



South Dakota Board of Nursing
4305 S. Louise Avenue, Suite 201
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115
(605) 362-2760 - Fax: (605) 362-2768 - www.nursing.sd.gov

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.

Licensure Requirements:

1. If Applicant has a valid US Social Security Number (SSN), an online application must be completed along with an online payment of \$100 (https://www.sdbon.org/rn_lpn/exam/). If a valid US SSN has not been issued, then a paper application will be necessary. The application must be completed and submitted with \$100 payment (Money order or check). Paper applications can be requested by email: Ashley.Vis@state.sd.us or by calling 605-362-2760.
2. Applicant must have successfully completed the **CGFNS Certification Program**. Contact CGFNS at:
3600 Market Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia PA 19104-2651
Telephone (215) 349-8767

Or log on to the CGFNS website at www.cgfns.org for applicant information.

Note: Canadian applicants who were educated in English are exempt from this requirement.

After successful completion of the CGFNS Certification Program, arrange to have the certification sent directly to the South Dakota Board of Nursing.

3. Applicant must complete a criminal background check and submit fee payment.

You **must** use fingerprint cards that are provided to you by the SD Board of Nursing office.

To obtain our fingerprint cards, you must mark the box on your online application that reads: Please mail out the Criminal Background Check (CBC) packet to me (CBC packet will be mailed to the address provided on the application).

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.

***If applying by paper application:** Once the South Dakota Board of Nursing office has received your application and fee, the Criminal Background Check (CBC) packet will be mailed to the address provided on the application.

4. Application to Pearson Vue (<http://www.pearsonvue.com/nclex/>) completed and \$200 NCLEX® Registration fee paid.

Authorization to Test (ATT) will not be issued until the following are completed:

1. CGFNS Certification Program
2. Criminal Background Check
3. Application for NCLEX testing via Pearson Vue
4. Application for Licensure via SD Board of Nursing

A valid email **must** be provided as your ATT will be delivered to you electronically via email

To track the progress of your application, you may check our website and click on Application Status under Online Services. Those items without dates next to them have not been received in our office yet.

Temporary Permit Requirements:

Temporary Permits are issued to first-time NCLEX® writers only. Instructions and Application forms are available at the Board of Nursing website (https://www.sdbon.org/rn_lpn/exam/). 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.

A Temporary Permit will be issued when the following have been received at the Board of Nursing office:

1. Online application for licensure by examination-SD Board of Nursing
2. Completed Criminal Background Check cards and fee
3. Nursing Education Information (see above)
4. Completed application for a Temporary Permit and \$25 fee-(https://www.sdbon.org/rn_lpn/exam/)
5. NCLEX Test Registration-Pearson Vue

South Dakota law regulating nursing is mandatory. It is illegal to practice as a nurse without a current license or a valid Temporary Permit. A Temporary Permit is issued for a period of 90 days and is **not** renewable. Temporary permits are single state only.

South Dakota (SD) joined the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) 01/19/2018. See www.ncsbn.org for a list of compact states.

Applicants without a valid US SSN are not eligible for a multistate, compact license. If licensure requirements are met, a single state license will be issued.

An application is null one year following the date that it was accepted by the Board. **Fees are non-refundable.**

Licensure will not be granted until all licensure requirements are met.