

FAQs About CABNET

1. **What is CABNET?**

CABNET is the Consortium for Advancing Baccalaureate Education in Texas, a group of community colleges and universities working together to increase the percentage of ADN graduates who continue on to get their RN-BSN degrees. Numerous strategies will be needed to reach the IOM recommendation of 80% nurses with BSN by 2020 but the CABNET focuses on a 1 + 2 + 1 seamless articulation pathway that removes barriers to academic progression. We are proposing an infrastructure that will continue to encourage academic progression after the economy gets better and we have another shortage.

2. **What is the CABNET Agreement?**

The CABNET agreement is essentially an articulation agreement between universities and community colleges. The CABNET strategy focuses on the student who comes to the community college on day one, and wants to be a nurse. Advisors will encourage students to take the general education courses for both the ADN and RN-to-BSN levels in year one, so that when they complete the general education courses and the two-year ADN nursing courses and pass the NCLEX, they will only need to complete the last year of upper division BSN nursing courses. Each community college will have a one page advising handout that includes one or more plans with the general education courses for the ADN and RN-to-BSN, along with which universities will accept which plans. These lists of courses must include the 45 standardized hours of general education courses agreed upon by the TADDPNP, the ADN general education courses, and meet the Texas Core Curriculum for that community college. The goal is to get as close to 54 credit hours as possible. The ultimate goal will be to create a 120 credit hour pathway for ADN to BSN.

3. **What are the advantages of CABNET for students?**

Students will know from day one, what general education courses they need to get a BSN and which universities will accept them. If their university of choice has capacity issues, then they will know which other universities will accept the same courses. There is transparency with regards to how many hours they need to take to finish ADN and BSN degrees. Hopefully this will prevent so many students from losing financial aid due to being “out of hours”.

4. **What is the process for getting a completed CABNET agreement?**

- a. Community college nursing programs create a one-page advising form with one or more plans that list the general education courses for the ADN and RN-BSN programs, includes the 45 hours of standardized courses, and meets the Texas Core Curriculum requirements for their college. At least one of the plans must include chemistry.
- b. Community college nursing directors send the plans to Dr. Helen Reid, one of the APIN project directors.
- c. Dr. Reid sends the completed community college worksheets to the university nursing program directors.
- d. The university nursing programs review the plans, determine which ones they can accept, get appropriate signatures, and send back to Dr. Reid.
- e. Dr. Reid sends the signed agreements back to the community college program directors to get appropriate signatures. These are then sent back to Dr. Reid.
- f. Dr. Reid returns completed agreements to the universities. Complete agreements will be kept in a Blackboard course available to each program at <https://ecourses.tvcc.edu>. See Dr. Reid for log in information for your school.
- g. The completed worksheets will be posted on the APIN website, www.texasapin.org.

h. Once a year, directors will be asked to review the plans to see if any changes need to be made and the process will be repeated. All are currently being updated due to the adoption of the 2014 Core Curriculum and may need to be revised again with community colleges transitioning to a 60 credit hour maximum associate degree.

5. Do we have to change our RN-to-BSN curriculum?

No – you do not have to change your RN-to-BSN curriculum. You might have some flexibility and be able to accept some of the plans using course substitution or waivers.

6. What if we have over 30 hours of RN-to-BSN courses?

Since we are not asking you to change your curriculum, it is still okay to have over 30 hours. The next time you have a curriculum revision, you may want to consider changing to 30 hours.

7. Can we approve more than one plan per community college?

Yes, you can approve more than one plan per community college.

8. What can we do if we have a university requirement of more than 30 hours in residence for a bachelor's degree?

You can put an * with a note on the signature page that says how many hours must be completed at the university. On the community college advising page, we would put the * beside the University name along with a note at the bottom that would say *xx hours of these courses must be completed at the university to be able to meet the residency requirement or the student will have to take an additional xx hours.

9. Some of the community college plans have more than 90 hours. If we have 30 hours of RN-to-BSN courses, how does that affect the SAC's rule that 25% of hours must be completed in residence?

We are not asking you to accept all the general education and nursing hours listed. You may not require some of the courses in the ADN program or the college's core curriculum. It would be great if you can accept about 54 hours of general education courses and 36 hours of nursing courses so students can finish the last year of upper division nursing courses at the university. All we are asking is that you don't require the students to take additional general education courses.

10. How can we handle a university requirement of more than 30 hours of upper division courses?

We believe a higher percentage of ADN's will progress to earn the BSN if they don't have to take more than 30 hours at the university. Some programs are able to justify acceptance of the 90 hours from a community college saying students have demonstrated competence at the junior level by successfully completing the ADN nursing courses and passing NCLEX-RN.

11. What do we say to administrators that are concerned about loss of revenue if 90 hours are accepted towards BSN degree?

Possibly focus on the increase in students you will have when the barriers are removed, and the need to work toward the IOM recommendation of 80% BSN by 2020.

12. If we join the consortium, do we have to accept at least one plan from each community college?

No, you don't have to accept a plan from each community college. We are appreciative of any that you can agree to.

13. What if we already have an articulation agreement between university and community college?

That articulation agreement can still stay in effect. It would be great if both can sign the CABNET agreement so the university will be listed on the advising worksheet.

14. Have there been any issues for nursing accreditation for the CABNET agreements?

At least one university and one community college have received continuing accreditation from ACCN and ACEN respectively without any issues regarding CABNET.