FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT NURSING EDUCATION

For Students

Scenario 1:

I am a South Dakota resident attending an out-of-state nursing program. I plan to return to South Dakota when I graduate. What do I need to do to become licensed?

To obtain a South Dakota nursing license as a new graduate you must:

- declare South Dakota as your state of primary residence.
- have completed an out-of-state nursing education program that is approved by another Board of Nursing.
- complete the South Dakota Board of Nursing online application for licensure by examination and pay the required fee.
- complete a criminal background check.
- request official transcripts from your school’s Registrar showing nursing degree conferred.
- register for testing with Pearson Vue and pay the required fee.

Scenario 2:

I am a student attending an out-of-state baccalaureate nursing program. I would like to complete my final clinical hours with a preceptor in my hometown in South Dakota. What does my nursing program need to do?

In order to complete clinical hours in South Dakota as an undergraduate student, the on-site preceptor will need to hold an active South Dakota RN license at or above the level for which the student is preparing or have a privilege to practice in South Dakota. The faculty member supervising the clinical experience in South Dakota must also be licensed or have a privilege to practice in South Dakota.

Scenario 3:

I am a student in an out-of-state advanced practice nursing program. I plan to complete my clinical hours in South Dakota facilities. What do I need to know?

In order to complete clinical hours as an APRN student physically located in South Dakota:

- You will need to hold an active RN license or have a privilege to practice in South Dakota.
- The on-site preceptor will need to hold an active South Dakota license.
- A faculty member supervising the clinical experience will need to hold a South Dakota license as an advanced practice registered nurse.
For Programs

Scenario 4:

I am a representative for an out-of-state “brick and mortar” nursing program that provides a portion of our undergraduate and graduate programs online. We occasionally place both undergraduate and graduate students in clinical sites in other states. What are the requirements for our programs to place students in South Dakota?

*The South Dakota Board of Nursing does not approve out-of-state nursing programs. In order to place students in clinical sites in South Dakota, out-of-state programs must be approved by the Board of Nursing in the state in which the program originates. Faculty teaching clinical or supervising preceptored clinical for students who are physically located in South Dakota must hold an active South Dakota RN license or have a privilege to practice in South Dakota. The on-site preceptor will need to hold an active South Dakota RN license or have a privilege to practice in South Dakota.*

Scenario 5:

I am the director of an approved nursing program located in South Dakota and want to offer a distance education undergraduate nursing program in addition to our on-campus delivered programs. What are the next steps?

*Since the program originates in South Dakota, the program must apply for reorganization through the South Dakota Board of Nursing. The delivery of instruction by distance education methods must be congruent with your nursing program curriculum plan and enable students to achieve program outcomes in accordance with ARSD 20:48:07:28. Each faculty member must be licensed as a registered nurse in the state of South Dakota or have privilege to practice when teaching didactic and clinical nursing education to students who are physically located in the state of South Dakota. In addition, the program must:*

- provide a means for assessing individual student outcomes and programs outcomes.
- comply with the regulatory requirements in each state where the program is being offered.
- provide students with adequate clinical instruction to meet program outcomes.
- provide adequate technical support and assistance to students and faculty.
- provide for student access to faculty members and resources.
- assure the integrity of student work.