

LPN Equivalency Fact Sheet

This fact sheet has been prepared to assist applicants for examination to comply with policies established for practical nurse education equivalency. You should first contact the Nursing Administrator of your program to discuss the Board requirements for practical nurse education equivalency, the statement that must be provided by your Nurse Administrator and the necessary documentation as listed below.

Examination Applicants.

To meet the requirements for the practical nurse education equivalency provision for taking the National Council Licensure Examination-PN (NCLEX-PN), the applicant must have:

1. Successfully completed a registered nursing education program approved by the state or jurisdiction in this country or territory or dependency of the United States in which the program is located within the past 5 years of the date of the application; or
2. Successfully completed an equivalent course of study in which the final course has been taken within the past three years of the date of application from a registered nursing education program approved by the state or jurisdiction in this country or territory or dependency of the United States in which the program is located. Candidates who have completed equivalent courses in an approved registered nursing education program may be accepted for the practical nurse (PN) licensure examination, provided they are otherwise qualified and meet all other requirements. In determining whether a course of study is equivalent, staff shall consider completion of a PN exit program or evidence provided by the applicant verifying successful completion of classroom instruction and clinical practice substantially similar to the minimum requirements of practical nursing programs in this state to include the following:
 - a. Completion of at least 41 semester credit hours to include,
 - b. Academic courses covering the following:
 - (1) Fundamentals of nursing (Coursework should include at least 3 semester credit hours. An overview of nursing concepts and basic nursing skills.)
 - (2) Medical-surgical nursing to include clinical experiences (Course work should include at least 6 semester credit hours. Application of nursing concepts in the care of adult clients with selected medical and surgical problems in a variety of settings.)
 - (3) Life span to include clinical experiences (Coursework should include at least 5 semester credit hours. An overview of concepts related to nursing care of clients across the lifespan to include basic mental health, growth and development and gerontology. Basic concepts utilizing the nursing process and skills in the care of women, childbearing families, infants, children and adolescents with acute and chronic health problems.)
 - (4) Anatomy and physiology (Coursework should include at least 8 semester credit hours.)
 - c. All courses listed above in 2.b.(1-4) (to include both didactic and clinical components) must be completed with a minimum grade of "C" reflected on the official transcript.
 - d. Coursework utilized for equivalent credit must be completed with an overall GPA of at least 2.0 reflected on the official transcript to include a minimum grade of "C" as required for all courses listed in 2.b.(1-4) above.
 - e. Courses in external degree programs are not acceptable for PN education equivalency
 - f. A statement of familiarity with LPN practice requirements in South Carolina must be provided.
 - g. The Certificate of Endorsement for LPN by Equivalency must be provided by the Nurse Administrator of the registered nursing education program certifying that the applicant's course of study is substantially equivalent to that of a practical nursing education program approved by the state or jurisdiction in this country or territory or dependency of the United States in which the program is located.

To expedite your application, please be sure to include the following information with your application:

- a. Official transcript(s). The transcript(s) must include all nursing courses completed from all registered nursing programs attended, registrar's signature, school seal and must be mailed directly from the school to the Board of Nursing office.
- b. Description for each of the registered nursing program courses completed.
- c. Course syllabus for each of the registered nursing program courses completed.
- d. The Certificate of Endorsement for LPN by Equivalency from the Nurse Administrator of the registered nursing education program. The certificate must be mailed directly from the school to the Board of Nursing office.

Candidates may not be eligible for licensure in other states under this equivalency provision.

All documentation will be reviewed and you will be notified if a personal appearance before the Board is required.

You are not eligible for testing until your completed application along with all required supporting documentation has been received and reviewed, you have registered to take the test and paid all fees. To prevent delays, you are strongly advised to follow the directions on this sheet. Questions may be directed to the licensure section at (803) 896-4550.