A LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING PRODUCTION

VOL. 35, NO. 4

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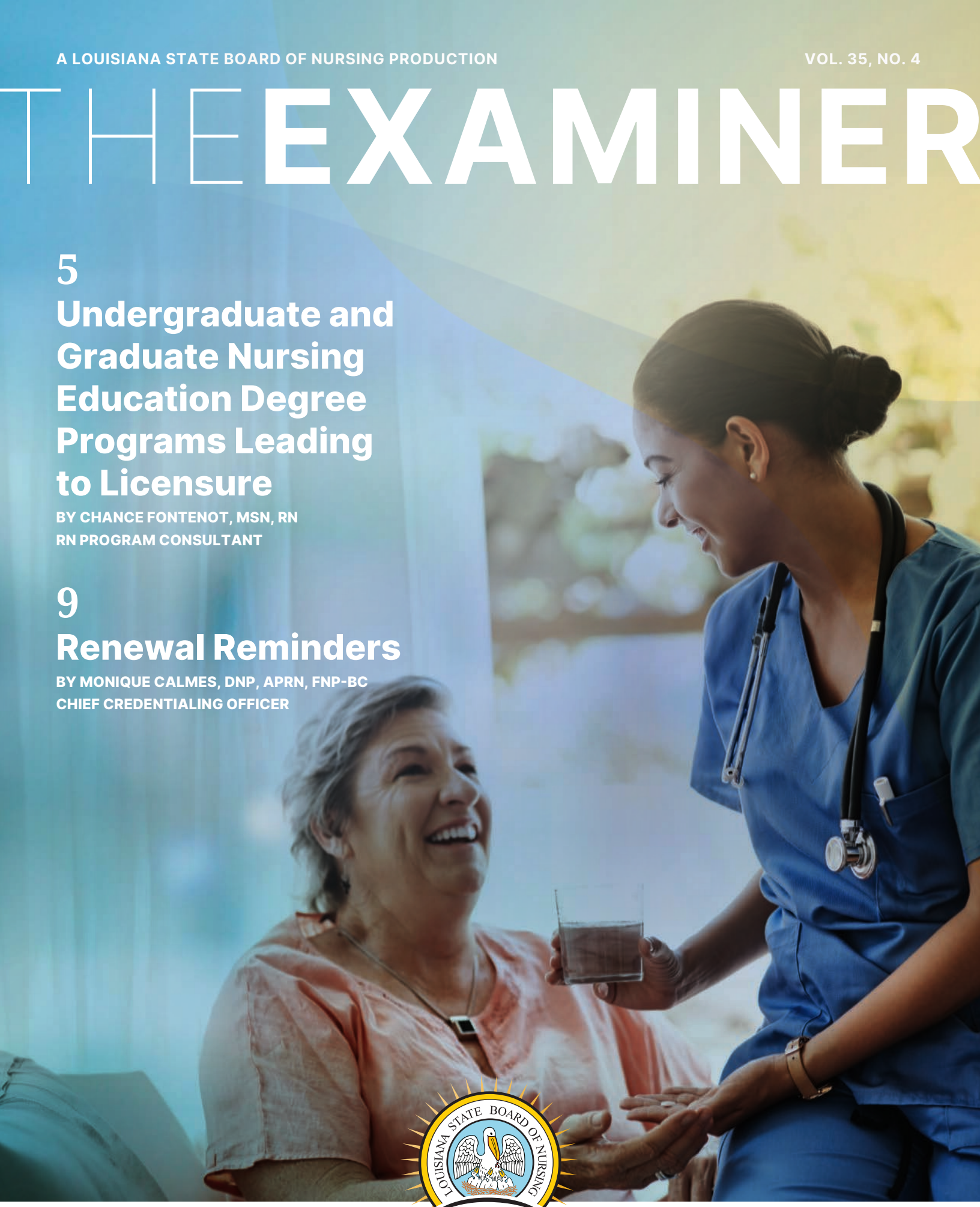

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Advancing Regulatory Excellence

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Published 4 Times Annually

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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.

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Connecting, Learning, and Moving Forward Together



Shawn M. Wolkart, MSN, RN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the most rewarding parts of serving as CEO of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing is the opportunity to connect with people who share a commitment to nursing and public service. Over the past several months, national meetings, leadership education, conversations across Louisiana, and celebrations with future nurses have reinforced the importance of working together.

Representing Louisiana on the National Stage

In August, I attended the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) Annual Meeting alongside Dr. Monique Calmes, Chief of Credentialing; Alicia Wheeler, Chief Regulatory Officer; Sarah Luneau, Public Information Director; and several of our board members. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange ideas with our regulatory colleagues and participate in decisions affecting the future of nursing.

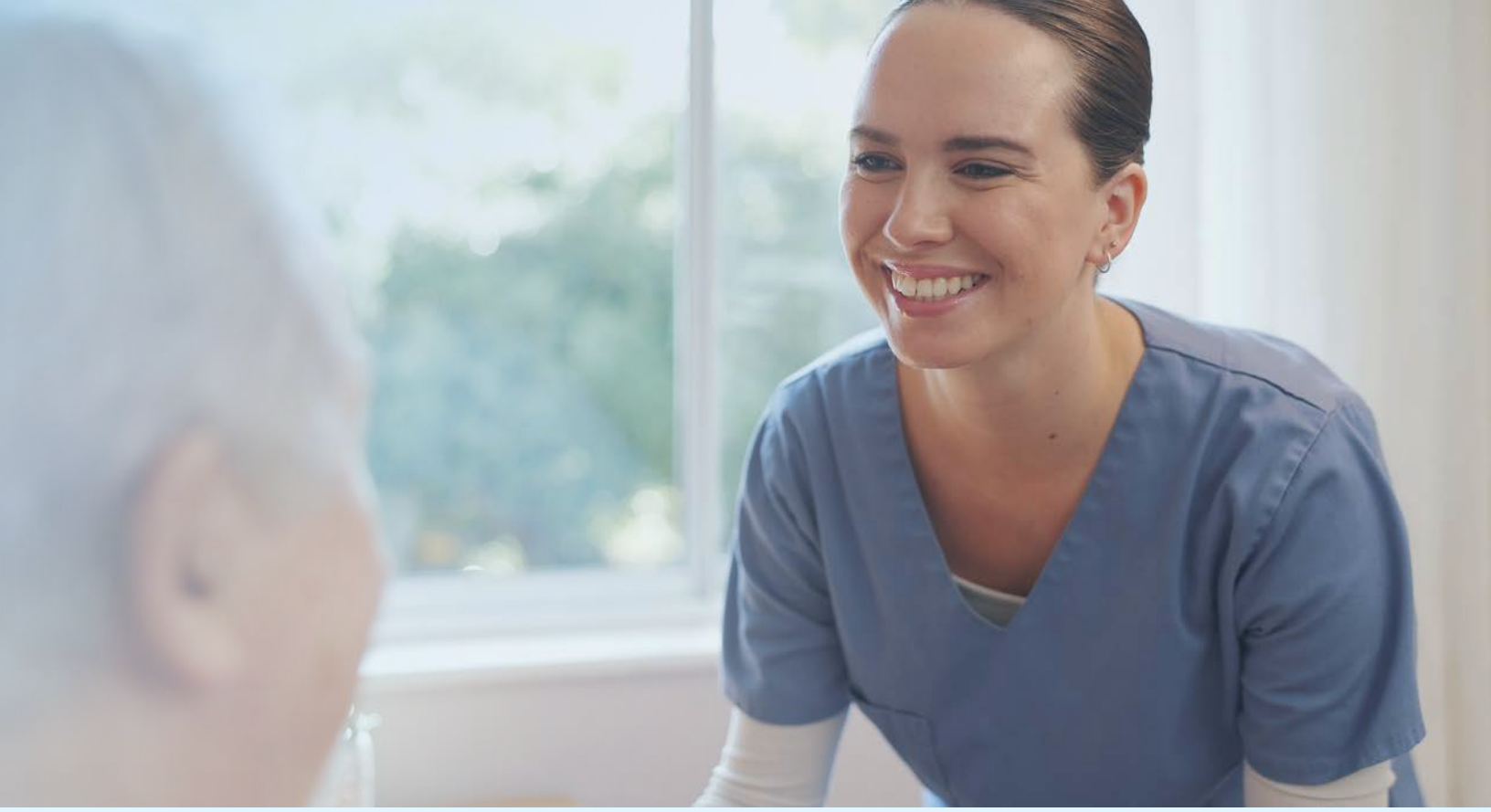
I was honored to be welcomed as Louisiana's new Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) commissioner for the next two years. Louisiana's representation alternates every two years between our board's executive leadership and Christina Costanza, Executive Director of the Practical Nursing Board. I look forward to carrying out this responsibility and continuing our collaboration.

Among the significant actions taken at the Annual Meeting was a vote by the Delegation Assembly to adjust the registration fees for the NCLEX examination. Effective February 1, 2027, the NCLEX registration fee will be $350. This is the first increase since 2000 and reflects 25 years of inflation and rising costs associated with exams, data protection and cybersecurity. This is an important upcoming change for nursing students, graduates, and educators to keep on their radar. Officer elections were also held, and we welcomed incoming NCSBN Board President Lori Scheidt.

During the executive officer meeting, representatives from the FBI provided updates on Operation Nightingale. These conversations reinforced my commitment to vigilance, collaboration, and the public trust that must remain at the center of our work.

Bringing Leadership and Public Policy into Focus

Dr. Calmes and I also attended NCSBN's "For the People" conference in Philadelphia, which focused on leadership and public policy.



William Tate challenged us to consider leadership, innovation, culture, and the power of Team. NCSBN team members shared policy toolboxes, previews of the 2027 legislative sessions, and media training—offering practical perspectives to bring back to our work in Louisiana.

It was a particular pleasure to learn from former Editorial Cartoonist with The Advocate and fellow Baton Rouge resident Walt Handelsman. We rounded out the experience with historian and consulting curator Emily Sneff's presentation on the Declaration of Independence. Philadelphia provided a fitting setting to reflect on public service and the responsibilities of leadership.

Listening Across Louisiana

Closer to home, I have begun statewide visits to meet with stakeholders, and I will continue these into the new year. My goal is to listen, strengthen relationships, and better understand the perspectives of those connected to nursing education, practice, and regulation.

These conversations matter. They help us understand both shared priorities and differing experiences, creating opportunities for thoughtful, collaborative work.

Celebrating Our Future Nurses

I have also been honored to serve as keynote speaker at LSU's white coat ceremony, and I am especially looking forward to connecting and speaking with students and new graduates at Southeastern University, Delgado–Charity School of Nursing, and other programs' pinning ceremonies. Returning to Delgado–Charity as an alumnus will make that celebration especially meaningful.

There is something powerful about witnessing the pride, anticipation, and sense of purpose that accompany these milestones. To our upcoming new graduates: I look forward to welcoming you to this amazing profession. Your compassion, curiosity, and commitment will help shape nursing's future. Continue learning, support one another, and never lose sight of the people who depend on your care.

A Timely Reminder

Renewal season is in full swing, so please do not wait to renew your license. Set aside time now to review your requirements and complete the process.

Thank you to our board members, staff, educators, partners, and nurses throughout Louisiana for your dedication. I look forward to our continued work together as we protect the public, strengthen our relationships, and welcome the next generation into nursing.

Shawn M. Wolkart

Shawn M. Wolkart, MSN, RN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cooler Weather, Big Moves:
A FALL UPDATE



Amie C. Bulliard, MSN, RN, CPHQ

PRESIDENT

As we enter the fall season, many of us welcome the arrival of cooler temperatures after an exceptionally warm summer. This time of year also provides an opportunity to reflect on ongoing regulatory initiatives, collaborative efforts, and the continued dedication of Louisiana's nursing community.

Human Trafficking Committee Participation

On August 7, Dr. Ann Carruth represented the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) at the Louisiana Committee for Human Trafficking in Emergency Departments. Her participation reinforces LSBN's commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals and ensuring that nurses have the guidance and resources necessary to respond appropriately to human trafficking in emergency care settings.

Summit of Healthcare Boards

On August 21, Shawn Wolkart, CEO, and I attended the Summit of Healthcare Boards, hosted by the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of the Surgeon General. Louisiana Surgeon General Dr. Evelyn Griffin and Deputy Surgeon General Dr. Sean Troxclair led discussions aimed at establishing unified priorities and long-term direction among Louisiana's healthcare regulatory agencies.

Subcommittees have been created to address key focus areas between Summit meetings. Participating regulatory boards included:

- Louisiana State Board of Nursing – RN and PN
- Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
- Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
- Louisiana Board of Dentistry

The next Summit is scheduled for November 5. We anticipate continued alignment and collaboration that will support regulatory consistency and strengthen public protection across the state.

NCSBN Annual Conference

Members of the LSBN staff and Board of Directors attended the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Annual Conference in Chicago from August 17 - 21. The conference featured presentations, professional engagement, and productive dialogue with regulatory leaders from across the nation.

NCSBN continues to enhance and expand its regulatory support platforms. The Meridians Learning Hub will replace ICRS beginning this month, offering a modern, streamlined system designed specifically for regulatory practice. Additionally, The Loop collaboration platform is now available through Passport, providing enhanced opportunities for member communication and shared learning.

I extend my appreciation to our staff, board members, and the nurses of Louisiana for their ongoing commitment to excellence in regulatory practice and patient care. We look forward to continued progress as we uphold our mission to serve and protect the citizens of Louisiana.

Amie C Bulliard

Amie C. Bulliard, MSN, RN, CPHQ
PRESIDENT



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 its 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 the first class of graduates receives the licensure examination results, the Board shall conduct an on-site survey 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 applicant 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 accreditation (LSBN).
- Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Plan 2005, Revised 2014, requires transferred courses and prior degrees 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). Because not all accreditors are the same, LSBN requires programs to hold Regional and National Nursing (Programmatic) Accreditation for approval of nursing education programs 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

- 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 the 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 communities of interest.
5. Allow for the evaluation of the successes of a nursing program to achieve its mission, goals, and expected outcomes.
6. Provide 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: https://www.lsbn.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: https://www.lsbn.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) https://www.lsbn.state.la.us/schools-nursing/

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

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"My goal is to listen, strengthen relationships, and better understand the perspectives of those connected to nursing education, practice, and regulation."

SHAWN M. WOLKART, MSN, RN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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, 2026. The active renewal season ends on December 31, 2026. Applications submitted January 1, 2027, through January 31, 2027, are considered late and subject to a late fee. Renewed licenses are issued for 2 years; thus, license renewal is biennial. 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 retirement, may do so by applying online through their nurse portal account. Licensees with a Louisiana license that expires on January 31, 2027, 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, 2027, 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) and access the license verification services available through Nursys.com. RNs and APRNs can also confirm the status and expiration date of their licenses through their personal nurse portal account.

Employers

Employers should track the expiration dates, licensure status, and disciplinary actions of RNs and APRNs through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's 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 keeping them informed about RNs and APRNs whose licenses have expired or are under disciplinary action. More information is at Nursys®.

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 before their licenses expire and after their licenses become inactive, including when inactivation is due to non-renewal.



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 2026 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 can be read here and provides further details, including exceptions and definitions of nursing practice, as well as the roles 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 obtain 3 credit hours of CEs as a prerequisite for license renewal. This is a one-time requirement. 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.

Act 463 of the 2025 Louisiana Legislative Session – APRN Continuing Education Requirement

Effective January 1, 2026, Act 463 requires advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) practicing in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, or gynecology to complete a minimum of one hour of continuing education in nutrition and metabolic health every four years. The Act further directs the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) to adopt rules establishing the content of the required continuing education. We have begun the promulgation process, so stay tuned to the examiner for more details, and be sure your email address in your nurse portal account is current.

The LSBN Office of Human Resources

is proud to introduce the newest members to our LSBN family.



JULIAN RODGERS is an IT intern in the LSBN Division of Administration, while pursuing a degree in Computer Science with a concentration in Cybersecurity and a dual major in Data Analytics from Louisiana State University (LSU). With previous experience in cybersecurity operations, endpoint management, and technical support, he brings practical knowledge and a commitment to public service. At LSBN, Julian supports daily technology operations while strengthening his skills in troubleshooting, information security, and professional collaboration. Known for his leadership, adaptability, and attention to detail, he strives to deliver reliable solutions that support the agency's mission.



RACHEL WEST holds a Bachelor of Science in Project Management and Administration and an Associate of Science in Criminology and Forensics Technology. She currently serves as an Administrative Coordinator in the Nursing Division with the Board of Nursing while pursuing her nursing degree at Franciscan University. Rachel also mentors students through the Baton Rouge Youth Coalition, providing academic and personal support. Passionate about leadership, service, and lifelong learning, she strives to use her diverse experience and education to make a positive impact on individuals and communities.



TONYA BOWMAN is an accomplished professional with more than 24 years of experience in healthcare administration and executive support. A proud Louisiana State University alumna, she serves as Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer. In this role, she provides executive-level administrative support, coordinates projects, manages communications, and assists with board operations and organizational initiatives. Tonya is recognized for her professionalism, organizational expertise, and collaborative spirit, helping advance leadership priorities and support LSBN's mission of protecting public health and safety.



KEYON SHAFFER is a skilled Administrative Coordinator in the Nursing Division who holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Upper Iowa University and more than 20 years of experience in the medical field. Her background includes working as a Medical Assistant, School Clinic Coordinator, and Data Entry Coordinator. Keyon brings strong organizational, communication, and problem-solving skills to her role, along with compassion, professionalism, and a commitment to excellent service. She takes pride in being approachable, detail-oriented, and supportive. Outside of work, Keyon enjoys live band performances and relaxing, maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

What is an informal notice?

by Nichole R. Battle
COMPLIANCE INVESTIGATOR TEAM LEADER

During an investigation into alleged violations of the Nurse Practice Act, and before initiating disciplinary proceedings, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing sends the individual under investigation a written informal notice by certified mail, return receipt requested pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977.3. The informal notice outlines the alleged violations and provides an opportunity for the individual to respond to and assist the Louisiana State Board of Nursing with its investigation. In accordance with La. R.S. 49:977.3 (C), the individual is hereby given an opportunity to show compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of their license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the state of Louisiana by submitting a signed written explanation together with any supporting documentation which would demonstrate compliance with the Nurse Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:911-935 and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, L.A.C. 46:XLVII.3101-4517. Failure to submit a comprehensive explanation related to the matter under investigation can constitute a violation of L.A.C. 46:LVII.3405(r).

Individuals who receive a Louisiana State of Board of Nursing's informal notice are encouraged to contact the Compliance Department Compliance Investigator and/or Registered Nurse Compliance Officer assigned to the investigation and whose signature appears on the Informal Notice for any questions or concerns by calling (225) 755-7500 or by submitting an email to the investigations@lsbn.state.la.us.

References

- https://legis.la.gov/legis/Law.aspx?d=1297500
- https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doa.la.gov%2Fmedia%2Fs41heoqe%2F46v47.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK



2026-2027 Calendar

STATE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 11	Veterans Day
NOVEMBER 26	Thanksgiving Day
NOVEMBER 27	Acadian Day
DECEMBER 24	Christmas Eve
DECEMBER 25	Christmas Day
DECEMBER 31	New Years Eve

BOARD MEETING DATES

- **DECEMBER 3, 2026**
- **FEBRUARY 25, 2027**
- **APRIL 22, 2027**
- **JUNE 24, 2027**
- **AUGUST 26, 2027**
- **OCTOBER 21, 2027**
- **DECEMBER 2, 2027**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- JUNE 25, 2026
- AUGUST 27, 2026

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- APRIL 24, 2026
- JUNE 24, 2026



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Advancing Regulatory Excellence

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