

244 CMR: BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

244 CMR 8.00: LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

Section

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8.01: Definition of Terms

Applicant means an individual who has submitted a completed National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) application.

Approved Nursing Education Program means a nursing education program for Registered Nurses or Practical Nurses, as applicable, located in Massachusetts and approved by the Board pursuant to 244 CMR 6.00, *or* a nursing education program located outside Massachusetts which, in the opinion of the Board, maintains standards substantially the same as those required for approval of a nursing education program in Massachusetts *and* which program is approved by the nursing board or corresponding body in the jurisdiction where the program is located.

Board means Board of Registration in Nursing.

Candidate means an individual who has been determined eligible by the Board to write the NCLEX.

CGFNS means the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools.

Eligibility means the Board's determination of an applicant's ability to write the NCLEX based on criteria specified in M.G.L. c. 112, §§ 74 and 74A, and Board regulations promulgated thereunder.

Eligibility Period means the period of time during which a candidate must write the NCLEX. A candidate's eligibility period begins on the date the Authorization to Test Certificate is printed and expires 60 calendar days later, or on the date the candidate writes the NCLEX, whichever comes first. The eligibility period is applicable to both first time and repeat candidates. Candidates who do not write the NCLEX within the eligibility period must again apply to write the NCLEX and again submit all required fees and forms.

Graduation means the date the applicant graduated from a nursing education program as defined in the policy of the applicant's nursing education program.

NCLEX means the National Council Licensure Examination.

NCLEX-PN means the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses.

NCLEX-RN means the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

NCSBN means the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

State means a state within the United States.

SBTPE means State Board Test Pool Examination.

U.S. Territory means, for the purpose of 244 CMR 8.00, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, provided the nursing board or corresponding body within the U.S. Territory is a member of the NCSBN.

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Withdrawal Date means the date the applicant for licensure as a Practical Nurse withdrew, as defined by the policy of the applicable nursing education program, from an approved nursing education program for Registered Nurses.

8.02: Initial Licensure as a Registered Nurse by Examination

(1) An applicant for initial licensure as a Registered Nurse by examination shall submit to the Board the following documentation to establish the applicant's eligibility to write the NCLEX-RN:

- (a) proof satisfactory to the Board of good moral character as required by M.G.L. c. 112, § 74 and as established by Board policy;
- (b) proof satisfactory to the Board of the applicant's graduation from an approved nursing education program for Registered Nurses:
 1. if such program is located in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory, the applicant's graduate status shall be certified by the program administrator or the program administrator's designee;
 2. if such program is *not* located in the United States, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory, *or Canada*, the applicant's graduate status shall be certified by the Board or its designee by the applicant's receipt of a CGFNS Certificate, a CGFNS credentials review, or other Board-designated credentials review;
 3. if such program is located *in Canada* and the applicant is not eligible for licensure by reciprocity under 244 CMR 8.04(3), the applicant's graduate status shall be certified by the Board or its designee;
- (c) proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has achieved a minimum score as specified by the Board on a Board-designated test of English proficiency where the applicant graduated from a nursing education program whose language of instruction or textbooks, or both, was not English;
- (d) payment of all required fees; and
- (e) after meeting the eligibility criteria in 244 CMR 8.02(1)(a) through (d), proof satisfactory to the Board that the candidate has passed the NCLEX-RN during the NCLEX eligibility period.

(2) A candidate who fails the NCLEX-RN may write the NCLEX-RN again as permitted by the Board's NCLEX Retake Policy .

8.03: Initial Licensure as a Practical Nurse by Examination

(1) An applicant for initial licensure as a Practical Nurse by examination shall submit to the Board the following documentation to establish the applicant's eligibility to write the NCLEX-PN:

- (a) proof satisfactory to the Board of good moral character as required by M.G.L. c. 112, § 74A and as established by Board policy;
- (b) proof satisfactory to the Board of the applicant's graduation from an approved nursing education program for Practical Nurses or Registered Nurses:
 1. if such program is located in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory, the applicant's graduate must status shall be certified by the program administrator or the program administrator's designee;
 2. if such program is *not* located in the United States, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory, *or Canada*, the applicant's graduate status shall be certified by the Board or its designee by the applicant's receipt of a CGFNS Certificate, a CGFNS credentials review, or other Board-designated credentials review;
 3. if such program is located *in Canada*, the applicant's graduate status shall be certified by the Board or its designee;
 4. if the applicant was a former student in good standing at an approved nursing education program for Registered Nurses, withdrew from such program in good standing and, as of the applicant's withdrawal date, had completed a program of study, theory, and clinical practice equivalent to that required for graduation from an approved nursing education program for Practical Nurses, the applicant shall provide proof satisfactory to the Board of completion of such equivalent program;

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- (c) proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has achieved a minimum score as specified by the Board on a Board-designated test of English proficiency where the applicant graduated from a nursing education program whose language of instruction or textbooks, or both, was not English;
- (d) payment of all required fees; and
- (e) after meeting the eligibility criteria in 244 CMR 8.03(1)(a) through (d), proof satisfactory to the Board that the candidate has passed the NCLEX-PN during the NCLEX eligibility period.

(2) A candidate who fails the NCLEX-PN may write the NCLEX-PN again as permitted by the Board's NCLEX Retake Policy .

8.04: Initial Licensure as a Registered Nurse or Practical Nurse by Reciprocity

The Board may license by reciprocity (without examination) an applicant who is, or has been, licensed as a Registered Nurse or Practical Nurse in another state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory, or Canada under laws which, in the opinion of the Board, maintain standards substantially the same as those required for licensure as a Registered Nurse or Practical Nurse in Massachusetts, as applicable.

For the purposes of 244 CMR 8.04, the Board may find an applicant for licensure by reciprocity has met "standards substantially the same" as those required for licensure as a Registered Nurse or Practical Nurse in Massachusetts if the applicant meets all the requirements set forth under 244 CMR 8.04(1), (2), or (3), as applicable.

(1) Registered Nurse Licensed in Another State, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory. The Board may license as a Registered Nurse by reciprocity an applicant who is, or has been, licensed as a Registered Nurse in another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory after receipt, review, and approval by the Board or its designee of the following documentation:

- (a) proof satisfactory to the Board of the applicant's good moral character as required by M.G.L. c. 112, § 74, and as established by Board policy;
- (b) proof satisfactory to the Board of the applicant's graduation from an approved nursing education program for Registered Nurses as evidenced by the applicant's licensure as a Registered Nurse by examination in another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory;
- (c) proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has achieved a minimum score as specified by the Board on a Board-designated test of English proficiency where the applicant graduated from a nursing education program whose language of instruction or textbooks, or both, was not English;
- (d) proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has passed the NCLEX-RN or the SBTPE for Registered Nurses as evidenced by the applicant's licensure as a Registered Nurse by examination in another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory;
- (e) proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant is, or has been, licensed as a Registered Nurse by examination in another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory; and
- (f) payment of all required fees.

(2) Practical Nurse Licensed in the Another State, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory. The Board may license as a Licensed Practical Nurse by reciprocity an applicant who is, or has been, licensed as a Practical Nurse in another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory after receipt, review, and approval by the Board or its designee of the following documentation:

- (a) proof satisfactory to the Board of the applicant's good moral character as required by M.G.L. c. 112, § 74A, and as established by Board policy;
- (b) proof satisfactory to the Board of the applicant's graduation from an approved nursing education program for Practical Nurses or Registered Nurses as evidenced by the applicant's licensure as a Practical Nurse by examination in another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory;
- (c) if the applicant was a former student at an approved nursing education program for Registered Nurses, withdrew from such program in good standing and, as of the applicant's withdrawal date, had completed a program of study, theory, and clinical practice equivalent to that required for graduation from an approved nursing education program for Practical Nurses, proof satisfactory to the Board of completion of such equivalent program;

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- (d) proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has achieved a minimum score as specified by the Board on a Board-designated test of English proficiency where the applicant graduated from a nursing education program whose language of instruction or textbooks, or both, was not English;
- (e) proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has passed the NCLEX-PN or the SBTPE for Practical Nurses as evidenced by the applicant's licensure as a Practical Nurse by examination in another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory;
- (f) proof satisfactory to the Board of the applicant's licensure as a Practical Nurse in another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory; and
- (g) payment of all required fees.

(3) Registered Nurse Licensed in Canada. The Board may license as a Registered Nurse by reciprocity an applicant who is, or has been, licensed as a Registered Nurse in Canada after receipt, review, and approval by the Board or its designee of the following documentation:

- (a) proof satisfactory to the Board of the applicant's good moral character as required by M.G.L. c. 112, § 76B, and as established by Board policy;
- (b) proof satisfactory to the Board of the applicant's graduation from a nursing education program for Registered Nurses approved by the nursing board or corresponding body in the province of Canada where the applicant was licensed as a Registered Nurse by examination;
- (c) proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has passed one of the following Canadian licensure examinations:
 1. if examined *before August 1, 1970*, the SBTPE;
 2. if examined *after August 1, 1970*, the Canadian Nurses Association Testing Service (CNATS) Examination with a score greater than 400 in each component of the examination; or
 3. if examined *in August 1980 or thereafter*, the CNATS Comprehensive Examination with a comprehensive score of greater than 400;
- (d) if the applicant took the CNATS Examination or the CNATS Comprehensive Examination in French, proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has achieved a minimum score of 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or has achieved a minimum score as specified by the Board on a Board-designated test of English proficiency;
- (e) proof satisfactory to the Board of the applicant's licensure as a Registered Nurse in Canada; and
- (f) payment of all required fees.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

244 CMR 8.00: M.G.L. c. 13, § 14; c. 112, §§ 74, 74A, 75, 76, 76B, 81B, and 81C.