

Committee Members

June 2003

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ASSUMPTIONS

- 1. Articulation is the process through which nursing and paramedic programs cooperate to facilitate educational progress of graduates from one program to the next with minimal loss of academic credit and duplication of learning experiences.**
- 2. Associate and baccalaureate degree nursing programs must meet standards determined by the Kansas State Board of Nursing.**
- 3. Paramedic programs must meet standards determined by the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services.**
- 4. Each educational institution establishes its own mission, goals, standards and policies for admission and matriculation.**
- 5. There is a common core of knowledge, attitudes and cognitive and psychomotor skills that graduates of both nursing and paramedic programs should possess. There are distinct differences in the breadth, depth, scope of preparation and knowledge for each type of graduate.**
- 6. Successful completion of one program does not necessarily mean that a graduate will have the desire or ability to progress to another program.**
- 7. Nurses and paramedics seeking to advance their professional education must deal with multiple realities of educational requirements, family and personal responsibilities, job-related demands, financial concerns and geographic considerations.**
- 8. Students receive personal satisfaction from educational experiences that are challenging, relevant to their personal and professional goals, and acknowledge past learning experiences.**

MISSION

The mission of this task force is to create bi-directional education mobility for registered nurses (RN) and paramedics (EMT-P) in the state of Kansas.

PURPOSE

The task force consists of Council for Nursing Articulation in Kansas (C-NAK) members and paramedic educators to plan for implementation and evaluation of RN/Paramedic/RN articulation in Kansas.

ANALYSIS

To develop the articulation plan, PRNAK committee members studied the standard EMT-P curriculum to identify patterns of similarity/dissimilarity between paramedic education and the curricular requirements of associate degree and baccalaureate nursing degree programs in Kansas. Eight nursing programs were evaluated in detail: Barton County Community College, Bethel College, Cloud County Community College, Dodge City Community College, Fort Hays State University, Hutchison Community College, Johnson County Community College and Washburn University. Nurse and paramedic educators compared the curricula to evaluate the breadth and depth of specific topics found within both types of nursing education programs.

ARTICULATION PLAN PARAMEDIC TO REGISTERED NURSE

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Paramedic to RN Articulation Plan in Kansas, paramedics must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Meet program and college/university admission requirements.**
- 2. Have graduated from a Council on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program (CAAHEP) accredited program based on the National Standard EMT-P curriculum or a Kansas approved program.**
- 3. Currently possess Kansas certification or National Registration.**
- 4. If graduation was more than three years ago, paramedic must have 1,000 hours documented EMT-P work experience within the last three years.**
- 5. Complete prerequisite and general education requirements of the respective technical college, community college or university/college.**

Articulation

It is recognized that each Kansas nursing program is unique in its curriculum plan while maintaining consistency in program outcomes. Each program has structured course work to meet the program requirements and learning needs of its student population. For this reason, the PRNAK plan will not provide specific guidelines to nursing programs regarding which content areas/courses should be awarded transfer credit. However, this plan seeks to identify content commonalities between the National Standard EMT-P curriculum and professional nursing curricula. These content areas may include but are not limited to:

**Pharmacology
Pathophysiology
Technical skills
Physical assessment skills
Care management
Disaster management**

Associate Degree in Nursing

It is recommended that Associate Degree programs award transfer credit for a minimum of 25% of the nursing curriculum credit hours.

Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing

It is recommended that Baccalaureate Degree programs award transfer credit for a minimum of 15% of the nursing curriculum credit hours.

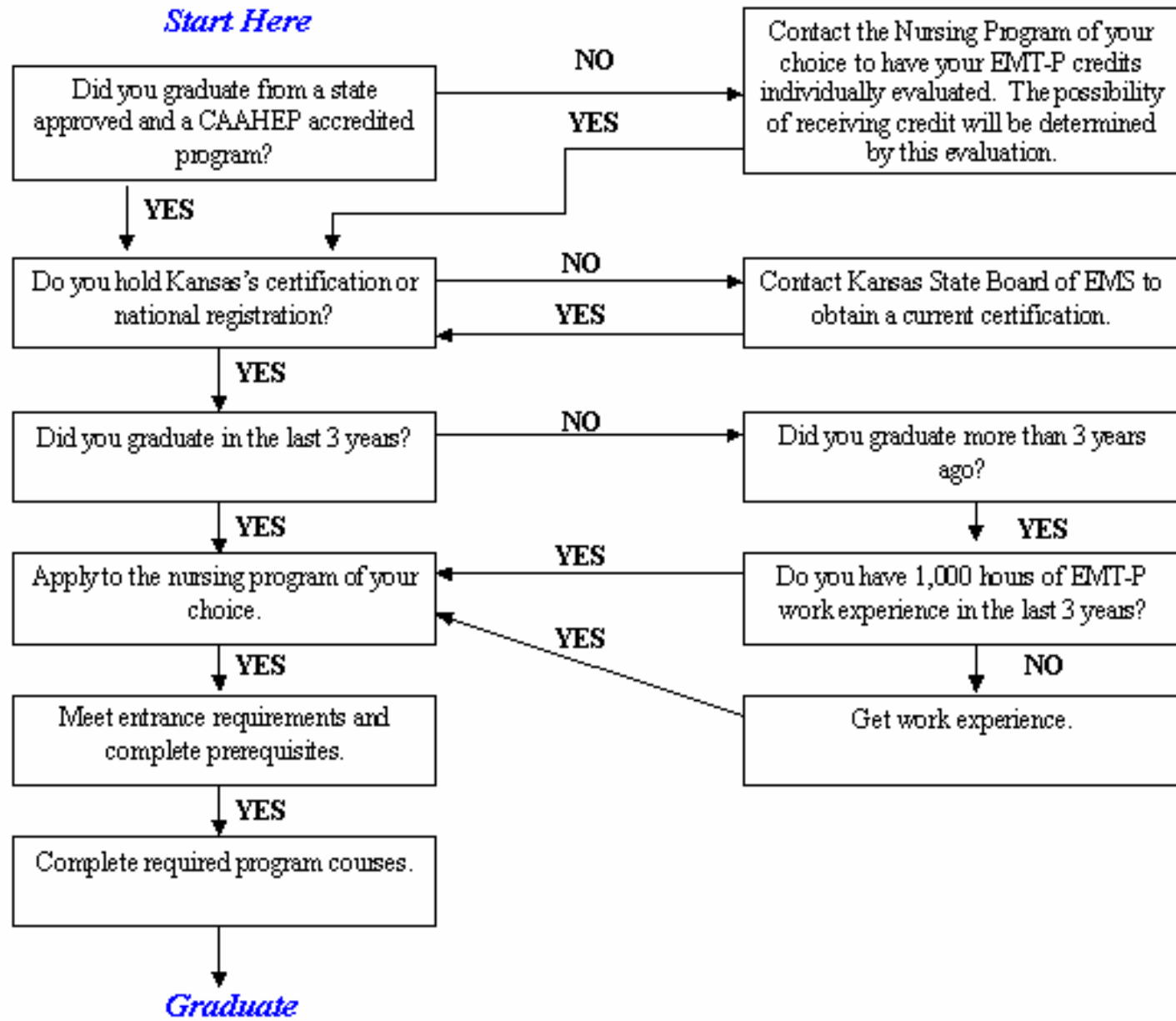
Bridge Courses

It is recognized that some programs may create bridge courses to consolidate content covered in several nursing core courses. The bridge course(s) will prepare the paramedic for the nurse's role in delivering care in content areas previously addressed from the perspective of EMT-P care.

Validation

Validation is a benchmark/standard to confirm nursing knowledge/competency. When required, testing, escrow or portfolio according to school policy may achieve validation.

PARAMEDIC TO RN ARTICULATION PATHWAY



ARTICULATION PLAN REGISTERED NURSE TO PARAMEDIC

Eligibility

To be eligible for the RN to Paramedic Articulation Plan in Kansas, RNs must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Complete prerequisite and general education requirements of the respective technical college, community college or university/college.**
- 2. Certified EMT-B in state of Kansas (may be a co-requisite but must be completed prior to field internship).**
- 3. Graduated from a Kansas approved program, which is professionally accredited by either the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).**
- 4. Possess a current Kansas nursing license.**
- 5. If graduation was more than three years ago, RN must have 1,000 hours documented acute care nursing work experience within the last three years.**

Articulation

It is recognized that each Kansas paramedic program is unique in its curriculum plan while maintaining consistency in program outcomes. Each program has structured course work to meet the program requirements and learning needs of its student population. For this reason, the PRNAK plan will not provide specific guidelines to paramedic programs regarding which content areas/courses should be awarded transfer credit. However this plan seeks to identify content commonalities between professional nursing curricula and the National Standard EMT-P curriculum.

- 1. The PRNAK has identified some of the required DOT EMT-P NSC Unit lessons not included in nursing education. Those are listed in the “RN to Paramedic Articulation” document.**
- 2. The PRNAK also recognizes that:**
 - Clinical experience and competency of the RN will vary and it is recommended that a clinical education component be individualized.**
 - Field environment competencies are of utmost importance to be a successful paramedic and it should be required that the RN complete the entire DOT recommended field training.**
- 3. It is recommended that a minimum of 37% of the didactic portion of the US DOT EMT-P NSC be awarded as advanced placement**

Bridge Courses

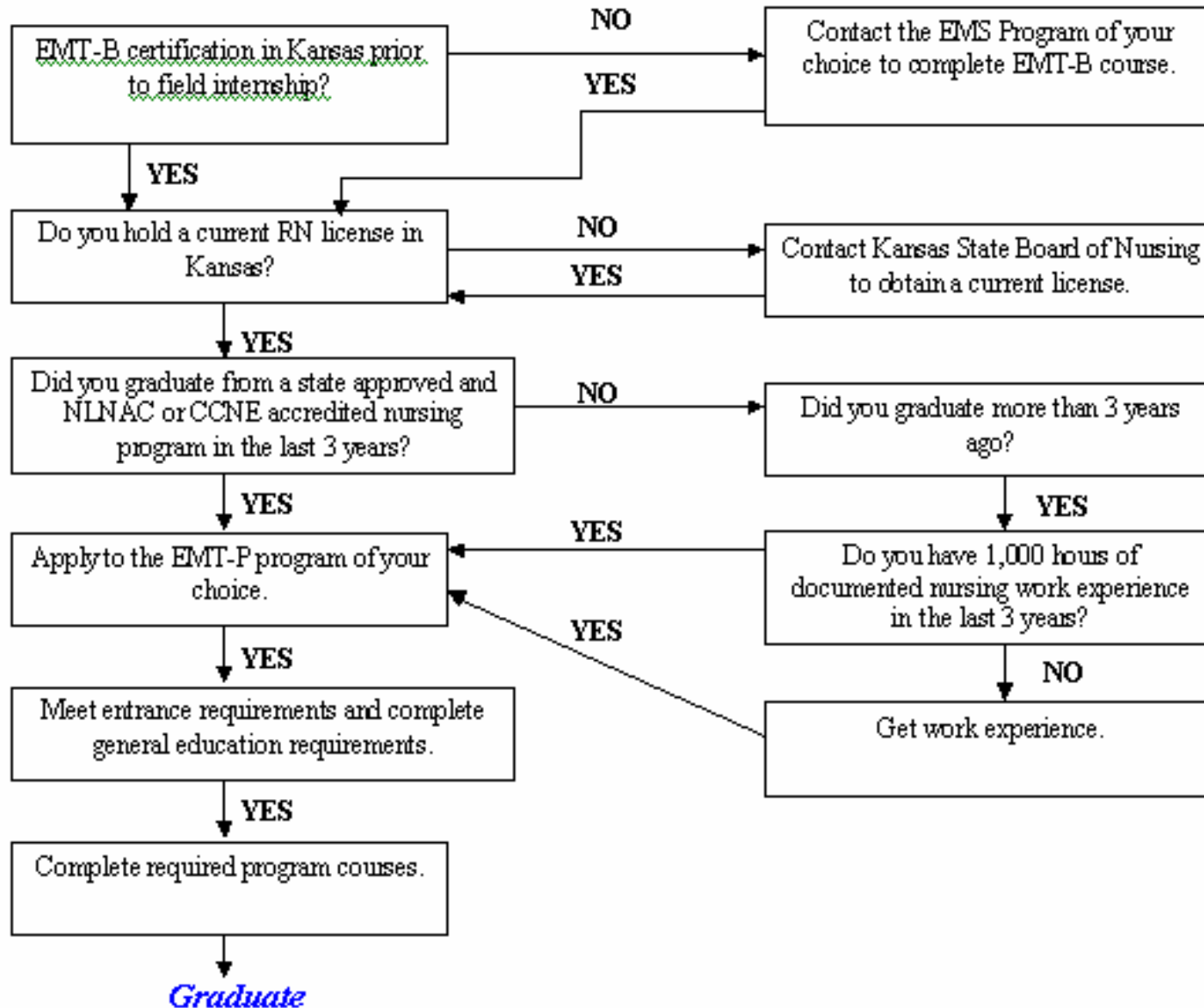
It is recognized that some programs may create bridge courses to consolidate content covered in several core paramedic courses. The bridge course(s) will prepare the RN student for the paramedic's role in delivering care in content areas previously addressed from the perspective of nursing care.

Validation

Validation is a benchmark/standard to confirm paramedic knowledge/competency. When required, testing, escrow or portfolio according to school policy may achieve validation.

REGISTERED NURSE TO PARAMEDIC ARTICULATION PATHWAY

Start Here



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACUTE CARE NURSING WORK EXPERIENCE

Hospital-based nursing experience (for example, in emergency department, JCU, neurology, medical-surgical units).

ARTICULATION

The process by which programs cooperate to facilitate educational progress of graduates from one program to another with minimal loss of academic credit or duplication of learning experiences.

CAAHEP

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to accredit entry-level health education programs. Currently accredits the discipline of EMT-P.

CCNE

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, an agency, which ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate education programs preparing nurses. Officially recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accrediting agency.

EMT-B

Emergency Medical Technician - Basic

EMT-P

Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic

ESCROW

Credits held in trust to be posted to transcript per program policy.

FIELD INTERNSHIP

A period of supervised experience that increases patient care responsibilities from observation through working as a team leader. Occurs after mastery of skills courses and before final practical skills exam.

NATIONAL STANDARD CURRICULUM - EMT-P (NSC)

Official U.S. DOT curriculum, which includes course guide and instructor lesson plans. Released in 1998 to assist in teaching new EMT-P course.

NLNAC

National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, an organization, which assists in the further improvement of institutions and supports the interests of nursing education. Officially recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the national accrediting body for all types of nursing education programs.

PORTFOLIO

Documented experience/knowledge/competency to support receiving credit.

VALIDATION

A benchmark/standard to confirm knowledge/competency.