

**Investing in Our Future:
A Certificate Program for Aspiring Emergency Nurses**

Janie Schumaker, MBA, RN, CEN, CPHQ, FABC



In This Session ...

- What is The Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing
- The Why behind the EDvantage Certificate program
- The creation of the EDvantage Certificate program
- Lessons learned to date

About BCEN®

BCEN develops and delivers five certifications for nurses who work in fields across the emergency spectrum.



We are passionate about certification and supporting nurses and students.

According to NSNA, about 35% of student nurses are interested in working in the Emergency Department.

Students have asked BCEN for help for years!

- "How do we get a job in the ED?"
- "What can I do to prepare myself better?"
- "What tools do you have that can help me succeed?"



BCEN.org

Students Are Our Future



BCEN.org

The Student's Plight



Getting a job in the Emergency Department is competitive.

There may be 10 applicants, or more, for 1 or 2 available positions.

Many students are not able to work first as a patient care tech or were not able to do so in the Emergency Department. How can they get a leg up?

School is very time consuming. How can we add value without burning them out?



BCEN.org

An Idea was Born



You Asked ... We Answered!

BCEN decided to create a certificate program that helps students or nurses seeking an Emergency Department position to begin to obtain some of the training and skills they will need to work in the ED.

BCEN EDvantage is not intended to replace onboarding – only to give a head start.



BCEN.org



Requirements

- Stop the Bleed course
- Community volunteer event
- Current CPR from American Heart Association
- Emergency Severity Index course
- FEMA IS 100 and 700 courses
- NIH Stroke Scale course
- Essays:
 - Operational issue in the ED
 - Specialty Nursing Certification – why it is important (or not)
 - Clinical experience that caused a significant impact
- Membership in professional nursing association AND proof of active participation
- Resume



Logos for 'STOP THE BLEED', 'FEMA', and 'NIH National Institutes of Health' are displayed to the right of the list.

BCEN BOARD OF CERTIFICATION FOR EMERGENCY NURSING
Innovative. Achievement. Impact.

BCEN.org

Process



1 Student / nurse learns about BCEN EDvantage

2 Creates account at bcen.org

3 Begins the BCEN EDvantage application

4 Works on requirements within 12 months

5 Submits & pays application fee

6 Applications are reviewed by the BCEN staff

BCEN BOARD OF CERTIFICATION FOR EMERGENCY NURSING
Innovative. Achievement. Impact.

BCEN.org

Invaluable Benefits of Completing BCEN EDvantage

- Training and skills needed to work in the ED
- Confidence in abilities
- Insight into the industry
- Setting the application and resume apart from other applicants for the same position
- Being exposed to the information and knowledge needed to someday pursue board certification from BCEN



Tangible Perks of Completing BCEN EDvantage



First Applicant to Complete BCEN EDvantage

"I'm excited to be better prepared for my new career path and have a solid advantage over other applicants this fall."

Rick Yadon



Lessons Learned To Date

- BCEN EDvantage has had a lot of interest since our launch on May 20, 2020.
- COVID-19 impacted the launch plan and in-person activities for this program.
- To date, there are over 260 applicants who have initiated the program.
- Students may need guidance and communication to complete their activities.
- Feedback from nurse leaders and mentors has been favorable and supportive.




