Nursing Program Accreditation Consulting (CCNE and ACEN)

Last reviewed October 2026 · https://www.integralhs.com/nursing-program-accreditation-ccne-acen

What to have ready

This is the list we would ask for first, each item tied to what CCNE or ACEN publishes.

- Evidence of the parent institution's accreditation by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (CCNE) or recognized by ACEN (CCNE [https://www.aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation/what-we-do/bacc-grad-application-process]; ACEN [https://www.acenursing.org/accreditation/eligibility]).
- Evidence that the nursing program is approved or authorized by every applicable state board of nursing (CCNE [https://www.aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation/what-we-do/bacc-grad-application-process]).
- For ACEN, evidence that the institution is legally authorized to grant the nursing credential (ACEN [https://www.acenursing.org/accreditation/eligibility]).
- The standards edition that will apply: for CCNE, the 2024 standards or the 2026 standards effective January 1, 2027 (CCNE [https://www.aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation/accreditation-resources/standards-procedures-guidelines]); for ACEN, the current Standards and Criteria. The CCNE pages we reviewed do not say which edition governs an evaluation scheduled near the January 1, 2027 change; your institution asks CCNE and records the answer.
- A two-year plan from acceptance or Candidacy to the visit (CCNE [https://www.aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation/what-we-do/bacc-grad-application-process]; ACEN [https://www.acenursing.org/resources/faqs-candidacy-and-initial-accreditation]).
- For a CCNE degree program, a full academic year of student enrollment before the on-site evaluation, with a narrow exception for very short programs (CCNE [https://www.aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation/what-we-do/bacc-grad-application-process]).
- A visit date requested early: CCNE's application page says on-site evaluations are generally booked at least 12 months ahead (CCNE [https://www.aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation/what-we-do/bacc-grad-application-process]).
- Faculty, clinical partner and outcome records for the self-study (ACEN [https://www.acenursing.org/for-programs/accreditation-process]; CCNE [https://www.aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation/what-we-do/bacc-grad-application-process]).
- A budget for accreditor fees from ACEN's schedule or CCNE's fee structure (ACEN fees [https://www.acenursing.org/accreditation/schedule-of-fees]; CCNE [https://www.aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation/what-we-do/bacc-grad-application-process]).