

THE EXAMINER

1 A Fond Farewell to my Cajun Colleagues

BY KAREN C. LYON,
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5 The 10,000 Foot View of Nursing's Future

BY TRACEY MOFFETT,
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In This Issue

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Mission

To safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana by assuring persons practicing as registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are competent and safe.

Vision

LSBN will be a nationally recognized leader and trend-setter in regulatory excellence that advances nursing education, practice, and workforce.

1-4

From the Chief Executive Officer

5-6

President's Corner

7-8

Chief's Corner

10

Compliance

11

Practice

13-16

Education

17

NCLEX

18

2025 State Holiday Schedule
Future Board Meeting Dates
Minutes of the Board Meeting, June 26, 2025
Disciplinary Actions

19

Constant Contact

20

New Hires



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A Fond Farewell to my Cajun Colleagues



Karen C. Lyon,
PhD, MBA, APRN, NEA_{BC}
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with mixed emotions that I begin what will be my last Executive Officer *Examiner* message to my 68,405 RN colleagues in Louisiana, 11,231 of whom are APRNs. I have shared with our Board of Directors that I will be retiring effective January 31, 2026, and returning to my family and roots in Texas. I did not make this decision lightly, but after serious consideration, including prayers and discussions with my husband and children. I believe this is the right time for me to turn the reins over to allow new leadership to guide the Board toward its next chapter. It has been my privilege to collaborate with some of the most accomplished leaders in professional nursing to achieve all our successes over the past 12 years. From Dr. Demetrius Porche, Dean of Louisiana State University Health – New Orleans School of Nursing and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at LSU Health who brought me to Louisiana to Tracey Moffatt, former System Chief Nursing Officer for Ochsner Health and current LSBN Board President, I have collaborated with local, state, and national nursing leaders to accomplish remarkable outcomes, not the least of which has been the establishment of a caring, supportive culture built on our core values of honesty, integrity, accountability, reliability, and respect for customers and colleagues. I am incredibly proud of what we have built and the positive impact we've made on nursing regulation and practice in Louisiana and throughout the country. Following are select strategic outcomes which have elevated the voice of nurses and ensured that nurses are making a difference and influencing quality health outcomes for all Louisianans since 2013.

2013

- Revision of the LSBN Strategic Plan to include the new Strategic Priority “E” *Advance Nursing Workforce Through Research*.
- Approved Step I for South Louisiana Community College to proceed to Step II for developing an Associate of Science in Nursing Degree Program.
- Approved the request of Herzing University to offer graduate clinical experiences in Louisiana for the following Specialty/Concentrations: MSN/Family Nurse Practitioner.
- Accepted Louisiana’s Multi-Regional Statewide Nursing Workforce Forecasting Model.

2014

- Promulgated new rules related to Title 46, Subpart 2: Registered Nurses, §3341 Fees for Registration and Licensure to allow for limited fee increases

and §4513 Authorized Practice to allow for temporary prescriptive authority for APRNs during a formal, declared disaster.

- Appointed a task force to begin serious discussion regarding adoption of the NCSBN Nurse Licensure Compact.
- Approved and adopted the revised Declaratory Statement for Registered Nurse First Assistants including the revised title “Declaratory Statement for Registered Nurses First Assisting in Surgery”.
- Approved the Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Model 2014, to be effective Fall 2014.
- Approved curricula change for Our Lady of the Lake College to transition the Master of Science in Nursing Anesthesia Program to a BSN to DNPA Program.

2015

- Accepted amended LSBN Declaratory Statement: The Role and Scope of Practice of the Registered Nurse in the Administration of Medication and Monitoring of Patients During the Levels of Intravenous Conscious/Procedural Sedation (Minimal, Moderate, Deep, and Anesthesia) originally adopted in 2005
- Approved the joint statement with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners providing for “*Collaboration and Collaborative Practice*”
- Approved the request to revise LAC 46: XLVII: 3703.A.a.iv.c and to add section LAC 46: XLVII: 3709 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, LA. R.S. 49:951-968 providing for

revision to the current definition of “Delegating Nursing Interventions” and providing for “Delegation of Medication Administration to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel in Outpatient Clinic Settings.”

- Accepted the letter of intent from SOWELA Technical Community College, approve Step I and approve request to begin Step II for initiation of an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing education program

2016

- LSBN staff worked with Board members and community RNs and APRNs on the following projects:
 - › Disciplinary Rules, Section 3331 Task Force
 - › Delegation to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel Task Force
 - › RN Compact Task Force
 - › HR 244 Task Force on Proposal for Joint RN/LPN Board
 - › Transporting Critically Ill Neonates Ad Hoc Committee
 - › CRNA Ad Hoc Committee
 - › IEN English Proficiency Task Force
 - › Nurse Fatigue and Safety Task Force
 - › Task Force on Capacity and Clinical Availability
- R.S. 37:914(B)(1), 916, 917, and 927(A) was amended allowing for the following:
 - › Removal of the two designated MD ex officio members of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing
 - › Appointment of two, non-nursing consumer members to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing with full membership privileges

2017

- LSBN staff worked with Board members and community RNs and APRNs on the following projects:
 - › Disciplinary Rules, Section 3331 Task Force
 - › Declaratory Statement on Patient Safety: Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Working Extended Hours
 - › Enhanced RN Compact Task Force
- Approved the Declaratory Statement on Patient Safety: Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Working Extended Hours.
- Full Approval of the Associate of Science in Nursing program at South Louisiana Community College.
- Approved the request from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center to add the following role and population to the current approved graduate education degree program: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (DNP).
- Approved that it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to delegate gastrostomy tube feedings to unlicensed personnel in intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. And further, that the nurse practice opinion dated March 28, 1990, be retracted.
- Motion to approve the plan to go to biennial registration on the October to December 2018 license renewal cycle.

2018

- Worked with the Center for Nursing and Louisiana Action Coalition to promote LSBN initiatives on workforce planning, leadership development and other nursing initiatives and supported development of marketing materials for same.
- Approved that the Board appoint a task force that will support LPN to RN bridge programs in the future and assess the barriers to success in those programs.

2019

- Licensure has been completely automated through the LSBN Portal.
- The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) was enacted on May 31, 2018. Implementation with the LPN Board occurred on July 1, 2019.

- LSBN is demonstrating improved responsiveness and customer service by establishing metrics for each department's response time.
- Systematic training and onboarding and mentorship programs have been initiated for Board members.
- Lean Six Sigma program has been initiated for agency beginning with Compliance/Investigation division.

2020

- LSBN continues to establish minimum curricula requirements, approve nursing education programs for RN pre-licensure and APRN programs, establish standards for nursing practice and nursing education and promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this part.
 - LSBN has developed an evaluation process to allow new Board members to provide feedback on the orientation process. An 8-hour orientation day has been developed with Chiefs and Department Heads; new Board members are assigned a buddy/mentor.

2021

- Dr. Lyon elected as Area 3 Board member for National Council of State Boards of Nursing, which includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.
- Collaboration with LDH and receipt of grant to develop video and marketing program related to our Recovering Nurse Program.
- Collaboration with LSNA Foundation to establish the Sister Lucie Leonard recovering nurses fund to assist nurses with substance use disorders.
- Staff maintained > 95% effectiveness and efficiency in the remote workspace.
 - › Metrics accomplished included increased case closures and shortened time for processing applications and licensures.

2022

- Launched and published the Newly Licensed Registered Nurse Survey results and prepared 2021 Snapshots for distribution to our constituents.
- Dr. Lyon was appointed to NCSBN Task Force to develop a new Remediation Course for nurses re-entering the nursing workforce after discipline or an extended absence from the profession.
- Supported the Health Policy Consortium comprised of organized nursing specialty groups to educate legislators on nursing initiatives including full practice



authority for all APRNs, workplace safety, nursing faculty shortages, and recovery from COVID-19.

- Dr. Lyon appointed as the NCSBN Board liaison to the NCLEX Examination Committee, collaborating with Dr. Philip Dickson on Next Generation NCLEX launch on April 1, 2023.
- Launched completely renovated LSBN website: www.lsbn.state.la.us/

2023

- Coordinated with Mississippi BON to develop their Office of Nursing Workforce.
- Worked with Dr. Karen Wyble and the Task Force to complete and submit the HCR 44 Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force Playbook.
- Partnered with Dr. Kindall, LSBN Board President, on presentations for the American Nurses in AIDS Care Summit examining issues in contemporary nursing, including expanding and maintaining full practice and prescriptive authority for nurse practitioners—especially in provider shortage areas—strengthening and supporting the role of RNs in the outpatient setting.
- Commencement Speaker for the Fall 2023 Commencement of Nicholls State University College of Nursing and College of Business Administration.

2024

- Board approved the LPN to RN Apprenticeship Program between Bossier Parish Community College and Willis-Knighton.

- Approved Tulane University to establish a BSN nursing education degree program and grant initial approval allowing Tulane to market the program, hire a program administrator, and begin admitting students.
- Provided oversight for 8 schools of nursing placed on probation in 2023. Through their approval of improvement plans, 7 of the 8 schools were removed from probation in February 2024.
- Initiated LSBN Board evaluation and assessment with Dr. Stephanie Ferguson to develop individual development plans for each Board member and for the Board as a group.
- Approved Memorandum of Understanding for LSUHSC School of Nursing's use of the Department of Health and Human Services grant to provide a Clinical Faculty and Preceptor Academy to develop academic-clinical-community partnerships that develop and implement formal nurse education training curriculum used to train clinical nursing faculty and preceptors.
- LAC 46.XLVII.4303 Employment of Student Nurses and Unsuccessful Candidates on the NCLEX-RN Examination was amended. The rule change will allow an undergraduate nursing student currently enrolled in a professional pre-licensure education degree program or a graduate nurse who has not passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) examination within 12 months of their first attempt, may be employed in a nursing setting to

perform procedures and tasks for which they have been educated and certified as competent by their educational institution and/or by graduation from a Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) approved prelicensure nursing education program.

From passing the Registered Nurse Compact in 2018 through the growth of schools of nursing from 26 prelicensure programs and 10 graduate APRN programs in 2014 to 33 prelicensure programs and 15 graduate APRN programs in 2024, we have been successful in increasing RN and APRN workforce by 25.4% and 19.6% respectively in those 12 years.

As I transition out of my role, I will work closely with the Interim CEO to ensure a smooth transition in alignment with our strategic goals. The future is bright for LSBN, and I am excited to see how the agency evolves with the new leadership.

Thanks to all my RN and APRN colleagues and the current and past Board members for your support over these 12 years. I will cherish the memories and relationships I have built here. While I am excited about my retirement and my return to my family in Texas, I will always hold Louisiana close to my heart.

I'll be seeing y'all,



Karen C. Lyon, PhD, MBA, APRN, NEA_{BC}
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 10,000 Foot View of Nursing's Future



Tracey Moffett,
MHA, BSN, RN
PRESIDENT

Fall is here! It is my favorite time of year...cooler temperatures and some beautiful leaf changes, especially in our more northern parishes. The 4th quarter is also a time to assess whether we are on track to accomplish the personal and professional goals we set for ourselves at the beginning of the year and to imagine what we might want to achieve in the year ahead. Simply a wonderful time for reflection.

As President of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing's (LSBN) Board of Directors, I participate in National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) Presidents' Networking Sessions, where I enjoy a great working relationship with Presidents of boards of nursing across the country. Our participation in NCSBN is critical to the work we do at the LSBN. NCSBN provides a platform for collaborative leadership and regulatory excellence in nursing – ultimately protecting the public, promoting the nursing profession, and creating a more unified system of nursing regulation.

Here are a few key issues boards of nursing are talking about as they try to respond to today's environment:

1. Licensure and Mobility:

Healthcare is more mobile than ever with telehealth and virtual delivery expanding. Boards of nursing are responding to the growing demand for cross-state telehealth practice. Post COVID, boards of nursing continue to see higher volumes of internationally educated nurse licensure applications. And, while the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has been such a positive development we must still navigate NLC multistate licensure while balancing state-specific regulations. Lastly there has been an increase in fraud in nursing licensure – fake credentials, diploma mills etc. Boards must be vigilant.

2. Regulation of Nursing Education:

As the delivery systems change, nursing education must also respond. Monitoring the quality of nursing schools amid rapid growth of online and accelerated programs requires ongoing prioritization. Responding to nursing program capacity issues due to a lack of faculty and clinical placements challenges boards of nursing to consider innovative new approaches that might not have been previously considered.

3. Enforcement & Discipline:

Substance abuse is on the rise in many states for nurses and other professionals. And new graduate nurses (and unfortunately experienced nurses as well) are often not well acquainted with their NPA. Protecting the



**“I am...
grateful
for YOUR
commitment
to serve the
great state
of Louisiana.
Thank you for
your service
as always.”**

public safety requires boards to investigate complaints and other reports quickly while ensuring due process for nurses. At the same time, we are interested in balancing a punitive approach with one that also emphasizes a rehabilitative approach. Many boards are discussing “alternative-to-discipline programs”.

4. Integration of AI in Nursing:

In my opinion AI technologies have shown promise in several areas of nursing: predictive analytics using algorithms to detect early deterioration, significant improvement in nursing driven outcomes, task efficiency, several operational & administrative tasks as well as nursing education and development.

While these are just a few of the things I am hearing from other Presidents of Nursing Boards of Directors, it's clear we must all continue to reimagine nursing regulation to support clinical practice while protecting the public. Current regulatory frameworks must continue to adapt to the opportunities and challenges of today in order to support the profession and protect public safety.

I am always proud of and grateful for our LSBN executives and staff as well as our amazing board of directors. I am also grateful for YOUR commitment to serve the great state of Louisiana. Thank you for your service as always.

Tracey Moffatt, MHA, BSN, RN
PRESIDENT, LOUISIANA STATE
BOARD OF NURSING BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

Renewal Reminders

by Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
CHIEF CREDENTIALING OFFICER

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing's (LSBN) Registered Nurse (RN) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) license renewal season began October 1, 2025. The active renewal season ends on December 31, 2025. Applications submitted January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, are considered late and subject to a late fee. Renewed licenses are issued for 2 years; thus, renewal of licenses is biennial. The expiration date for licenses renewed this year will be January 31, 2028. The renewal process is electronic and is done through the online LSBN nurse portal. Paper renewal applications are not available. RNs and APRNs who choose not to renew or otherwise wish to voluntarily inactivate, including retire, their active license(s) may do so by applying online through their nurse portal account. Licensees with a Louisiana license that expires on January 31, 2026, and who elect to maintain active licensure in Louisiana must renew before the expiration date. Suppose the license is not renewed before this expiration date. In that case, the license will lapse at midnight Central Standard Time (CST) on January 31, 2026, when the renewal season ends, and renewal applications are no longer available.

Verification of Licensure:

Licensees, employers, and any member of the public can verify a license through LSBN's Licensure Verification service at [License Lookup \(boardsofnursing.org\)](https://boardsofnursing.org) and access the license verification services available through

Nursys.com. RNs and APRNs can also confirm their licenses' status and expiration date through their personal nurse portal account.

Employers:

Employers should track the expiration dates, license status, and discipline of RNs and APRNs through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing nurse licensure notification system, Nursys e-Notify. All healthcare entities licensed by the Health Standards Section of the Louisiana Department of Health are required to register with Nursys e-Notify. Nursys e-Notify is a free service that sends data directly to employers and enrolled individuals. The system assists employers in maintaining compliance with current regulations and guidelines by remaining informed about RNs and APRNs whose licenses have expired or reflect discipline.

🔗 More information is available at [Nursys®](https://nursys.com).

Nursys e-Notify:

RNs and APRNs may also enroll in the Nursys e-Notify system as individuals to receive alerts regarding their license status. The Nursys e-Notify system emails and texts enrolled individuals prior to license expiration and after their licenses become inactive, including inactivation due to expiration, which may occur due to non-renewal of a license.

Financial Highlights

by Isonel M. Brown, MS, MBA
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

On August 22, 2025 Griffin & Furman LLC, Certified Public Accountants, issued its independent auditor's report on LSBN's financial statements for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2025. A summary of the auditor's report reflects an "unmodified" opinion with no findings, no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified, and no instances of noncompliance were noted that were material to the financial statements.

Overall, the financial highlights were as follows:

- The Board's net position increased by \$2,673,554 from \$11,090,575 in 2024 to \$13,764,129 in 2025.
- The Board's total revenue increased by \$171,193 or approximately 1.88%, and the net results from operating activities increased by \$840,088 or approximately 94.70%.

Capital Assets

- At June 30, 2025, the Board had \$4,760,484 invested in a broad range of capital assets, including land, building, equipment, furniture, and fixtures. This amount represents a net decrease of \$149,827 or 3.05% from last fiscal year.

🔗 Should you have any questions about LSBN's financial position, please do not hesitate to contact Isonel M. Brown, Chief Administrative Officer at browni@lsbn.state.la.

Your Role in Protecting the Public

by Alicia Edmond Wheeler, JD
EXECUTIVE COUNSEL
INTERIM CHIEF REGULATORY OFFICER

Regardless of your nursing role, your work touches lives in ways that regulation alone never could. While the LSBN provides the regulatory structure to keep patients safe, the day-to-day responsibility for protecting the public rests with each of you – the nurses practicing across Louisiana, in every setting.

You are the first line of defense in patient safety:

No one is closer to the realities of patient care than nurses. You will often see risks before anyone else – whether it's unsafe practice, impairment, boundary violations, or unprofessional conduct. [Reporting concerns](#) to the LSBN is both protection for patients and a professional obligation. The LSBN treats all complaints seriously, fairly, and confidentially.

Know the rules that guide you:

Understanding the [Louisiana Nurse Practice Act](#), La. R.S., 37:911, *et. seq.*, [LSBN Rules and Regulations](#), and professional nursing standards is essential to safe practice. Nursing practice can change quickly with new technologies, care models, and expectations. These changes often raise questions about scope of practice and responsibility. When in doubt, [reach out to us](#) and/or review our [practice resources](#) to help you make confident, competent, and safe decisions.

Ask for help when you need it:

While very rewarding, nursing can be just as demanding. If personal struggles, health issues, burnout, or impairment threaten your ability to provide safe care, the [Recovering Nurse Program \(RNP\)](#) offers a confidential path to support, rehabilitation, and safe return to practice. Seeking help early protects you, your patients, and the profession. Seeking help is a sign of strength – not weakness.

Lead by example:

Professionalism is contagious! The way you treat your patients and colleagues, and even yourself, sets the tone for safe, ethical care. Each patient interaction reflects upon the entire profession. By showing respect, cultural awareness, and integrity every day, you strengthen the reputation of the profession and make the profession stronger.

Your commitment to safe, competent, and ethical care makes our simple yet powerful mission possible: to safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana by assuring persons practicing as registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are competent and safe.

Thank you for the work you do every day to protect the public and advance the profession.



Priority of Investigations

by Nichole R. Battle

COMPLIANCE INVESTIGATOR TEAM LEADER

The fundamental mission of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing is to safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana, by ensuring persons practicing as a registered nurse (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and student nurses (SNs) are competent and safe. In doing so, the Compliance Department investigates alleged violations of the Nurse Practice Act (NPA) and violations of the law as part of the investigative process. The Louisiana State Board of Nursing has established a priority system and timelines that are utilized by the Compliance Department to complete investigations. The system was developed to improve organizational customer service, efficiency, and effectiveness. The priority of investigations is categorized based on the risk and impact the suspected NPA violation may have on the public. NPA violations fall under four categories, information received during the investigation may change the length it may take to resolve the investigation.

PRIORITY OF COMPLAINT:

Priority One Cases

Priority one cases may include alleged acts that pose imminent and substantial danger to the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens, including “bad intent” behavior per National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Regulatory Decision Pathway. Examples of priority one cases include, but are not limited to: death, gross clinical incompetence in uncontrolled situations; physical or sexual abuse of patients; current criminal arrests, charges, or convictions of “violent crimes” (La. R.S. 14:2(13); violations under 3331 A; violations of board orders and Recovering Nurse Program (RNP) agreements; multiple violations with narcotics involved and not in RNP; and behavior changes or impairment while involved in direct patient care settings.

Priority Two Cases

Priority two cases may be acts that result in substantial harm or there is a high risk of substantial harm to

patients. This status may also be used for alleged willful or intentional violations and for repeat offenders or reckless behavior per the Regulatory Decision Pathway. Examples of priority two complaints include, but are not limited to: patient harm or potential harm related to drug diversion, abuse, or mishandling of drugs; gross clinical incompetence in controlled situations; incompetent nursing practice in uncontrolled situations; nurse imposters; falsification of vital information on patient care records (information that may alter the medical care of the patient); positive random drug screen; and/or narcotic documentation discrepancies with no other issues.

Priority Three Cases

Priority three complaints include acts that pose a moderate risk for substantial harm to patients or at-risk behavior per the Regulatory Decision Pathway. Examples of priority three complaints include but are not limited to: incompetent nursing practice in controlled situations; verbal abuse of patients; pre-employment positive drug screens; illegal drug use or possession and/or arrest for same; or falsification of patient care records.

Priority Four Cases

Priority four complaints include those acts that pose a low risk for harm to patients, including human error behavior as outlined in the NCSBN Regulatory Decision Pathway. Examples may include but are not limited to: practicing nursing with a delinquent or inactive license, falsification of records other than patient care records or soliciting patients in the home health setting.

🔗 Russell, K. A. (2014). An evidence-based tool for regulatory decision making: The Regulatory Decision Pathway. *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 5(2), 5-9. [doi.org/10.1016/s215-8256\(15\)30078-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/s215-8256(15)30078-8) [PriorityofComplaints.pdf](#), 04/30/2021

Retired and/or Inactive Licensure

by Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
CHIEF CREDENTIALING OFFICER

If you wish to inactivate, including retire, your Louisiana license, submit an application to inactivate your license through your nurse portal account by selecting “Inactivate Your License”. Your application will be inactivated as soon as the application is processed (typically within 1-5 business days). A retired RN license is considered an inactive license. Individuals with a retired license are not authorized to practice. A retired status license may be issued to any individual with an active unencumbered RN and/or APRN license who is not enrolled in an alternative to discipline program and is no longer engaged in the practice of nursing; and has no pending investigation and/or pending formal disciplinary action for alleged violation(s) of the board’s rules and /or regulations. A licensed nurse with retired status will continue to receive The Examiner and other official communications and will continue to be listed in the official roster of registered nurses in Louisiana. After being placed in retired status, no further renewal notices will be sent.

SOME OF THE MOST COMMON FAQs RELATED TO RENEWAL:

I do not have access to my email address that I previously used as my username, or I do not remember the email address I used.

Send an email to the renewals@lsbn.state.la.us email address requesting your email address be updated. The following primary and secondary identifiers are required:

PRIMARY VERIFICATION IDENTIFIERS

- Name:
- Old Email:
- New Email:
- Last 4 of your SSN:
- Date of Birth:
- License Number:

SECONDARY VERIFICATION IDENTIFIERS

- Home Address:
- Business Address:
- Year Graduated from Initial Program:
- Name of Initial School/Program:

Your request to change your email address will cause your email address of record to change in the Nurse Portal. When you change your email address on the Nurse Portal, ALL correspondence from the Louisiana State Board of Nursing will be sent to this new email address.

How can I obtain a receipt for my renewal fee(s)?

When you successfully submit your application, you will receive a confirmation. If you did not print the confirmation or save the pdf on the confirmation, you may retrieve a copy from your Nurse Portal account. You can reprint your application by logging back into the Nurse Portal and clicking the Application Copy. The receipt is the last page of the application.

How does the nurse licensure compact effect my renewal application?

The compact status (single state or multistate) that is held at the time of biennial renewal. Your RN License does not automatically convert to a compact/multistate license during renewal of your license.

If you wish to submit an application to convert your current single-state RN license to a multistate, you must submit a separate conversion application, which is located under “Other Applications” from the Nurse Portal Dashboard.



**The fundamental
mission of the
Louisiana State Board
of Nursing is
to safeguard the life
and health of the
citizens of Louisiana.**



Undergraduate and Graduate Nursing Education Degree Programs Leading to Licensure:

REQUIREMENTS FOR LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING APPROVAL

by Chance Fontenot, MSN, RN
RN PROGRAM CONSULTANT

In accordance with La Revised Statutes 17:1808, an out-of-state institution of higher learning may not offer courses/clinical experiences in Louisiana unless registered with the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Furthermore, Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:918 authorizes the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) to approve nursing programs that prepare graduates to seek licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN).

Regardless of approval by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA), programs **MUST** seek approval from LSBN to establish programs and/or offer clinical experiences in Louisiana.

- If a school intends to initiate an RN or an APRN program in Louisiana, the school must seek approval for the program from the LSBN by submitting an application and appearing before the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting (LAC 46XLVII.3533).
- If a school whose administrative control is located in another state intends to initiate an RN or an APRN program in Louisiana, the school must seek approval for the program from the LSBN by submitting an application and appearing before the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting (LAC 46XLVII.3539.A).
- If a school whose administrative control is located in another state intends to enroll students in a program to become an RN or an APRN and engage in courses/clinical experiences in Louisiana, the school must seek approval for those courses/clinical experiences from the LSBN by submitting an application and appearing before the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting (LAC 46XLVII.3539.B).
- If a school whose administrative control is located in another state with current approval to engage in APRN courses/clinical experiences in Louisiana, intends to add or delete an APRN clinical role/population, the school must seek approval for those roles and populations from

the LSBN by submitting an application and appearing before the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting (LAC 46XLVII.3523.B.6).

- If a school with an approved RN or APRN program intends to develop a duplicate program in a separate location within the state, the school must seek approval for the program from the LSBN by submitting an application and appearing before the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

In addition to other requirements, the programs must provide current Board of Nursing (BON) approval from the state where administrative control is located, a Louisiana Board of Regents license, regional accreditation, national nursing accreditation, compliance with faculty and preceptor qualifications, and clinical affiliation clearance.

APPROVAL

Requirements and Importance

Approval is a status indicating that the undergraduate or graduate nursing education degree program has met the legal standards established by the Board.

The LSBN approves undergraduate and graduate nursing educational degree programs leading to licensure as an RN or an APRN, which meet their educational standards and assure the protection of the public through evaluation and enforcement of those standards. The Board has legal authority over the pre-licensure programs and statutory authority to close programs that are not meeting the standards (LSBN).

- Eligibility to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) requires graduation from a Board-approved School of Nursing (LSBN)
- Eligibility for Licensure in Louisiana by Examination or Endorsement requires completion of a nursing education program approved by the BON.
- Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Plan (2005,

Revised 2014) requires transferred courses and prior degree used for articulation to be from an approved nursing education program.

Types of Approval in Louisiana (LAC 46XLVII.3509).

1. Initial Approval

Initial Approval is a term used to refer to approval granted to a new undergraduate and graduate education degree program.

Initial approval is granted to a new undergraduate and graduate education degree program, which the Board determines to be eligible to admit students to the nursing education degree program upon application by the parent institution and after survey and board evaluation.

There are three steps a program must complete to achieve initial approval. The program must present a letter of intent and a feasibility study at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. If sanctioned, the program is granted permission to develop the program and request an LSBN staff site visit. Approval of the Board, following the LSBN staff site visit, is required before initial approval. Initial approval authorizes the program to advertise and admit students.

2. Full Approval

Full Approval is a term used to refer to approval granted to an undergraduate or graduate education degree program that meets all the standards and requirements of the Board.

After members of the first class of graduates receive the results of the licensure examination, an on-site survey shall be conducted to evaluate the program's compliance with standards. Following the Board's review of the on-site survey report, the Board may continue initial approval or grant full approval of the nursing program.

Initial approval shall not be continued for more than two consecutive one-year periods following the nursing program's eligibility to apply for full approval.

A program not accredited by a national nursing accrediting body within one year post-approval may petition the Board for a one-year extension. Following the one-year extension, a program that fails to achieve national nursing accreditation must cease admitting students and begin termination (refer to §3531).

3. Probation

An undergraduate or graduate nurse education degree program shall be placed on probation when the Board has determined that it fails to meet one or more of the established standards.

A program shall not be granted probation by the Board for more than three calendar years in any five-year period. After three years on probation in a five-year period, a program shall not admit any students into the nursing sequence and shall initiate phase-out as outlined in §3531.

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation is an external review process that assesses the quality, continuous quality improvement, and program effectiveness (Eaton, 2015). Many Boards of Nursing, including the LSBN, require accreditation to take the NCLEX-RN exam. Eaton (2015) identifies four primary roles of accreditation: 1) assuring quality by identifying a program that meets at least minimum standards; 2) requiring access to state and federal funds; 3) providing confidence to employers of applicants' credentials, and 4) promoting smooth transfer of programs and courses among colleges and universities.

- Eligibility to offer an RN or APRN education program or clinical nursing experiences in Louisiana requires national accreditation (LSBN).
- Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Plan 2005, Revised 2014, requires transferred courses and prior degree used for articulation to be from a regionally accredited institution and a nationally accredited nursing education program.

Four types of accrediting organizations include Regional, National faith-related, National career-related, and Programmatic (Eaton, 2015). Since not all accreditors are the same, LSBN requires programs to hold Regional and National Nursing (Programmatic) Accreditation for nursing education program approval and licensure by examination.

Regional Accreditation

Advantages of Regional accreditation, according to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), include:

- Helps assure that a neutral, external party has reviewed, using appropriate peer expertise, the quality of education provided by an institution or program and offered suggestions for improvement.

- Provides for eligible students to have access to federal financial aid if they attend institutions accredited by accreditors that are recognized by the US Department of Education.
- Signals to prospective employers that an educational program has met widely accepted educational standards. A particular field may require graduation from an accredited program or institution.

National Programmatic (Nursing) Accreditation

Three (3) national agencies accredit nursing programs.

- Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA)

Advantages of National nursing accreditation, according to ACEN (2023), CCNE (2024), and CNEA (2021), include:

1. Identifies the program as meeting or exceeding national standards and criteria for nursing educational quality.
2. Identifies programs that have been evaluated and periodically re-evaluated by a qualified, independent group of respected and competent peers who have found it to be meeting appropriate postsecondary and higher educational purposes in a satisfactory manner.
3. Tied closely to BON and state agency licensing rules and regulations.
4. Nursing Program accreditation services hold the programs accountable to the community of interest.
5. Allow for the evaluation of the successes of a nursing program to achieve its mission, goals, and expected outcomes.
6. Provides for continued improvement and thus professional practice.
7. Assures professional development opportunities and validation for faculty.
8. It is a gateway to licensure, certification, and eligibility for entitlement programs.
9. Promotes professional and educational mobility of program graduates.

10. Promotes academic excellence in accredited programs.

11. Enables student eligibility for funding support from federal and state agencies and foundations for those programs that do not have regional or national accreditation. (Example - Diploma Programs)

Failure to secure appropriate program approval:

- Schools of nursing allowing clinical experiences in Louisiana without approval will be required to cease and desist until approval is requested and granted.
- If you are a student enrolled in a program to become an RN or you are an RN enrolled in a program to become an APRN and engaged in clinical experiences or a clinical facility engaged in contracts with out-of-state programs, you need to verify that the program is approved. A current list of approved programs can be found at: www.lsbns.state.la.us/wp-content/uploads/credentialing/schools.pdf
- Individual students may be engaging in the unlawful practice of registered nursing or advanced practice registered nursing if engaging in clinical experiences in Louisiana while in a program not approved by the LSBN to do so.
- Students and RNs enrolling in clinical courses in Louisiana from a school that has not gone through the appropriate approval process by the LSBN could be subject to disciplinary action for violation of LAC 46:XLVII.3405.
- Graduates from an out-of-state school not approved for meeting the standards by the LSBN are subject to ineligibility for credentialing and licensure in Louisiana.

🔗 Additional information for RN and APRN students can be found at: www.lsbns.state.la.us/education-and-exam

🔗 Additional information for Undergraduate and Graduate Nursing Education Programs can be found at: (Links to Rules and Regulations and Proposal Requirements): www.lsbns.state.la.us/schools-nursing

🔗 Schools of Nursing holding current LSBN approval can be found at: www.lsbns.state.la.us/wp-content/uploads/credentialing/schools.pdf

References

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Continuing Education (CE) and Nursing Practice Requirements

by Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
CHIEF CREDENTIALING OFFICER

Licensure renewal involves consideration of regulations related to CE and nursing practice. LSBN's requirements align with national trends and guidelines of other nursing regulatory agencies in the US. Following renewal season, LSBN performs a random audit each year to ensure compliance with requirements. All Louisiana licensed RNs, except those issued a 1st time Louisiana license in the 2025 calendar year, must follow LSBN rules regarding nursing CE and nursing practice requirements.

For RN license renewal, at least one of the two options below must have been completed during the two-year licensure period:

a. a minimum of 30 board-approved contact hours of continuing education during the two-year licensure period;

OR

b. a minimum of 900 practice hours during the two-year licensure period as verified by the employer on a form provided by the board.

There are no separate CE or nursing practice requirements for renewing an RN MSL issued by LSBN. The CE Brochure (state.la.us) provides further details, including some exceptions and the definition of nursing practice and roles that RNs fulfill.

APRNs with prescriptive authority must obtain six CEs in pharmacotherapeutics each year. Act 76 of Louisiana's 2017 legislative session mandated that prescribers of controlled substances in Louisiana obtain three credit hours of CEs as a prerequisite for license renewal. This is a one-time requirement. Content of the CE must include drug diversion training, best practices for prescribing controlled substances, appropriate treatment for addiction, and any other content deemed appropriate by the regulatory agency.

➤ For additional information, contact LSBN at renewals@lsbn.state.la.us.

FAQs: Taking the NCLEX Online

When will I be able to take the NCLEX online?

We are actively developing our online exam experience, which requires extensive research, testing and validation. While we cannot provide a launch date yet, we are committed to delivering an experience that maintains our high standards for quality and security, and we will share key developments as they occur. You can stay updated by following our social media or joining [our email list](#).

I heard it is launching in 2026 - is that true?

We have not announced any specific launch date. When we do set a date, we will provide substantial advance notice and comprehensive information. Please follow our official social media accounts for updates.

Will international testing candidates be able to take the NCLEX online?

Yes, domestic and international NCLEX candidates will be able to take the NCLEX online.

Will I still be able to take the exam at a test center?

Yes, candidates will have the option to choose a test center or take the NCLEX online when scheduling their exams.

Will the exam be the same (questions, length, psychometrically sound, legally defensible, reliable)?

Yes, the NCLEX is the same no matter where you take it.

Won't people try to gain unfair advantages on a remote exam?

This is not your ordinary remote exam that exists today. We are building a new technology that ensures the person taking the exam is who they say they are and that they are not getting assistance of any kind. It will be just as secure as taking the exam in a testing center.



Will accommodations be offered whether taken online or in a test center?

Yes, accommodations will still be available. Accommodations will be dependent upon the test administration location (i.e., in a test center or online).

Will I be able to have my phone with me remotely?

Yes, if you take the NCLEX online, you will need your phone as part of the exam process. Candidates will need to download the free 360 app on their phone. This app uses the camera on your phone in concert with the camera on your computer to provide the live proctors with a 360-degree view, ensuring your testing area is not compromised. You will not be able to use your phone for any other purpose during the exam.

What security measures will be in place for remote proctored exams?

In addition to the existing measures, advanced technology and security measures will be in place for remote proctoring.

What will I do if I have tech issues during my exam?

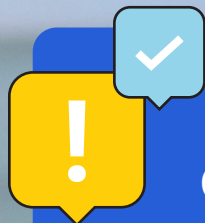
If you experience technical issues, there will be online instructions on how to report the issue, and candidates will be able to chat with their exam proctor.

If I need to retake the exam, will I have to select the same testing location again (test center, online)?

No, you will be able to choose to retake the exam at any testing center or online.

Will the rules be the same for online vs. test center?

The NCLEX will be the same exam no matter where you take it, including having the same rules. If you take the NCLEX online, certain additional checks will be required to ensure the integrity of your exam area.



2025 Calendar

STATE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 11 Veterans Day

NOVEMBER 27 Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER 25 Christmas

BOARD MEETING DATES

DECEMBER 4, 2025

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

[JUNE 26, 2025](#)

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

[JUNE 25, 2025](#)

[AUGUST 27, 2025](#)



LSBN impacts Customer Engagement with Constant Contact

by Carl D. Nagin, Jr. IT Manager and Isonel M. Brown, MS, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing is pleased to announce that we have utilized Constant Contact to send emails to Interested Parties and Registered Nurses. This will allow us to ensure deliverability in an efficient and effective manner for mass distributions; however, it also provides a system where you can subscribe or unsubscribe to receiving these emails from the LSBN.

If you are an active Registered Nurse, you will be added initially to the list to receive emails from the LSBN. Examples of emails you will receive include general Renewal Reminders, Examiner Newsletter, Regulatory Updates, and other nursing-related emails. If you do not wish to receive emails from the LSBN for these publications or announcements, you can click the unsubscribe link at the bottom of one of the emails you receive. If you wish to resubscribe to the list in the future, you will need to log in to the Nurse Portal and click the resubscribe link in the footer section of the Portal.

LSBN's communication with licensees is not limited to Constant Contact. For example, you will continue to receive individual licensure-related emails directly from the Nurse Portal as it relates to applications, initial licensure processes, CE Audits, compliance/disciplinary matters, and licensure expirations. **Therefore, it is important that licensees maintain a valid email address of record within the Nurse Portal.**

🔗 If you are a member of the public and wish to receive emails from the LSBN, you can sign up [here](#).

Examples of emails you will receive include Examiner Newsletter, Regulatory Updates, and other nursing-related emails. You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking the unsubscribe link at the bottom of one of the emails you receive. If you wish to resubscribe to the list in the future, you will need to submit the Interested Parties signup form again. The Interested Parties sign-up form is located in the footer section of our website.

New Hires



Christopher Cascio

is a Compliance Investigator with the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN), where he

ensures adherence to state laws, ethical standards, and regulatory requirements governing nursing practice. With a background in auditing, Chris brings strong analytical and investigative skills to his role, emphasizing fairness, accuracy, and accountability in every case. Outside of work, Chris values personal growth, community engagement, and continuous learning. He volunteers with the tech team at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, supporting audiovisual operations—reflecting his commitment to service, teamwork, and excellence in both his professional and personal life.



Shantel Hodges

is a Compliance Investigator in the Regulatory Division. Her main duties are to investigate

complaints pertaining to nurse violations that are submitted to the office. Her previous background at the 19th Judicial District Courthouse as a minute clerk and docket clerk has aided her efforts to understand and succeed as an investigator. A few of her outside hobbies are dancing, fishing, writing poetry, and spending time with her family and friends.



Eddie Williams

is an Accountant in LSBN's Division of Administration. He started his State of Louisiana career with

the LA Workforce Commission as an Unemployment Insurance Tax Auditor and then as an Accountant in the Office of Management and Finance. He was promoted to an Accountant Manager in Accounts Payable. He decided that a change was needed, so he ventured out. Eddie had stints with Prison Enterprises and Group Benefits. He believes he has found a home with a great agency and even better people.

WEBINAR

Helpful NLC Tips for New Nursing Graduates

Nov. 18, 2025
2–3 pm CST

Register Today

ncsbn.org/nlcmeetings



