NCCA Standards Revision Updates

Main Committee Co-Chairs
Denise Fandel, MBA, CAE
Lawrence J. Fabrey, PhD

NCCA Representatives
Joy Matthews-Lopez, PhD
Nancy Ahluwalia


credentialingexcellence.org
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Nancy Ahluwalia, Public Member

With gratitude to Linda Anguish and Tara Mohammed for invaluable staff support
Main Committee Co-Chairs

Larry Fabrey, PhD

Denise Fandel, MBA, CAE
In this Session:

- Review of the revision process
- Overview of specific revisions and clarifications
- Pause to allow for questions for clarifications on the revisions
- Implementation plan and resources from NCCA representatives
- General questions
Reminder of the Intent:

- Clarify
- Reorganize/increase efficiency
- Address challenges that have arisen in applying the Standards over the past four years
- No intent to change meaning and stature of NCCA Accreditation
NCCA Standards Revision Timeline

Start of Project
August 2019

Appoint Main Committee & TAG
August 2019

MC & TAG Review
Nov. 2019 - Dec. 2020

Multiple Iterations

Public Review & Comment Periods
• January 2021
• July 2021
• August 2021

Final Revisions

Main Committee Approval Vote
October 2021
Thanks to the Main Committee! 15 members

Nancy Ahluwalia
Cynthia A. Allen, MA
Christopher Anderson, PhD
Gregory M. Applegate, PhD, MBA

Avis D. Bullard, MS, CSSBB
Michael Clark, CAE
Andrew C. Dwyer, PhD
Todd Galati, MA
Main Committee (continued)

Jeffrey A. Kelley, Ph.D.
Sarah D. Schnabel, BS, MEd, PhD
Pat Muenzen, PhD
Robert C. Shaw, Jr., PhD
Kristen A. Thomas
Anjali Weber, MS, CAE
and
Denise Fandel, MBA, CAE

Johnna Gueorguieva, PhD, CAE
Larry Fabrey, PhD
Thanks to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) - also 15 members:

- Donald A. Balasa, JD, MBA
- Brian Biagioli, Ed.D.
- Daniel H. Breidenbach, PhD
- David O. Bump, MBA, REMT-P, FP-C, CCP-C
- Sarah Carroll, PhD
- John H. Ganoe, CAE
- Isabelle Gonthier, PhD
- Liz Grater, MA
- Leon Gross, PhD
- Ronald Kruzel, MA, CAE, CST
- Wendy Miller, BOCO, LO, CDME
- Liberty Munson, PhD
- Larry E. Simmons, PhD, RN, CNE, NEA-BC
- Sue Steinkamp, PhD
- John Wickett, PhD
General Overview of Revisions and Clarifications

• Systematic review to remove redundancies
  • Standards 9 and 12 not redundant, each have their own focus.

• Clarification of “publicly available” – in the introduction and standard 6 – Information for Candidates
  • “…as a rule it should be interpreted as “available without request,” or if a request is necessary, the certification program should explain why a request is necessary.”

• Standardized suggested evidence in all commentaries.
Standard 1 on Purpose:

• Essential Element B - if a designation is awarded, it must accurately reflect credential
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

Standard 7 on Policies:

• Essential Element D on Retesting –
  • “The rationale for the retesting policy must be provided. The rationale must address the number of retakes allowed, time period between retakes, and extent of the exposure of examination content.”

• Commentary 6
  • Retesting policies may apply to candidates who have failed the examination or unforeseen interruptions in examination administrations.
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

Standard 8 on Awarding Certification:

• Clarification in Essential Element B on Reciprocity –
  • “…demonstrate comparability of content coverage and examination results,…”
  • “…evidence of comparability of certification and recertification requirements and policies.”

• Commentary 2
  • “Accreditation of the reciprocal program provides evidence of comparability, but accreditation alone is not sufficient.”
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

Standard 12 on Security:

• Test security plan
  • Referenced in the commentary list of suggested evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Standard.
Questions for clarification on Standards 1-12?
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

**Standard 13** on Panels:

- Clarified that panels refer to committees, teams, etc. working as individuals or groups on any certification activities.
- Clarified desire for diversity of professional and demographic characteristics.
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

**Standard 14** on Job Analysis:

- Clarifications on suggested analyses in the Commentary.
- New Commentary: Changes to the specifications after JA should be documented, with a rationale.
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

**Standard 15 on Specifications:**

- Suggested evidence added, reflecting aspects of the Essential Elements and Commentary.
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No reorganization of 13, 14, or 15 -- Final result is 23 Standards (not 24)
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

Standard 18 on Examination Administration:

• Essential elements are more succinct.

• Clarified that “each administration modality (e.g., test center, remote proctoring) should be conducive to testing.”

• Commentary 2: “If the modality does not allow for real-time termination of the administration, the organization should demonstrate how examination security is maintained.”

  ▪ to clarify options, include live remote proctoring and other proctoring methods as technology advances
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

**Standard 20** on Evaluation of Items and Examinations

- **EE A.** The program must *evaluate item performance as well as* calculate and report estimates of score reliability...appropriate for the examination characteristics.

- Commentary 5: Examination evaluation information should include such things as item analysis, reliability, decision consistency...

- See also, Standard 18, Commentary 4. ...regularly monitor examination administration information for each delivery modality (e.g., ...or item performance)
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

**Standard 21** on Maintenance of Certification:

- Removed first 2 Essential Elements requiring definitions matching the Commission’s definitions of Recertification and Continuing Competence
- New EE 1: “…provide a rationale for its recertification requirements, and the rationale must address the purpose of recertification.”
- Commentary 6 clarifies that if any certificants had been exempted from current recertification requirements,…they must be identified and their certification information made publicly available.
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

**Standard 22** on Quality Assurance:

- Essential Elements clarified to bring QA more up-to-date.
- Removed redundancy about regular review of examinations.
- Commentary clarifies error handling and provides additional suggested evidence.
Specific Revisions and Clarifications

**Standard 23** on Maintaining Accreditation:

- Wait to receive approval before making material changes
- NCCA to provide future resources regarding clarifications around what constitutes material changes
Questions for clarification on Standards 13-23?
NCCA Representatives

Joy Matthews-Lopez, PhD
• NCCA Chair

Nancy Ahluwalia
• NCCA Public Member
• NCCA Standards Revision Main Committee Member
Final Steps:

- Revised Standards approved October 2021
- Published December 2021
- Resources, including online application will be available in early 2022
- Implementation will begin with the January 2023 application deadline

Revised NCCA Standards Published December 2021

Online application transition February 2022

Trainings and Resources Throughout 2022

Revised Standards will be implemented beginning with the January 31, 2023 Application Deadline
What does this mean for currently accredited programs?

For reaccreditation applications **due in 2022**: nothing - yet!
- You will submit your 2022 renewal application that is currently available to you, in compliance with the 2014 NCCA Standards.
- **After 2022**, your future reaccreditation applications must comply with the 2021 Standards.

For reaccreditation applications **due in 2023** (and beyond):
- You will receive access to a new online application by early February 2022, in accordance with the 2021 NCCA Standards.
- Your program(s) will be accredited against the 2021 Standards.
What does this mean for new programs interested in applying for NCCA accreditation?

You will have the option to:

• start an application under the 2014 Standards for submission in 2022, or
• start a new application with the 2021 Standards, if you are planning to submit in 2023.

If you intend to submit an application after the August 31, 2022 deadline, you must use the updated application in accordance with the 2021 Standards.
• Tools to assist in implementation will be released throughout 2022 – resources updated (including Accreditation Workshop), webinar(s) planned, etc.

• The 2021 NCCA Standards are available on the I.C.E. website. They are free for members and $75 for non-members.

• The 2021 NCCA Standards application is available in the online accreditation portal. You can start and review an application.

• This town hall will be recorded and available on-demand for future reference.

• The NCCA Workshop hosted by I.C.E. staff in the Spring and Fall will provide more information regarding the 2021 Standards.

• Contact I.C.E. accreditation services staff at info@credentialingexcellence.org with any questions and/or special considerations regarding your application submissions and timelines.
General Questions?