



Table 1. Myths and Realities about Perceived Regulatory Barriers ⁵ Related to Rules

Perceived Regulatory Barriers	Reality
<p>Specific number of clinical hours are mandated</p> <p>Specific number of didactic hours are mandated</p> <p>Distance learning nursing programs are approved differently from traditional programs</p> <p>Faculty-student ratios</p> <p>Full and part-time ratios of faculty</p> <p>Simulation limitations</p>	<p>Required in:</p>

Recommendations to Boards of Nursing

One of the cautions from experts in nursing education innovations is that not all educators are innovators and it is not expected that all faculty or all nursing programs will implement innovations. However, the Boards of Nursing can create a favorable climate for innovation for those programs that are ready for it. The following are some recommendations for Boards of Nursing that might promote innovations:

Boards of Nursing might consider critically analyzing their education rules, particularly related to those listed in Table 1, with an eye toward fostering innovation in education.

Boards of Nursing may contemplate evaluating their approval processes for the purpose of streamlining them.

Related to communication, Boards of Nursing could think about:

- Representing the Board of Nursing at deans and director meetings.

- Convening education advisory committees including representation from educators, employers, and consumers.

- Developing Power Point presentations for faculty related to the role of the Board's education consultant.

- Developing online orientation courses for deans and directors.

- Sending out regular e-mails and/or newsletters to programs.

- Informally communicating with faculty.

- Developing an innovations Web site⁶ to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for innovations in nursing education.

- Hosting conferences with educators on regulatory issues and providing question and answer sessions.

- Posting a frequently asked questions (FAQ) handout on the Web site.

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⁶ See this example from the Texas Board of Nursing: <http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursingeducation/innovative.html>