



NLN Commission for Nursing
Education Accreditation

TO: Program Administrators, Site Visitors, Review Committees
FROM: NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners
DATE: September 3, 2025
REGARDING: NLN CNEA Standards of Accreditation

On behalf of the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners, I would like to provide some important updates regarding the NLN CNEA Standards of Accreditation.

First, as part of the regular review of the accreditation standards conducted by the NLN CNEA every five years, we are currently reviewing your feedback about the accreditation standards and making the necessary revisions. After revisions are made, we will seek your input with another opportunity for comment on the revised standards before they are finalized. We anticipate that finalized standards will be released in the coming academic year.

Moreover, the NLN CNEA Standards Committee will closely examine all language but will also review the use of terms related to diversity, equity, inclusion, cultural competence, social determinants of health, and health equity found in the accreditation standards. In addition to other topics, we encourage you to provide feedback in these areas in the upcoming call for comments. We thank you for your participation in this important process.

Although we are considering the use of these terms in our standards revision process, we would also like to provide guidance for programs when they are using the current standards. Given the current climate including federal and state mandates, the NLN CNEA will exercise leniency in enforcing standards that refer to racial, ethnic, or other sociocultural diversity topics. Specifically, the NLN CNEA will provide greater flexibility while enforcing Standard III and the associated quality indicators, interpretive guidelines, and evidence exemplars that address faculty and preceptor and diversity topics found in Quality Indicators III-A, III-B, and III-C. Additionally, the NLN CNEA will also provide greater flexibility while enforcing Standard IV, which focuses on students. Programs will be expected to continue to address the needs of **all** students regardless of their ethnic, racial, or other backgrounds. The NLN CNEA reaffirms its belief that students need to understand the needs of a wide range of patients that they will encounter in the healthcare system and that nursing programs and faculty should provide an education that adequately prepares students for their future roles in healthcare.

We understand that this is a difficult time in higher education and we appreciate all you do to help your students and the nursing profession. If the NLN CNEA can do anything to assist you, please reach out to the NLN CNEA staff at CNEAaccreditation@nlm.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Welch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" and "W".

Susan Welch, PhD(c), EdD, RN, CNE, alumnus CCRN
Chair, Board of Commissioners, NLN CNEA