



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

4305 S. Louise Ave., Suite 201 | Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115

605-362-2760 | <https://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/>

LPN/RN Licensure by Exam Requirements for International Applicants and for Applicants Educated in Non-English Nursing Education Programs

It is illegal to practice as a nurse without a current license or a valid temporary permit.

Applicants educated internationally, or who completed a non-English speaking nursing education program, who seek to take the PN or RN NCLEX, must meet these requirements.

Single-state Licensure Requirements

The applicant must:

1. Successfully complete credential review requirements through Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) at www.cgfns.org. Request CGFNS to send the report directly to the SD Board of Nursing.
 - Credentials Evaluation Service Professional Report (CES).
 - If educated in a non-English speaking education program, successfully pass an English Language Proficiency exam.
2. Complete SD Board of Nursing application **once** the CGFNS CES report has been submitted to the SD Board of Nursing. Use one of the following:
 - **Online Application:** If the applicant has a valid US Social Security Number access application here: <https://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/LicenseByExam.aspx>.
 - **Paper Application:** If the applicant does not have a valid US Social Security Number, a paper application must be requested by email: sdbon@state.sd.us
3. Complete a criminal background check using the fingerprint cards provided by the SD Board of Nursing.
4. Register with Pearson VUE to take the NCLEX examination here: <https://www.nclex.com/register.page>

Multi-state Licensure Requirements

In addition to the above, the applicant must:

1. Hold a valid US Social Security Number.
2. Provide proof of South Dakota residency.

Associated Statutes and Rules:

- Pursuant to §§ SDCL 36-9-29 to 32, inclusive, and §§ SDCL 36-9-37 to 36-9-38.1, inclusive, the SDBON has the authority to examine and license duly qualified applicants.
- 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 is required to submit a full set of fingerprints with a completed application for the purpose of obtaining a state and federal criminal background check.