U.S. Department of Education

Staff Report
to the
Senior Department Official
on
Recognition Compliance Issues

RECOMMENDATION PAGE

1. **Agency:** Missouri State Board Of Nursing (1970/2007)
   (The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)

2. **Action Item:** Interim Report

3. **Scope of Recognition:** State agency for the approval of nurse education.

4. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** December, 2010

5. **Staff Recommendation:** Accept the report.

6. **Issues or Problems:** None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Missouri Board of Nursing approves 34 practical, 35 associate degree, one diploma, and 21 baccalaureate degree nursing programs. Although the Board is responsible for all nursing programs leading to initial licensure, its recognition by the U.S. Department of Education applies only to the 57 professional nursing programs eligible for Federal assistance under the Nurse Training Act of 1964, as amended.

Recognition History

The Missouri Board of Nursing has been a recognized state approval agency for nursing education since 1970. At its Spring 2007 meeting, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity recommended that the agency be granted continued recognition for a period of four years, which is the maximum recognition period allowable for state approval agencies, with an interim report due by May 31, 2008 on two criteria.

PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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a. Uses experienced and qualified examiners to visit schools of nursing to examine educational objectives, programs, administrative practices, services and facilities and to prepare written reports and recommendations for the use of the reviewing body - and causes such examinations to be conducted under conditions that assure an impartial and objective judgment;

As of June 2007, the Missouri State Board of Nursing began requiring at least two members to participate on each on-site review team. The Board also added language to its standards (20 CSR 2200-2.010) to require the use of two-person teams to conduct on-site reviews of its nurse education programs. The teams will be comprised of at least one Board staff member, plus either another Board member or a contracted nurse educator. The teams will provide written reports of findings and make recommendations regarding approval. The teams will follow the Board's written policies, procedures, and standards in the evaluation of programs, thereby ensuring impartial and objective reviews.

Although it appears that the agency has amended its rules to comply with the requirements of this section, no documentation has been provided to demonstrate that the rules changes have been implemented. The agency needs to provide verification of the changes, such as a list of recent on-site reviews and who participated in them.

Analyst Remarks to Response:
The agency provided documentation of the implementation of its new on-site review requirements, including an agenda from a training and orientation session for its on-site reviewers, a list of appropriately qualified adjunct (external) reviewers and information regarding their credentials, a self-study survey guide, a completed on-site survey report, and a table showing information on the most recent three years of completed on-site reviews that the agency has conducted.

The agency meets the requirements of this section of the criteria for recognition.

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g. Makes initial and periodic on-site inspections of each school of nursing accredited.

Previously, the Missouri State Board of Nursing conducted five-year paper reviews in lieu of on-site reviews for those nursing programs that were already accredited by a nationally recognized nursing accrediting agency. As of June 2007, the Board added language to its standards to include the requirement that on-site reviews be conducted at five-year intervals at all of its schools in order to ensure that all schools receive periodic on-site inspections. A nursing program may request that its state on-site review be scheduled in conjunction with its national on-site review in order to facilitate coordination of the two review processes and minimize duplication of effort on the part of the nursing program.

Although it appears that the agency has amended its rules to comply with the requirements of this section, no documentation has been provided to demonstrate that the rules changes have been implemented. The agency needs to provide verification of the changes, such as a list of its programs and when they received on-site reviews, as well as when the programs are scheduled for their next inspection.

Analyst Remarks to Response:

In addition to its amended rules, the agency provided documentation to demonstrate that the rules changes have been implemented. The agency provided a list of its completed on-site program reviews for the last three years, including a list of the programs that received on-site reviews, the evaluators who participated in the reviews, when the program review information was presented to the state board, and when the programs are scheduled for their next on-site visit.

The agency meets the requirements of this section of the criteria for recognition.

PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS

The Department did not receive any written third-party comments regarding this agency.