



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing

FOREIGN EDUCATED LPN / RN – LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

SDCL 36-9-29, 30, 31 and 32 and SDCL 36-9-37, 38 and 38.1 provide legal authority for South Dakota Board of Nursing to examine and license duly qualified applicants seeking nurse licensure in South Dakota. A graduate of a nursing education program in a foreign country who has never been licensed as a LPN or RN in the US or a US territory must meet these requirements. It is illegal to practice nursing in the state without a valid nursing license.

1. Must have completed a government approved four-year high school course of study or its equivalent.
2. Must have a U.S. Social Security Number
3. Must be a graduate of a government approved educational program leading to nurse licensure that meets South Dakota nursing education requirements that were in place at the time the nurse graduated from the educational program.
4. Must have successfully completed the CGFNS Certification Program. Contact the CGFNS at 3600 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia PA 19104-2651; telephone (215) 349-8767; fax (215) 3449-0026; or email support@cgfns.org or log onto the CGFNS website at www.cgfns.org for applicant information.
NOTE: Canadian applicants who were educated in English are exempt from this requirement.
5. After successful completion of the CGFNS Certification Program, arrange to have CGFNS send directly to the South Dakota Board of Nursing a letter confirming the successful completion of the program.
Complete all application forms:
 - A. Application to [Pearson](#) with the \$200 NCLEX[®] Registration fee
 - B. SD Board of Nursing Licensure Application with \$100 fee payable to the Board of Nursing.
6. Criminal Background Check: Pursuant to SDCL 36-9-97, ARSD 20:48:03:01, ARSD 20:48:03:07, ARSD 20:48:03:08, each applicant for initial licensure, whether by endorsement or by examination, is required to submit a full set of fingerprints with a completed application to obtain a state and federal criminal background check.
 - Please contact the South Dakota Board of Nursing to request your criminal background check packet.
 - The fingerprint cards you receive from the Board of Nursing **must** be the cards you use for fingerprints, since specific agency data is pre-printed on each card.
 - Applications for licensure will not be processed until a completed application **and** completed fingerprint cards are received by the Board of Nursing.
7. [Temporary Permits](#) are issued to first-time NCLEX[®] writers only. Instructions and Application forms are available at the Board of Nursing website. Steps 4, 5, and 6 above must also be completed before a Temporary Permit can be issued; the Temporary Permit fee is \$25. A Temporary Permit will not be issued until the completed fingerprint cards for the criminal background check are received by the Board of Nursing. While practicing nursing on a Temporary Permit, the applicant must practice only under supervision of a licensed RN. The Temporary Permit is non-renewable, and expires 90 days following date of issuance or upon notification to the applicant of examination results. Those applicants who fail the exam must return the Temporary Permit to the Board of Nursing office.
8. Achieve a passing score on the NCLEX[®] Computerized Adaptive Test.