

655—5.1(152) Definitions.

“Approved provider” means those persons, organizations, or institutions that meet the criteria specified in subrule 5.3(2) and are authorized by the board to offer approved continuing education programs. Provider approval applies to all programs regardless of geographic location.

“Approved provider number” means the number assigned by the board which identifies an approved provider.

“Audit” means the selection of licensees for verification of satisfactory completion of continuing education requirements during a specified time period; or the selection of approved providers for verification of adherence to continuing education approved provider requirements during a specified time period.

“Continuing education” means planned, organized learning activities acquired following initial licensure and designed to maintain, improve, or expand nurses’ knowledge and skills or to develop new knowledge and skills relevant to nursing for the enhancement of practice, education, administration, or theory development to the end of improving the health of the public.

“Criteria” means those standards as defined in subrule 5.3(2) which the provider shall meet to be an approved provider.

“Extended course” means an organized program of study offered in a series of sessions.

“Formal offering” means an extension course, independent study, or other course which is offered for academic credit or audit by an accredited institution of higher education. A formal offering need not be offered by an approved provider.

“Informal offering” means workshop, seminar, institute, conference, lecture, extended course, provider designed self-study, or learner designed self-study which is offered for credit in contact hours or continuing education units.

“In-service” means activities intended to assist nurses to acquire, maintain, or expand nurses’ knowledge and skills in fulfilling the assigned responsibilities specific to the expectations of the employer.

“Learner designed self-study” means the learner takes the initiative and the responsibility for assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating an educational activity under the guidance of an approved provider. The provider may award credit to a nurse for learner designed self-study such as lecture development, research, preparation of articles for publication, development of patient care or patient education programs, or projects directed at resolving administrative problems.

“Nonapproved provider” means those persons, organizations, or institutions who do not hold an Iowa approved provider number. The board may recognize credit from nonapproved providers under special situations as specified in subrule 5.2(2), paragraph “f,” subparagraphs (2) and (3).

“Practicum” means a course-related, planned and supervised clinical experience which includes clinical objectives and assignment to practice in a laboratory setting or with patients/clients/families for attainment of the objectives.

“Provider designed self-study” means that the provider designs a program for learning for the nurse who completes the program at the individual’s pace, e.g., home study, programmed instruction.