for the NP program/track.						6.1
VI.A.1 – Evaluate courses at regularly scheduled intervals.				4.3		
VI.A.2 – Evaluate NP program faculty competence at regularly scheduled intervals.		2.9				
VI.A.3 – Evaluate student progress through the didactic & clinical components of NP program/track each semester/quarter/term				4.7		6.1
VI.A.4 – Evaluate students’ attainment of competencies throughout the program.				4.7		6.1
VI.A.5 – Evaluate students cumulatively based on clinical observation of student competence & performance by NP faculty and/or preceptor assessment.				4.7		
VI.A.6 – Evaluate clinical sites at regularly scheduled intervals.				4.9 4.10		
VI.A.7 - Evaluate preceptors at regularly scheduled intervals.		2.4				
VI.B – Formal NP curriculum evaluation occurs every five (5) years or sooner.				4.3		

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VI.C – There is an evaluation plan to measure outcome of graduates. Note: elaboration section - Includes at minimum certification pass rates, practice/position in area of specialty, employer/practice satisfaction, & graduate satisfaction with NP preparation.						6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4 Note: NTF requires assessment of graduate & employer satisfaction.