

Louisiana State Board of Nursing
17373 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810
Tel: (225) 755-7500 ♦ Fax: (225) 755-7581

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR RN LICENSURE
BY ENDORSEMENT**

Registration in Louisiana is mandatory. It is unlawful for any person to use the title Registered Nurse (RN) or to practice nursing in Louisiana as a RN without a license from the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR RN LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

1. Completed application for endorsement, fees and other required documents within one (1) year of LSBN application received date stamp;
2. Evidence of initial RN licensure in another US state, territory, or country;
3. Evidence of current RN licensure issued directly from the jurisdiction of last employment;
4. Evidence of successful completion of a diploma, associate degree, baccalaureate and/or masters nursing education program approved by one (1) of the following:
 - a. The Louisiana State Board of Nursing, *or*
 - b. Another US state board of nursing (BON) in which the program had met or exceeded the nursing education standards/requirements for nursing programs in Louisiana, *or*
 - c. A nursing program located in another country.
5. LSBN receipt of an official set of transcripts **mailed** directly to the LSBN. Electronic submissions are not accepted. Official transcripts are those sent directly to the LSBN by the university/school that issued course credit. Transcripts will not be accepted from applicants, even if mailed to the LSBN in a sealed envelope. If the university/school utilizes a third party vendor service, same must have been preapproved by the LSBN. Please see instructions/forms at <http://www.lsbns.state.la.us/Portals/1/Documents/Forms/3rdpartytranscripts.pdf>.
6. Graduates from Excelsior and/or Deaconess College, must also:
 - i. Provide documentation supporting the equivalency of six (6) months to one (1) year full-time clinical experience as a **RN** in a staff position under RN supervision in another US state;

AND

 - ii. Have three (3) letters of recommendation for licensure submitted to LSBN. Each letter should be typed, dated and signed by your current/previous RN supervisor/employer(s) attesting to your ‘*satisfactory clinical performance*’, provide verification of RN employment dates and supervisor’s contact information.
7. You must have scored at least 1600 or “pass” on pass/fail scale on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) –**OR-** score of 350 or above in each area on the State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE).
8. You must not have pending disciplinary action by any nursing or other health regulatory board in any US state or in a country outside the US.
9. You must not have pending civil/criminal charges in any US state or in a country outside the US.

10. You must submit evidence of proficiency in the English language, if a graduate of a nursing program offered in internationally;
11. You must submit to a criminal background check (CBC).
12. You must **upload** a copy of current/valid government issued photo identification (i.e. US passport or driver's license) during the electronic application process.
13. You must cause to be submitted directly to the LSBN office, verification of RN licensure as follows:
 - i. Original state where nursing board examination was taken (even if that RN license has expired) **-AND-**
 - ii. Current state/province/country where you are working at the time endorsement application is submitted to LSBN. If you are currently unemployed, official verification is required from the state BON where you last worked or last RN licensure was issued. **If** your current/active RN license also happens to be your original licensure by examination – then only one (1) official verification will be required.
- b. You must utilize the NurSys.com electronic RN licensure verification system. If the state BON does not participate in Nursys.com, utilize Verification of Nursing License.
14. Criminal Background Check
 - a. Criminal history records check is authorized under the Nurse Practice Act, Louisiana R.S. 37:920.1. Please see Fingerprint Instructions for Criminal Background Check, Authorization for Criminal Background Check CBC1(a) and Authorization for Criminal Background Check CBC1(b).
 - b. **NOTE** – If you wish to have your fingerprints scanned in person ('LiveScan') at the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) office, you must bring a copy of your receipt generated after you have successfully completed and submitted your application for RN licensure.
15. You must have been issued a United States Social Security Number
 - a. All applicants are required to provide a US Social Security Administration Number (SSN) on the endorsement application. Social insurance numbers from Canadian Provinces are not accepted.
 - b. Your SSN is used to verify your identity for licensing purposes as well as compliance with the Federal codes outlined below. United States Federal Code (U.S.C.) Title 42, chapter 7, subchapter IV, part D, §666 (a) (13) (A) states:

Recording of social security numbers - Procedures requiring that the social security number of – any applicant for a professional license,...(or) occupational license,...be recorded on the application.
 - c. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 45, part 61, subpart B §61.7 regarding reporting final adverse actions against health care providers and practitioners states:

*Federal and State licensing and certification agencies must report to the HIPDB (Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank)... personal identifiers, **including** social security number.*

Temporary Permits (90 days)

16. LSBN offers a 90 day temporary endorsement permit, for an additional fee, that allows the applicant to practice nursing in Louisiana until full RN licensure can be issued.

- a. A 90 day temporary endorsement permit may be requested by individuals who:
 - Reside in and plan to work in the state of Louisiana;
 - Hold a current/active and unencumbered RN license from another US state or jurisdiction;
 - Obtained an original RN nursing degree from an accredited (LSBN recognized) diploma, associate degree, baccalaureate and/or masters nursing education program in the US;
 - Wrote the NCLEX-RN with a passing score of 1600, or “pass” on a pass/fail scale, or had written a US SBTPE and earned a score of 350 or above on each test area;
 - Have no civil and/or criminal charges pending;
 - Have no cause for denial of licensure as defined in R.S. 37:921 and L.A.C.XLVII. §3331, or allegations of acts or omissions which constitute grounds for disciplinary action as defined in R.S. 37:921 and §3403 and §3405.
- b. You may request a 90 day temporary endorsement permit with your electronic endorsement application **or** by ‘walk-in’ service at the LSBN office. Walk-in service is provided Monday through Friday between the hours of **9:00 am** to **3:00 pm** central standard time (CST). Applicants presenting to the LSBN office for a ‘walk-in’ temporary permit will have their fingerprints scanned on-site by board staff (‘LiveScan’) for the required CBC. The LSBN office is closed for state and federal holidays and for other events as stated on the website.
- c. Requirements for temporary permit walk-in service:
 - Submission of an electronic RN Endorsement application
 - A money order or bank cashier’s check for appropriate fees.
 - An original current/valid government issued photo identification (i.e. US passport or driver’s license).

17. Fees

\$139.25 - application for full licensure, **without** a 90 day temporary endorsement permit. This total includes: \$100.00 application fee and \$39.25 CBC processing fee.

\$149.25 - application for full licensure, **without** a 90 day temporary endorsement permit and ‘LiveScan’ fingerprinting at the LSBN office. This total includes: \$100.00 application fee; \$39.25 CBC processing fee and \$10.00 ‘LiveScan’ fee. All fees must be paid electronically through the ORBS portal, except the \$10.00 LiveScan fee which must be presented at the time of fingerprinting in the form of a bank cashier’s check or money order.

\$239.25 - application for full licensure **WITH** a 90 day temporary endorsement permit. This total includes: \$100.00 application fee; \$100.00 temporary permit fee; and \$39.25 CBC processing fee.

\$249.25 - application for full licensure, **WITH** a 90 day temporary endorsement permit and 'LiveScan' fingerprinting at the LSBN office. This total includes: \$100.00 application fee; \$100.00 temporary permit fee; \$39.25 CBC processing fee and \$10.00 'LiveScan' fee. All fees must be paid electronically through the ORBS portal, except the \$10.00 LiveScan fee which must be presented at the time of fingerprinting in the form of a bank cashier's check or money order.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED NURSES (educated outside the US)

Options for licensure:

1) **Licensure by examination** (those IENs who have **not** taken the NCLEX-RN or SBTPE in any country, US state or territory):

*Step one: contact the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (GGFNS) and:

1) register to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam. The CGFNS Qualifying Exam is administered in the US and over 80 other countries. For more information, please go to the CGFNS website: www.cgfns.org. Once you have taken and passed the CGFNS Qualifying Exam, you must have CGFNS issue an official certificate directly to the LSBN.

2) request a Credentials Evaluation Service Report (CESPR) be issued directly to LSBN. The CESPR analyzes international education and licensure in terms of comparability to Louisiana requirements.

*Step two: pass an English proficiency examination administered by either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Testing System (IELTS) (academic version). Once you have passed the examination, you must have a test report from the educational testing service issued directly to LSBN. *Please refer to the English proficiency testing agencies for report expiration dates.*

*Step three: complete and submit an application for licensure by **examination** to the LSBN, along with required fees and supporting documents, including a copy of current/valid government issued photo identification (i.e. US Residency Card or Green Card, passport or driver's license).

*Step four: once LSBN staff has received all necessary fees and documents, they will determine your eligibility status to sit for the NCLEX-RN. You will be notified in writing when the review process has been completed.

-OR-

2) **Licensure by endorsement** (those IENs who **have** taken the NCLEX-RN in any country, US state or territory):

***Step one:** contact the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (GGFNS) at: www.cgfns.org and request a Credentials Evaluation Service Report (CESPR) be issued directly to LSBN. The CESPR analyzes international education and licensure in terms of comparability to Louisiana requirements.

***Step two:** pass an English proficiency examination administered by either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Testing System (IELTS) (academic version). Once you have passed the examination, you must have a test report from the educational testing service issued directly to LSBN. *Please refer to the English proficiency testing agencies for report expiration dates.*

***Step three:** complete and submit an application for licensure by **endorsement** to the LSBN, along with required fees and supporting documents, and a copy of current/valid government issued photo identification (i.e. US Residency Card or Green Card, passport or driver's license). The application and instructions may be located at <http://www.lsbn.state.la.us/Portals/1/Documents/Forms/RNEndorsementApplication.pdf>.

CANADIAN EDUCATED NURSES (except Quebec) - if you wrote the NCLEX-RN **or** the Canadian Nurses Association Testing Service Examination (CNATS), *written in the English language*, a verification of nursing license form must be completed by your original Canadian province and mailed directly to the LSBN. Verification of nursing license will also be required from the US state where the NCLEX had been taken (if applicable), as well as current state/province (if different). If you graduated from a Canadian nursing school with only a 'PASS' result on the Canadian Board Exam (CNATS) and not an actual score, *or if the test was not taken in English*, you will be required to sit & pass the NCLEX-RN exam unless already taken as part of licensure for another U.S. state. If applicant had received one 'single integrated' score on the CNATS exam, a minimum score of 400 is required. If the Canadian Board exams taken had issued 'individualized scores by area of nursing', then a minimum of 350 in each area is required, otherwise you will have to take & pass the NCLEX-RN exam.

NOTE: Internationally Educated Nurses are not eligible for the 90-Day Temporary Permit.

All IENs must have been issued a US SSN. If you do not have a US SSN:

1) contact the US Social Security Administration directly and apply for one at www.ssa.gov. This process can be lengthy and should be started as soon as possible. RN licensure will not be issued without an US SSN.

2) you will not be able to apply for licensure electronically. Please contact the LSBN board office for instructions.

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Attention Endorsement Department

Supplemental Documentation Required for Endorsement Processing

Applicant' Name:	
Social Security Number:	
Telephone Number:	

Attn: Endorsement Department

- I have submitted an **electronic** Application for RN Licensure by Endorsement via the online Louisiana Nurse Portal.
- I am submitting herewith, as required, the following original **paper** documents:
 - Original, completed, notarized Affidavit of Verification form:
<http://www.lsbn.state.la.us/Portals/1/Documents/Forms/AffadavitofVerificationRN.pdf>
 - Form CBC1(a) Authorization for Criminal Background Check (CBC – Page I) and Form CBC1(b), Authorization for Criminal Background Check (CBC – Page II).
 - Two completed Fingerprint Cards (not required if completing Live-Scan Fingerprinting at the office)
Note: Each of the two (2) FBI cards need a separate and distinct set of your fingerprints. If the law enforcement agency utilizes an electronic scan system ('LiveScan'), request they scan both hands for your fingerprints and print the first (1st) FBI card, then scan your hands again to print your fingerprints on the second (2nd) FBI card.
 - \$10 Bank Cashier's Check or Money Order (required if completing Live-Scan Fingerprinting at our office)

Signature of Applicant

Date