

Summary Standards Revision Process for Full Scope of Practice Competency Task Force Recommendations

The following information provides context to the accompanying document showing the Full Scope of Practice Competency Task Force (FSOPCTF) recommendations presented side-by-side with the resulting revisions to the [Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs: Practice Doctorate](#) (Standards).

In 2018, the FSOPCTF was established as a joint task force of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) and the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA) to make evidence-based recommendations intended to continue to prepare nurse anesthesia graduates to meet the needs in all types of practice settings so that CRNAs remain the preferred anesthesia provider for today and tomorrow. The FSOPCTF was composed of military and civilian CRNAs representing nurse anesthesia educational programs, clinical and didactic faculty, and independently practicing CRNAs. Specific FSOPCTF charges were to:

1. Develop a common and shared definition of a “Full Practice/Independent” graduate.
2. Develop recommendations to the COA regarding the Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs to prepare graduates for full scope of practice as independent and autonomous CRNAs.

The COA is required by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to follow its policies and procedures in all accreditation activities, including Standards revisions. The COA welcomed the recommendations from the FSOPCTF and proceeded to review the recommendations with due consideration in accordance with the COA’s long standing, data-based processes for Standards development and revision.

Guided by the COA policies and procedures, a subcommittee of the Standards and Policies (S&P) Committee reviewed the FSOPCTF recommendations during several meetings held between October and December 2019. The Standards Revisions Subcommittee was comprised of S&P Committee members as well as non-COA members who are CRNA educators and CRNAs practicing in independent settings. The subcommittee made recommendations to the COA for revisions to Standards. Notably, this work was started prior to the publication of an [Executive Summary](#) from the FSOPCTF.

The subcommittee considered a number of factors when reviewing the recommendations including if any of the recommendations were addressed in COA documents as well as the impact Standards changes could have on programs and graduates. Sources of information included the Standards for Accreditation, COA Policies and Procedures, graduate clinical experience data from the NBCRNA, examination of standards of other anesthesia provider accreditors, and results from surveys of programs. The subcommittee presented its findings and possible revisions to the Standards at the January and June 2020 COA meetings.

Three hearings and calls for comments on proposed revisions in the Standards resulting from the FSOPCTF recommendations were held in 2020. The S&P Committee examined the results of the three calls for comments, resulting in revisions to some of the proposed changes to the Standards.

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The COA approved changes made to the Standards at its January 2021 meeting. The revised Standards were published on January 30, 2021. Some of the revised Standards such as clinical case requirements are effective for all students matriculating into an accredited program on or after January 1, 2022.

Drs. Laura Bonanno (COA President at that time) and Frank Gerbasi (COA CEO) presented the changes made to the Standards based on the FSCOPCTF recommendations in a recording provided at the 2021 Assembly of Didactic and Clinical Educators ([Presentation on Revisions to the Standards](#)). A summary of revisions made to the Standards was also posted to the COA website ([Summary of the Revisions to the Standards](#)).

The table below describes the actions and timeline from consideration of the FSOPCTF recommendations to revision of the Standards.

Action	Date
Standards Revisions Subcommittee formed to consider the FSOPCTF recommendations	October to December 2019
Standards Revisions Subcommittee makes recommendations to the COA Board on a portion of the FSOPCTF recommendations and the subcommittee continues to review the remaining FSOPCTF recommendations	January 2020
Proposed changes are made to the respective policies and/or Standards	January 2020
Hearing on proposed revisions to the COA Standards held at the AANA ADCE in Braselton, GA	February 2020
Virtual Hearing on proposed revisions to the COA Standards held at the AANA Mid-Year Assembly (recorded)	April 2020
Proposed revisions to the COA Standards sent out to the communities of interest for comments	May – June 2020
S&P Committee reviews call for comments	June 2020
Standards Revisions Subcommittee makes recommendations to the COA Board on the remainder of the FSOPCTF recommendations	May 2020
Proposed draft changes identified to the Standards	May 2020
Virtual Hearing on revisions to the COA Standards held at the AANA Annual Congress (recorded)	August 2020
Remaining proposed revisions to the COA Standards sent out to the communities of interest for comments	September – October 2020
S&P Committee reviews call for comments	October 2020
S&P Committee updates the COA Board on proposed revisions to the Standards	October 2020
Virtual Hearing on revisions to the COA Standards held at the AANA Fall Leadership Conference (recorded)	November 2020

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Repeat call for comments from the communities of interest issued on the remaining proposed revisions to the COA Standards	November - December 2020
S&P Committee reviews results from the call for comments and revises recommendations	December 2020
S&P Committee presents results from calls for comments and revised proposed changes to the Standards to the COA Board	January 2021
COA Board approves the proposed revisions to the COA Standards based on the recommendations	January 2021
Dr. Bonanno and Dr. Gerbasi present the changes virtually at the Feb 2021 ADCE (recorded, Presentation on Revisions to the Standards)	February 2021
A summary of all revisions to the Standards (Jan 2021) found at Summary of the Revisions to the Standards	February 2021

Reference: *Accreditation Policies and Procedures* manual: “Standards for Accreditation: Development, Adoption, Evaluation, and Revision” (S-10)