

Competency Requirement Criteria (Contact Hours Included)

I. Continuing Nursing Education Contact Hours

1. The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina will accept continuing education contact hours approved by the following providers/ organizations:

- Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
- American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Association of Diabetes Educators
- American College Health Association
- American College of Healthcare Executives
- American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) of the American Nurses Association (ANA)
- American Nurses' Association (ANA) Affiliated Organizations
A current list of ANA Affiliated Organizations may be found at <http://nursingworld.org>.
- American Organization of Nurse Executives
- Any State Chapters of the American Nurses Association
- Any State Board of Nursing
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC)
- Department of Health & Human Services Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
- Healthcare Advisory Board
- Joint Commission Resources
- National Association of Board of Examiners of Long Term Care Administration
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Association for Practical Nurses Education & Service (NAPNES)
- National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses (NFLPN)
- National League for Nursing (NLN)

Required Documents

Certificate of attendance that includes:

- Name of licensee
- Title of educational activity
- Date of activity
- Approving provider/ organization name, course number and address
- Number of contact hours awarded

As needed, these formulas may be used to convert continuing education credit.

1 contact hour = 60 minutes

1 CME = 60 minutes or 1.0 contact hours

1 contact hour = 0.1 CEU

1 CEU = 10 contact hours

2. The Board will also accept completion of a nursing course(s) (NUR(S) designated) during the licensure period that is a requirement for an academic program of study or degree leading to an advanced degree in nursing (a level above basic nursing educational preparation for licensure) provided the following criteria is met:

- a. Course(s) is equivalent to at least 30 contact hours of study
(1 academic semester hour = 15 contact hours)
(1 academic quarter hour = 12.5 contact hours)
- b. Minimum grade of “C” was received for an undergraduate course and a minimum grade of “B” was received for a graduate course
- c. Academic program of study or degree curriculum display lists the course as a requirement or an official letter from the College/ University is provided stating the course is required for the program of study/ degree completion
- d. Course is designated as a nursing (NUR) course
- e. Nursing courses completed must be from an academic program of study leading to an advanced degree in nursing that is approved by a State Board of Nursing or that is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- f. Courses will not be accepted that were taken for audit or were not completed

Required Documents

1. Curriculum display listing the course as required for the academic program of study/ degree completion or an official letter from the College/ University stating the course is required for the program of study/ degree completion
2. Official transcript mailed directly from the school to the Board office that includes:
 - School seal
 - Name of licensee
 - Name of institution/ school
 - Dates of attendance
 - Names of courses and numbers
 - Grades and number of credits

General Information

The following courses will **not** be accepted to meet continuing education contact hour requirements: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Basic Life Support (BLS), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) courses, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) courses, Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) courses, Operating Room Technician courses, on-the-job training, orientation and institution specific courses.

In-service education programs may be accepted *if* they are approved by one of the above listed organizations and certificates are provided. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) or Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) courses may be accepted *if* successfully completed during the licensure period and an attendance certificate or certification card is issued.

An approved course offering may be counted only one time within the licensure period regardless of the number of times attended.

There is not a limit for contact hours that may be obtained by correspondence or on-line/ computerized courses as long as the offering is approved by one of the above providers/ organizations.

For licensure renewal:

Contact hours must be completed during the licensure period and may not be carried over to the next licensure period.

For reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status of five years or less:

Contact hours and legal aspects in nursing course must be completed within the preceding two years.

Licensees may submit an application to request the Board accept a program offered by a provider or organization that is not listed above.

Legal Aspects in Nursing Courses

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina will accept completion of a legal aspects in nursing course from one of the following providers:

- South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC)
- Greenville Technical College, Continuing Education Health Sciences/ Nursing
- Workshops Conducted by the South Carolina Board of Nursing
- NCSBN Products -- Learning Extension, Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses

Required Documents

Certificate of attendance that includes:

- Name of licensee
- Title of educational activity
- Date of activity
- Approving provider/ organization name, number and address
- Number of contact hours awarded

II. Maintenance of Certification or Re-certification

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina will accept the following certifying organizations:

- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses Certification Corporation
- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- American Board for Occupational Health Nurses
- Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) (formerly the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) Accreditation Council)
- American College of Nurses-Midwives
- American Holistic Nurses Association
- American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical Nurses
- Certification of Pediatric Oncology Nurses
- Certifying Board of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates
- Dermatology Nursing Certification Board (DNCB)
- HIV/ AIDS Nursing Certification Board
- Intravenous Nurses Certification Corporation
- Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB) Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN)
- National Alliance of Certified Legal Nurse Consultants (NACLNC)
- National Association for Healthcare Quality (CPHQ)
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
- National Association of School Nurses, Inc
- National Board for Certification of School nurses, Inc.
- National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators
- National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Nurses
- National Certification Corporation for the Obstetric, Gynecology and Neonatal Nursing Specialties
- National Certifying Board for Ophthalmic Registered Nurses
- National League for Nursing Certified Nurse Educator
- Orthopedic Nurses Certification Board
- Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)
- Vascular Nursing Certification Board
- Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society
- American Board of Transplant Certifications (ABTC) – Certified Clinical Transplant Coordinator and Certified Clinical Transplant Nurse

General Information

For licensure renewal:

The certification or re-certification must have been initially awarded during the licensure period or maintained during the entire period.

For reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status of five years or less:

The certification or re-certification must have been initially awarded or maintained within the preceding two years.

Licensees may submit an application to request the Board accept a certification offered by an organization that is not listed above.

Required Documents

Credential/ certificate that includes:

- Name of licensee
- Name of certifying organization
- Type of certification/ title
- Date certification awarded
- Date of certification expiration

III. Completion of an Academic Program of Study

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina will accept completion of an academic program of study awarding an advanced degree in nursing (a level above basic nursing educational preparation for licensure) or completion of an academic program of study awarding a degree in the following related fields: Health Care Management, Health Care Administration, Public Health, Gerontology, Informatics, Health Education and Genetics.

General Information

For licensure renewal:

The academic program of study or degree must have been completed during the licensure period.

For reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status of five years or less:

The academic program of study or degree must have been completed within the preceding two years.

Required Documents

Official transcript mailed directly from the school to the Board office that includes:

- School seal
- Name of licensee
- Name of institution/ school
- Dates of attendance/ date degree awarded
- Names of courses and numbers
- Grades and number of credits
- Degree awarded

IV. Employer Certification

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina will accept verification of competency and the number of hours practiced, as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the Board.

The Board does not set the number of hours a nurse must practice nursing to document continued competency; however, the nurse must practice enough hours that the employer can/ will verify the nurse's competency. The definition of competence may be found in the Nurse Practice Act, Chapter 33, Section 40-33-20(22).

General Information

The practice hours must meet the definition of the practice of nursing as defined in the Nurse Practice Act, Chapter 33, Section 40-33-20(46) “Practice of Nursing” **as well as** Section 40-33-20(48) “Practice of Registered Nursing” **or** Section 40-33-20(47) “Practice of Practical Nursing” as applicable.

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