

For nurses in areas of Texas without direct access to a nursing refresher course through their local community college (or other local source):

The Texas Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE) allows nurses to complete the required clinical preceptorship hours (80 hours) either through a formal education program (if available) or as an "extensive orientation" managed directly by a hospital ... as long as the clinical preceptorship experience includes an RN supervised clinical experience with direct patient care, and meets all the requirements described at ... www.bne.state.tx.us/olv/forms.html ... in the "Six Month Temporary Permit" file posted to this site.

Here's how this process typically works:

- ACC can provide the online/didactic portion of the course ... the nurse registers for this portion directly through ACC, and will receive documentation showing successful completion of this portion of the nursing refresher course.

- ACC can provide the optional 16 hour skills lab ... the nurse registers for this directly through ACC, and would have to drive to Austin for the two days of skills lab ... this portion of the nursing refresher course is *not mandatory*.

- ACC cannot provide/supervise a clinical preceptorship placement outside of ACC's 8 county service area.

- ACC can provide the necessary documents (i.e. skills checklist, time log, etc...) with which a nurse can document their clinical preceptorship through an "extensive orientation" at a local hospital.

- The nurse will also have to complete the required CPR training in their local area.

- The nurse must negotiate directly with a local hospital to complete the required clinical preceptorship hours as an "extensive orientation" ... not as a registered student through ACC.

- The nurse must have a current Texas nursing license, or obtain a temporary permit from the BNE, in order to participate in the "extensive orientation". Nurses seeking a temporary permit from the BNE should wait until they have established the start date for their "extensive orientation" before requesting the 6 month temporary permit (to allow for sufficient time to complete the "extensive orientation"). Forms and details regarding the temporary permit can be found at ... www.bne.state.tx.us/olv/forms.html ... in the "Six Month Temporary Permit" file posted to this site.

- The hospital's assigned preceptor (or designated supervisor) is responsible for signing off on the final BNE paperwork ("Verification of Successful Completion" form) showing the nurse's completion of the complete nursing refresher course. The "Verification of Successful Completion" form is also found at ... www.bne.state.tx.us/olv/forms.html ... in the "Six Month Temporary Permit" file posted to this site.

- Students that have completed the ACC online/didactic portion of the course have satisfied items 1-6 on the "Verification of Successful Completion" form from the BNE. Notarized documentation will be provided by ACC on request.

- The Coordinator of the ACC Re-Entry Nursing Update program is ... Elizabeth Huss, 512-223-7271, eahuss@austincc.edu