



South Carolina Board of Nursing

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LPN EQUIVALENCY FACT SHEET

This fact sheet has been prepared to assist applicants applying by examination to comply with policies established for practical nurse education equivalency. Contact your programs Nursing Administrator to discuss Board requirements for practical nurse education equivalency, the verification that must be provided by your programs Nurse Administrator and the necessary documentation as listed below.

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 a state or jurisdiction in this country or territory or dependency of the United States within the past five (5) years from the date of application; **or**
2. Successfully completed an equivalent course of study in which the final course has been taken within the past three (3) years from the date of completion of a registered nursing education program approved by a state or jurisdiction in this country or territory or dependency of the United States in which the program is located.
3. 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 academic courses covering the following:
 1. Fundamentals of nursing (Coursework must 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 must 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 must 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 must include at least 8 semester credit hours.)

- B. All didactic and clinical courses listed above in Section A (1-4) must be completed with a minimum grade of “C” reflected on the official transcript.
- C. 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 Section A (1-4) above.
- D. Courses in external degree programs are not acceptable for PN education equivalency.
- E. A signed statement of familiarity with LPN practice requirements in South Carolina must be provided.
- F. The Course Completion Verification Form 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.
- G. Official transcript(s) must be sent directly to the SCBON from the nursing program. The transcript(s) must include all nursing courses completed from all Registered Nursing programs attended, registrar's signature, and school seal. If your program uses electronic transcripts, they may be emailed to nurseboard@llr.sc.gov or mailed to PO Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211.
- H. If requested, submit a course syllabus for each of the Registered Nursing program courses completed.

Note: LPN by Equivalency licensure is NOT eligible for a multi-state compact license. Based on other state laws, you may not be eligible to endorse your license into another state.