

## Overview of Essentials Mapping Tool

A team of five members of the 2023 National League of Nursing (NLN) Leadership Institute for Simulation Educators created a mapping tool to guide the integration of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN, 2021) *Essentials* with simulation in a competency-based curriculum. The *Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* contain domains, competencies and sub-competencies for entry level and advanced practice nurses (AACN, 2021). This educational document is grounded in experiential principles that serve as the foundation of competency-based education (CBE; Stachowiak, 2022). CBE approaches create opportunities for innovation through the grounding tenet of providing multiple opportunities for learners to actively participate in their learning, reflect on their experience, and move towards success in practice (Lewis et al., 2022). Learners work toward competency demonstration across various patient care settings while developing clinical judgment skills.

The Essentials Mapping Tool template was created for educators to map their own simulation scenario objectives to the *Essentials* domains and competencies. An exemplar of a completed Essentials Mapping Tool is available to download. The template was used to map the objectives of the NLN (2022) Advancing Care Excellence for Seniors (ACE.S) unfolding cases to the *Essentials*. Each ACE.S case consists of three scenarios that progressively unfold in a clinical situation.

Furthermore, each ACE.S case had its simulation objectives mapped to the *Essentials* to the sub-competency level using a detailed version of the Essentials Mapping Tool. These detailed maps are offered as tools for educators to support incorporation of ACE.S cases into their curriculum and to serve as documentation of addressing specific *Essentials*. The completed documents are available as supplemental materials.

Educators need tools such as these to address AACN competencies and ensure students are ready for practice. The creation of these mapping tools is intended to support educators looking for resources and materials to meet specific learning objectives and support accreditation standards for documenting how desired CBE outcomes are being met.

### Downloadable Resources

[Essentials Mapping Tool template](#)

[Essentials Mapping Tool - ACE.S cases exemplar](#)

Supplemental materials – Detailed Essentials Mapping Tools with Essentials Domains, Core Competencies and Sub-competencies

- [Millie Larsen case](#)
- [Julia Morales and Lucy Grey case](#)
- [Henry & Ertha Williams case](#)
- [Red Yoder case](#)

## References

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2021). *The essentials: Core competencies for professional nursing education*. <https://www.aacnnursing.org/essentials>
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- National League for Nursing. (2022). *ACE.S unfolding cases*. <https://www.nln.org/education/teaching-resources/professional-development-programsteaching-resourcesace-all/ace-s/unfolding-cases>
- Stachowiak, M. (2022). A systematic process to align course, curriculum, and programs to the essentials. *Nurse Educator*, 47(4), E96-E97. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NNE.0000000000001192>

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