Vanderbilt University School of Nursing
September 2019
Memorandum on Registered Nurse Licensure in Oregon

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has become aware of a likely change to RN license endorsement in Oregon. In approximately early 2020, the Oregon Board of Nursing (BON) will likely stop issuing RN licenses to applicants without a degree (BSN, ASN) degree in nursing. This will impact VUSN students and graduates who completed the prespecialty component of the MSN program. These students complete a generalist nursing curriculum meeting the requirements for a professional nursing curriculum set forth in the administrative rules of the Tennessee Board of Nursing 1000-1-.09 (2)(a)(b)(c) and are awarded a certificate of graduation from the Basic Professional Nursing component of the MSN specialty program, as recognized by the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

Under current Oregon BON rules, RN licenses will continue to be issued by endorsement to those who completed the VUSN prespecialty component for NCLEX and RN eligibility. We expect this process to continue through 2019. If a current student or graduate wishes to apply for RN license in Oregon, they are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

Oregon state legislators are interested in changing the state law specifying the requirements for RN licensure in Oregon to include not only a degree in nursing, but also completion of professional nursing education curriculum/equivalency of a degree. The potential earliest date for approval and implementation of such a statute is 2021.

This memorandum is based upon a recent phone conversation with the Executive Director of the Oregon BON. Once the Oregon BON releases a formal announcement on this matter, we will forward the pertinent information to students and graduates. As always, it is our goal to effectively communicate time sensitive information like this. While students and graduates are responsible to stay abreast of regulations governing their career including clinical placement, degree recognition, and licensure requirements, VUSN will continue to assist in this process. Should students or graduates have questions about this potential licensing change, they should contact Dr. Brittany Nelson, Director of Regulation and Accreditation (Brittany.nelson@vanderbilt.edu).