

TABLE 2

## Differences Between BON Approval and National Nursing Accreditation by ACEN, CCNE, or NLN CNEA

	BONs	National Nursing Accreditors
<b>Authority</b>	Legal authority to close programs not meeting state standards	Authority to remove accreditation
<b>Cost</b>	Less costly – approximately half the states charge nothing	More costly
<b>Federal regulations for funding</b>	BONs do not make programs eligible for federal funding	May be linked to federal funding and related regulations
<b>Fraudulent programs</b>	Positioned to seamlessly work with state agencies for cease-and-desist orders; BONs network through FITS <sup>a</sup> about fraudulent programs that might cross state lines	More difficult to work with state agencies; no national networking system for fraudulent programs
<b>Initial approval/ accreditation</b>	A program must achieve full state approval before enrolling students	Full accreditation is not awarded until the first graduating class
<b>Length of approval/ accreditation</b>	States vary from 1 to 5 or more years, or as needed	8 to 10 years for program visits, unless standards are not met
<b>Mission</b>	Public protection	Ensure quality of nursing programs
<b>Perspective</b>	Statewide – e.g., know availability of faculty, clinical placements, etc.	National – less of a pulse on the regional or state needs
<b>Programmatic</b>	More focus on public protection and state standards: Faculty qualifications less stringent; knowledge of NPA; clinical supervision; standards of practice in some states; faculty/student clinical ratios	More focus on the institution and program excellence; congruence of goals and philosophy; governance; academic policies; continuous quality improvement
<b>Requirement</b>	Integral to licensure - mandated in all states to make students eligible for the NCLEX	Voluntary, although 20 states require it as collaborative oversight
<b>Response to complaints</b>	When complaints are serious (e.g., faculty not showing up to clinical; sudden attrition), BONs can respond immediately	Response takes longer; must go through their procedures
<b>Service</b>	Serves the public	Serves the nursing programs in a business relationship
<b>Structure</b>	State government	Private nonprofit

<sup>a</sup> FITS (Fraudulent Identity Tracking System) is a members-only database through which BONs can communicate about fraudulent or questionable programs that cross state lines, as well as those programs that cross state lines and have their approval status lowered.

Note. ACEN = Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing; BONs = boards of nursing; CCNE = Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; NLN CNEA = National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation.