



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING  
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
4305 South Louise Avenue Suite 201 ♦ Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115  
(605) 362-2760 ♦ Fax: 362-2768 ♦ [doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing](http://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing)

### CANADIAN-EDUCATED RN/LPN (ENGLISH SPEAKING) – 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 the South Dakota nursing education requirements that were in place at the time the applicant graduated.
4. Provide verification of employment directly from the employer(s) as a nurse for a minimum of 140 hours in any twelve month period over the preceding six years, or 480 hours accumulated during the preceding six years, if the nursing education was completed more than six years from the date of application.
5. Complete South Dakota Board of Nursing Licensure Application with \$100 fee payable to the Board of Nursing
6. Complete application to Pearson Vue with the \$200 NCLEX registration fee
7. 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 the 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 and a temporary license will **not** be issued until a completed application **and** completed fingerprint cards are received.

**TEMPORARY PERMITS** to practice nursing in South Dakota are issued to first-time NCLEX® writers only. An application form for a Temporary Permit may be obtained from SD Board of Nursing. You must be registered with the testing service; your application, fingerprint cards, and fees must be received by Board staff before a Temporary Permit will be issued. The Permit is non-renewable, and becomes invalid upon notification of results of the examination or 90 days following the date of its issuance, whichever comes first. Those persons failing the exam must return the Temporary Permit to the Board of Nursing. The Temporary Permit must be shown to your employer. A new graduate holding a Temporary Permit may practice only under supervision of a licensed RN. The Temporary Permit fee is \$25.

8. Achieve a passing score on the NCLEX® Computerized Adaptive Test.