

Virginia Board of Nursing

Clinical Hours for LPN to pre-licensure RN Transition/Bridge Programs

At its meeting on July 21, 2009, the Board of Nursing adopted the following statement for guidance when response is made to questions regarding the number of clinical hours that may be awarded to Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN's) who enter a pre-licensure Registered Nursing (RN) program. All pre-licensure RN programs must provide students with "a minimum of 500 hours of direct client care supervised by qualified faculty." [18VAC90-20-120.E.]

In general, it is the position of the Board of Nursing that LPN's transitioning into a pre-licensure RN program may be awarded not more than 150 clinical hours from their practical nursing program.

The remaining 350 hours must "encompass the attainment and maintenance of physical and mental health and the prevention of illness for individuals and groups throughout the life cycle in a variety of clinical settings" [18VAC90-20-120.B.1], which shall include registered nursing clinical experiences in Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Mental Health, and Medical/Surgical nursing.

This recommendation is intended to be merely advisory.

Accepted: July 21, 2009

Reviewed and reaffirmed: March 19, 2013

