



Arkansas State Board of Nursing

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GRADUATES OF NURSING SCHOOLS OUTSIDE THE U.S.A. (INCLUDING THE PHILIPPINES) LICENSURE EXAMINATION APPLICATION INFORMATION

I. Arkansas Compact State

Arkansas is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact. Nurses applying for licensure must live in Arkansas, a non-compact state, or country outside the United States to complete this application process. Nurses living in compact states will not be allowed to apply. For a listing of compact states and more information on Nurse Licensure Compact, go to www.ncsbn.org. Click on Nurse Licensure Compact.

II. Criminal Background Checks

Arkansas law requires applicants for licensure by examination to submit to criminal background checks. If an applicant has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or found guilty of any offense listed in ACA § 17-87-312, he/she is not eligible for Arkansas licensure. (ACA § 17-87-312 provides the applicant an opportunity to request a waiver of eligibility criteria related to a criminal background in certain circumstances.)

The criminal background checks shall be completed no earlier than twelve (12) months prior to being deemed eligible to sit for the licensure examination.

Complete your application for Arkansas and FBI criminal background checks according to the enclosed instructions. Criminal background checks may take 2 - 4 months to be processed.

DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, CONTACT THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE OR THE FBI ABOUT THE STATUS OF YOUR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.

A social security number is not required for the background check. Please mark "Foreign" in the area marked social security number. You will be required to submit a copy of your social security card to the Board within thirty (30) days after you obtain one.

III. Temporary Permit (optional)

A temporary permit may be issued when you have passed the NCLEX® licensure examination and your state background check is complete. This temporary permit is valid for six (6) months and cannot be extended or reissued. The permanent license will be issued when the Board receives the federal background report.

IV. Graduates from Nursing Schools in English Speaking Countries (RNs & LPNs)

Nurses from countries in which the official language is English and the program of instruction, textbooks, and transcripts are written in English will have their education evaluated by the Board. The evaluation completed by the Board will review the total curriculum of education with specific attention paid to the hours of class time and clinical time in the areas of: Medical, Surgical, Obstetric, Pediatric, and Psychiatric nursing.

V. Graduates from Nursing Schools in the Philippines (RNs)

The evaluation completed by the Board will review the total curriculum of education with specific attention paid to the hours of class time and clinical time in the areas of: Medical, Surgical, Obstetric, Pediatric, and Psychiatric nursing. If the education cannot be verified an outside evaluation will be required.

VI. Documents

Only reports and documents sent directly from official agencies or institutions will be accepted by the Board.

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VII. Graduates from Nursing Schools in Non-English Speaking Countries (RNs & LPNs)

Nurses graduating from non-English speaking countries shall have one of the following agencies evaluate the education program and verify licensure:

1. International Education Research Foundation (IERF)

P. O. Box 3665, Culver City, CA 90231-3665

Telephone: (310) 258-9451

Email: information@ierf.org

Website for instructions and forms: www.ierf.org

Request nursing application

2. Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)

3600 Market Street, Suite 400

Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651

Telephone: (215) 349-8767

Website: www.cgfns.org

Request Credential Evaluation and Full Education Course by Course Report. The CGFNS Certificate or VisaScreen will be accepted in lieu of Full Education Course by Course Report. Documentation reports are to be sent from CGFNS.

VIII. English Proficiency

Nurses from non-English speaking countries must complete one of the following English proficiency examinations:

1. Test for English Foreign Language (TOEFL) www.toefl.org with a passing score of 540 on the paper examination, 207 for the computerized examination, or 76 on the Internet based examination.
2. Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) www.toeic.com with a passing score of 725.
3. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) www.ielts.org with a passing score in the academic module of 6.5 and the Spoken Band score of 7.
4. The Test of Spoken English (TSE) www.toefl.org is required for Licensed Practical Nurse applicants. A passing score of 50 is required.

IX. Fees

The application fee is \$125.00 and the optional temporary fee is \$25.00. Payment may be made by credit card, money order or certified check.

X. Registering for the NCLEX®

The NCLEX® is a national examination and can be taken at any testing site with the results sent to Arkansas. The *NCLEX® Bulletin* explains the process for registering or you may go to www.pearsonvue.com/nclex. To learn more about the examination and computerized testing, go to www.ncsbn.org and click on Testing Services.

XI. Time Frames

The time frame to be deemed eligible to test for a nurse who is required to have their education evaluated by CGFNS and take an English proficiency examination is estimated to be 6 to 18 months. The time frame to be deemed eligible to test for the nurse who has their education evaluation and verification of licensure completed by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing is estimated to be 3 to 6 months.

XI. Immigration and Visas

Refer to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at www.uscis.gov and/or the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools at www.cgfns.org for questions regarding Immigration and Visas.

XII. Questions

For additional information or questions contact:

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