

New York State Board of Regents – Recognized Programmatic Accreditation

Excelsior University’s nursing programs are accredited by institutional and programmatic agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (DoE). In addition to institutional accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Excelsior bachelor and master's programs are programmatically accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and the associates degrees are programmatically accredited by the New York State Board of Regents, State Education Department Office of the Professions (Regents), one of only five state agencies in the United States approved by the DoE “as reliable authorities as to the quality of nurse education in their respective States.”¹ The DoE first recognized the Regents as a state agency for the approval of nurse education programs in 1969 (notably the longest period of recognition among the five recognized agencies) and the agency has received regular reviews and uninterrupted renewals of recognition since that time.

Regents accreditation therefore holds a unique status compared to standard state approvals as it qualifies as specialized authorization by an agency recognized by the DoE. Unlike most other state oversight agencies with standards focused on local requirements, the Regents also must comply with DoE’s criteria and procedures for such recognition and must undergo periodic review (at least every four years) by the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, a body that assesses compliance with the DoE’s recognition criteria and recommends actions to the Secretary of Education on behalf of the agency. The DoE also recognizes the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

On the state level, the Regents framework for evaluating the quality of nursing programs registered in New York State is dictated by the Commissioner’s Regulations (Parts 50 and 52), the Rules of the Board of Regents, New York Education Law, DoE recognition standards as well as general professional standards. To secure initial approval and maintain such authorization thereafter, the Regents assess compliance with standards for administration, faculty, resources, curriculum, admissions, and student information through a set of quality indicators. Continued approval is contingent upon the confirmation of compliance with the standards. Additionally, the agency monitors national licensure data, annual program reports detailing admissions, enrollments, faculty resources, curriculum as well as financial resources, and, approves substantive changes to curricula.

Any questions regarding the DoE recognition of the Regents can be directed to the Office of the Professions at OPNURS@nysed.gov or by calling 518-474-3817 ext. 360.

¹See https://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg10.html