

January 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Karla Haug. I hold a Master of Science in Nursing Education, and I am currently enrolled in the NDSU PhD in Education program. I am also an Assistant Professor of Practice in the School of Nursing at North Dakota State University. I write on my own personal behalf, not on behalf of the university.

As a nurse and faculty member at one of our state's educational institutions, I urge you to **VOTE NO** on proposed House Bill 1220, "the creation of a North Dakota accelerated degree for high-demand occupations."

Nursing is and has been a high-demand occupation in not only North Dakota but the nation. Currently, all eleven institutions within the North Dakota University System offer an option to obtain a degree in nursing. The credits required to complete these degrees vary from 30 to 120. A nursing degree is offered at various levels from Licensed Practical Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing, including pathway options for degree advancement.

Current national nursing accreditation agencies, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), require that nursing programs incorporate general education requirements.

From [ACEN, Standard 4](#): Curriculum, criterion 4.5: "General education courses/concepts that enhance nursing knowledge and practice for the educational level at which students are being prepared."

From [CCNE: Key Element III-F](#): "Baccalaureate curricula build on a foundation of the arts, sciences, and humanities."

To receive accreditation from one of these agencies, the nursing program must identify how they meet the standards listed above. Removal of all general education requirements will make it impossible for programs in North Dakota to receive national nursing accreditation. Currently, all nursing programs in North Dakota are accredited by one of these agencies.

Standards for national accreditation are different than those required for North Dakota Board of Nursing (BON) approval. The mission of the [ND BON](#) is to promote public safety through the regulation of standards for nursing education. National accreditation provides assurance of a quality nursing program, through evaluation of curriculum, program effectiveness, and program evaluation. It also ensures the ability for the students to advance their nursing practice in anyone of the graduate programs offered within the state.

The foundation general education provides nursing students includes the ability to make informed decisions, engage in critical thinking, and adapt to a rapidly changing health care field. Nursing builds its curriculum from the foundation of the general education credits.

North Dakota already has over eleven options for those wishing to obtain a degree in nursing by national accredited programs. Please consider investing in nursing education before creating another degree option.

I urge the committee to **NOT PASS HB 1220**.

Karla Haug, MS, RN

CCNE Accreditation: <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/CCNE/CCNE-Education-Standards-2024.pdf>

ACEN Accreditation: <https://resources.acenursing.org/space/SAC/1825603752/STANDARD+4+-+Curriculum>

North Dakota Board of Nursing Mission: <https://www.ndbon.org/about/>