



South Dakota Board of Nursing
South Dakota Department of Health
4305 S. LOUISE AVENUE SUITE 201 ♦ SIOUX FALLS, SD 57106-3115
(605) 362-2760 ♦ Fax: (605) 362-2768

Frequently Asked Questions about Nursing Education

Regulation/Approval of Nursing Education Programs:

1. Does the South Dakota Board of Nursing (SDBON) regulate nursing education programs that lead to the initial licensure of a practical nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN), or advanced practice RN (APRN)?
 - **Yes**, if the program is located in South Dakota; and **no**, if the program is located in another state/jurisdiction. The program is required to be approved in their jurisdiction of origin.
 - The Board also requires APRN programs to be accredited by a nationally recognized nursing accrediting agency approved by the US Department of Education, e.g. CCNE, ACEN, CNEA, AANA-COA, or AMCB.
 - The APRN program must specifically prepare the nurse to function in the APRN role and at least one population focus: adult-gero acute or primary care, family across the lifespan, neonatal, pediatric acute or primary care, psych-mental health, or women's health.
2. Does the SDBON regulate post-licensure nursing education programs that do not lead to obtaining another license? Example: RN to BSN; BSN to MSN, Clinical Nurse Leader.
 - **Yes**, if the program is located in South Dakota; and **no**, if the program is located in another state/jurisdiction. The program is required to be approved in their jurisdiction of origin.
3. Does SD require out-of-state, post-secondary institutions to obtain authorization or approval to deliver online programming/education to SD residents?
 - **Yes**, but only if the program has a physical location in SD. The definition of 'physical location' is defined in SDCL [13-48-43](#).
 - If the program *is* located in SD, the institution may not publicize the availability of their program(s) in SD unless issued a [certificate of authorization](#) from the Secretary of State pursuant to [SDCL 13-48-35](#).
 - If any institution changes its name or the physical location of any campus, the institutions must notify the Secretary of State in writing within 30 days pursuant to [SDCL 13-48-39](#).
 - [Contact the SD Secretary of State's office for questions](#).
4. Does the SDBON regulate post-licensure nursing education programs that require clinical hours with direct patient care? Example: RN to BSN
 - **Yes**, if the program is located in South Dakota; and **no**, if the program is located in another state/jurisdiction. The program is required to be approved in their jurisdiction of origin.
5. Does the SDBON require *in-state* SDBON approved pre-licensure programs to report whether their students are performing patient clinical experiences in another state or jurisdiction?
 - **Yes**, SDBON approved nursing education programs are required to submit this information to the Board on the SDBON's Annual Report of Nursing Education Program survey.

Licensure Requirements for Students and Faculty:

6. Does the SDBON require RN post-licensure nursing students to hold a SD RN nursing license or a multi-state RN license with privilege to practice?
 - **Yes**, students enrolled in a BON approved RN-to-BSN program or accredited APRN program must hold an active SD RN license, or a multi-state RN license with privilege to practice, to allow them to perform clinical experiences in SD.
7. Does the SDBON require nursing instructors/educators that teach students located in SD to hold a SD nursing license?
 - **Yes**, PN, RN, and APRN educators that provide didactic education, clinical education, and/or supervise students in preceptor clinical experiences must hold an active SD RN license or a multi-state RN license with privilege to practice, pursuant to [SDCL 36-9-3 \(12\)](#), [36-9A-2](#), [36-9A-5](#), [36-9A-21.1](#), [ARSD 20:48:07:24 \(9\)](#). Additionally, educators teaching in APRN programs are required to hold an active SD APRN license appropriate to the role and population focus of the APRN program pursuant to [ARSD 20:48:07:26.1](#).



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8. Do SDBON's licensure requirements in item 8 apply to out-of-state nursing education programs and faculty teaching nursing courses via online distance education to students located in SD?
- **Yes**, the same requirements apply when teaching students located in the state of SD.
 - Teaching or supervising students enrolled in a PN, RN, or APRN nursing program is the practice of nursing. To practice nursing in SD a person must hold an active SD RN license or a multi-state RN license with privilege to practice, and/or an active APRN license in SD.
9. Does the SDBON require instructors/educators, employed by nursing education program that originate in SD and that *only* teach students located in another jurisdiction (e.g. Minnesota) to hold a SD nursing license?
- **No**; for example, if an instructor teaches a clinical cohort in a Minnesota hospital and does not teach in the state of SD that instructor does not need to hold a SD RN license because the students are located in the state of Minnesota. Instead the clinical instructor must meet Minnesota BON requirements. If needed a clinical instructor may serve as a guest speaker/educator in the state of SD for up to 5 days without having to obtain a SD RN license, pursuant to [SDCL 36-9-28 \(9\)](#).

Student Clinical Preceptorship Requirements:

10. What are the requirements to place a pre-licensure RN student and/or RN to BSN student in a clinical preceptorship in South Dakota?
- The student must be enrolled in a board of nursing approved RN program.
 - The RN to BSN student, clinical educator supervising a student, and RN clinical preceptor must all hold active SD RN licenses or multi-state RN licenses with privilege to practice. Pre-licensure RN students are excluded from having to hold an RN license.
 - The student and nursing education program must meet the requirements of the clinical agency/facility.
11. What are the requirements to place an APRN student in a clinical preceptorship in South Dakota?
- The student must be enrolled in a nationally accredited APRN program and hold an active SD RN license or a multi-state RN license with privilege to practice.
 - The clinical preceptor must hold an active SD APRN license in the same role and focus area as the student is enrolled; or SD medical or physician's assistant license in a comparable area of practice as the student's population focus.
 - Educators supervising students in preceptor clinical experiences, must hold an active SD APRN license appropriate to the role and population focus of the APRN program pursuant to [ARSD 20:48:07:26.1](#).
12. Does the SDBON have requirements regarding the number of hours an APRN student must complete in clinical experiences?
- **Yes**; a student must complete a minimum of 500 clinical hours in role and population focus area.

Use of Simulation in Nursing Education Programs:

13. What are the SDBON's requirements on use of simulation?
- Programs regulated and approved by the SDBON may use simulation as a substitute for traditional clinical experiences, not to exceed 50% of the total program clinical hours; pursuant to [ARSD 20:48:07:50](#).
 - A program's decision to use simulation should be made collaboratively amongst nursing administrators and faculty; the following article is recommended for review: [NCSBN simulation Guidelines for Prelicensure Nursing Programs](#) (2015). A program should carefully assess their institution's resources to ensure adequate financial means, physical space, faculty time, and faculty expertise to attain simulation goals.
 - Programs choosing to use simulation must be able to show evidence of having incorporated simulation into the nursing program's curriculum and have policies and procedures in place consistent with NCSBN's recommendations on Simulation: [Guidelines](#), [Program Preparation Checklist](#), [Faculty Preparation Checklist](#).

If you have additional questions contact the SDBON office at 605-362-2760 or visit the SDBON's staff directory at: <http://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/staff.aspx> for email addresses.