NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION BY EQUIVALENCY

Equivalency candidates who request to write the NCLEX-PN® examination following an unsuccessful result of the NCLEX-RN® are determined to be eligible based upon successful completion of the RN program. These candidates may request an application for examination from the Board of Nursing office. All equivalency candidates must complete the independent study on the roles, responsibilities, and scope of practice for the LPN in South Dakota.

You are NOT eligible for equivalency if you are currently enrolled in a nursing education program at the time the scheduled examination is administered.

Candidates who have received equivalent education in the military will qualify ONLY if they have completed the Army 91-C Medical Specialist course. Official documentation from the military of course completion is required.

Not all states recognize equivalency of education as a basis for licensure, so your license to practice as an LPN may not be accepted in those states which only allow individuals who have completed an approved program for the preparation of LPNs to become licensed as such. You should contact the Board of Nursing in the state where you wish to practice to verify that you meet the requirements for licensure in that state.

Candidates other than those who have been unsuccessful on the NCLEX-RN® who are requesting to take the NCLEX-PN® by the process of equivalency must:

1. Submit an official transcript documenting successful completion of nursing theory and clinical instruction in:
   - Adult Health Nursing
   - Maternal Child Health Nursing
   - Geriatric Nursing

2. Submit written documentation from the education program verifying successful completion of 570 supervised clinical hours as part of the educational program. Learning lab hours are accepted as clinical hours but must not exceed 20% of the total hours. Successful completion is defined as a course grade of C or better for both theory and clinical courses. Clinical instruction is defined as a specialized method of instruction occurring outside of the traditional classroom that pertains to the direct application of nursing practice with clients/communities.

3. If your education was not completed in a South Dakota approved nursing program, provide course descriptions that identify the inclusion of the following concepts in the educational program:
   - Anatomy and Physiology
   - Microbiology
   - Nutrition and Diet Therapy
   - Pharmacology
   - Interpersonal Relations
   - Communication
   - Cultural Diversity
   - Scope of Practice for LPNs
   - Legal & Ethical Basis in Nursing Practice
   - Nursing History
   - Trends in Nursing and Healthcare Delivery
   - Basic Concepts of Clinical Judgment (Nursing Process)

4. Following receipt of the information required in #1-3, the Board will evaluate the applicant’s education and determine if it meets the requirements for equivalency.

5. If the applicant is eligible to written the NCLEX-PN® by Equivalency, an application will be forwarded.

6. The South Dakota application for licensure by examination and fee must be submitted to the Board office. A separate application and fee must be submitted to the national testing service.
7. Criminal Background Check


2. If you download an application from the website www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing and submit the completed application to the South Dakota Board of Nursing, fingerprint cards will be mailed to you.

3. The fingerprint cards you receive from the SDBON must be the cards you use for fingerprints, since specific agency data are pre-printed on them.

4. Contact your local law enforcement agency for fingerprinting.

5. Send to the SD Board of Nursing office your completed fingerprint cards and a separate check or money order payable to: South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI).

6. Your application will not be processed and/or temporary license will not be issued until your completed application and fingerprint cards are received.

7. You will not receive a permanent license until the fingerprint results from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are received by the Board, approximately 1-2 weeks.

8. Cards will be rejected if bent, folded, tampered with, stained, smeared, or stapled. If rejected, you will be notified to resubmit your cards.

NOTE: If a criminal background check was submitted for initial examination, it is not necessary to repeat the process.

8. The candidate must complete an Independent Study Program on the Role of the LPN in South Dakota. The independent study packet is obtained from the Board of Nursing office. You must complete the program and return the assignments to the Board office before you be made eligible to take the NCLEX-PN® by Equivalency. A minimum score of 85% is required.

9. Temporary Permits are not issued to candidates writing the NCLEX-PN® by Equivalency.

10. A license will be issued upon successful completion of the NCLEX-PN® (dependent upon results of the Criminal background check).