



HSE Academic Program FAQ

1. What is the NAB HSE Program?

The Health Services Executive (HSE™) qualification is a broad-based credential that allows our most talented administrators to practice along the senior living and health services continuum while enjoying portability of their license(s). State boards from across the United States still retain licensing responsibilities under the HSE™ model. While this qualification does not replace an NHA license, it does offer another pathway to obtain a state-issued NHA license.

The HSE designation signifies that an individual meets comprehensive, multi-line-of-service leadership standards.

2. Why should our university care about the HSE pathway?

Participating in the HSE pathway allows your institution to:

- Align with a nationally recognized standard in healthcare leadership
- Increase program attractiveness to prospective students
- Improve graduate employability and licensure readiness
- Strengthen partnerships with employers in aging services
- Demonstrate leadership in workforce development for a high-demand sector

3. What does NAB Academic Accreditation mean?

Accreditation is granted by the NAB Board of Governors to institutions that meet NAB's criteria for top quality education and training of long term

care administrators. Moreover, students of NAB-accredited schools score higher than the national average on the NHA Exam and are best-prepared to work as long term care administrators.

Accreditation signals that your curriculum is aligned with industry expectations and licensure requirements.

4. Do we have to be HSE accredited for our students to seek the HSE qualification via the Education Pathway?

Yes- in order for someone to obtain their HSE through the Education Pathway, they must be a graduate of an HSE-Accredited college or university program with accreditation:

- Students can streamline their path to HSE eligibility
- The HSE qualification will help with licensure portability.

5. What are the benefits of becoming NAB accredited?

Institutional Benefits

- National recognition and credibility
- Differentiation from peer programs
- Alignment with employer expectations
- Stronger recruitment and retention outcomes

Student Benefits

- Clear, more efficient licensure pathway
- Increased job readiness
- Competitive advantage in the job market
- New HSE Ready track allows program students to test for all national exams before graduation without having to apply for licensure.

6. What types of programs are eligible for accreditation?

Programs in the following areas are commonly eligible:

- Healthcare Administration
- Long-Term Care Administration
- Public Health (with relevant coursework)
- Business Administration (healthcare-focused tracks)

Programs must demonstrate alignment with NAB's Domains of Practice.

7. What are the NAB Domains of Practice?

The Domains of Practice outline the knowledge and competencies required of health services executives. They include areas such as:

- Leadership and Management
- Operations
- Finance
- Environment and Quality

Accredited programs map their curriculum to the current NAB Domains of Practice.

8. How difficult is the accreditation process?

The process includes a self-assessment based on the NAB Domains of Practice, as well as an online application covering over a dozen criteria.

NAB provides:

- Clear standards and guidance
- Support throughout the application process
- Feedback to help programs align effectively

Many institutions find that their existing curriculum already aligns significantly with NAB standards, requiring only modest adjustments.

9. How long does accreditation take?

The timeline varies, but includes:

- Self-assessment and preparation
- Application submission
- Review and feedback
- A Site Visit with 2-3 reviewers

Typical timelines range from several months to a year depending on readiness. Important deadlines include:

- **June Academic Accreditation Cycle:**
The application/renewal deadline is March 1.
- **November Academic Accreditation Cycle:**
The application/renewal deadline is August 1.

10. What resources does NAB provide to help us get accredited?

NAB offers:

- [The Academic Accreditation Workbook](#)
- Staff support and consultation
- Examples of successful program alignment

11. What is the first step to getting started?

- Review NAB accreditation requirements
- Connect with NAB for an introductory conversation
- Conduct an internal curriculum alignment assessment

12. How can we learn more about accreditation with NAB?

- NAB Academic Accreditation Overview: <https://nabweb.org/academia/academic-accreditation>
- Reach out directly to NAB for guidance on next steps. (nab@nabweb.org)