



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

Board of Registration in Nursing

[www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn](http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn)

## **INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION TO COMPLETE CERTIFICATION GRADUATION FROM A BOARD-APPROVED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM LOCATED IN CANADA**

Carefully read the following information and instructions prior to completing the online application.

**Important Note:** To practice nursing in Massachusetts, you must hold a valid, current license issued by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (Board). Temporary licenses are not issued. Nursing practice as a “Graduate Nurse” is illegal in Massachusetts. Massachusetts is not a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

### **Nurse Licensure Requirements**

**[M.G.L. c. 112, s. 74 & 74A, and Board regulations at 244 CMR 8.00]**

1. **Registered Nurse (RN):** graduation from an RN education program approved by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (Board). **Practical Nurse (PN):** graduation from a Board-approved RN or PN program. Graduates of a nursing education program whose language of instruction and/or textbooks was not English must demonstrate English proficiency; see section II below.
2. Good moral character, as established by the Board.
3. Achievement of a pass score on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®) for Registered Nurses (written in English) or Practical Nurses based on type of licensure applied for.
4. Payment of all required fees.

Federal law requires non-US educated health care professionals to successfully complete a screening program before receiving an occupational visa. This screening requires nurses to have earned either an *International Commission on Health Professionals VisaScreen™ Certificate* (applicable to RN licensure only) or have passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®). Canadian RNs, previously licensed in Massachusetts by reciprocity of their Canadian RN, are not eligible to apply to the Board to write the NCLEX®-RN.

### **Education and English Proficiency Requirements**

1. To meet the Board’s educational requirements for certification, you must be a graduate of:
    - a senior secondary school education (high school) that is separate from nursing education; and
    - a government-approved, general nursing program that provided theory and clinical education which, in the opinion of the Board, maintains standards substantially the same as those required for approval of a registered nursing education program in Massachusetts *and* which program is approved by the nursing board or corresponding body in the jurisdiction where the program is located.
  - **Registered Nurse (RN):** You must be educated and hold licensure in good standing as a “first-level, general” nurse (International Council of Nurses).
  - **Practical Nurse (PN):** You must be educated and hold licensure in good standing as a “second-level, general” nurse (International Council of Nurses).
2. Graduates of a nursing education program whose language of language of nursing education (classroom instruction, course textbooks, and clinical practice) was not English must demonstrate English proficiency before writing the NCLEX®.

## **Requirements for Licensure by Examination (NCLEX®)**

**Step 1:** Obtain certification of your graduation from a Board-approved nursing education program.

1. Complete the online application for *Certification of Graduation from a Board Approved Nursing Education Program Located in Canada* (located on PCS website) and pay the \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable administrative processing fee to the Board's credentials review service, Professional Credentialing Services (PCS).
2. Provide supporting documentation.
  - A. Complete **one** of the following:
    - Proof of Graduation from a Board-Approved Nursing Education Program Located in Canada (page 5 & 6)
    - CertiCGFNS<sup>1</sup> Qualifying Examination Certificate with CGFNS emboss (RN licensure only); **or**
    - VisaScreen™ Certificate with International Commission on Health Professions emboss (RN licensure only); **or**
    - CGFNS Credentials Evaluation Services (CES) Report, including both the Nursing and Science Course-by-Course Report and License/Registration validation option, with CGFNS emboss (RN and PN licensure) or a Credential Evaluation Service (CES) Report posted at the CGFNS website for PCS access.
  - B. Complete the Applicant Information section of the Verification of Nurse Licensure by a Canadian Province or Territory (Verification – page 7 & 8), and forward to the licensing authority in all Canadian provinces and/or territories in which you are or have ever been licensed as a LPN/LVN, and/or RN, and/or Advanced Practice nurse.
3. If applicable, demonstrate English proficiency

Have **one** of the following submitted directly to PCS (copies will **not** be accepted):

  - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL; [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org))
    - Required minimum score: Paper administration: 560; Computer-based: 220; Internet-based: 83; **or**
  - Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS; [www.cgfns.org](http://www.cgfns.org)) Qualifying Examination Certificate issued before 7/15/98; **or**
  - Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic; [www.pearsonpte.PTEAcademic.com](http://www.pearsonpte.PTEAcademic.com)): Overall passing standard of 55 with no individual section below 50; **or**
  - International English Language Testing System (IELTS; [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)): Overall Band Score 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 all modules; **or**
  - Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN; [www.celban.org](http://www.celban.org)); **or**

• Speaking	CLB 8	Listening	CLB9
Reading	CLB 8	Writing	CLB 7
  - Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB; [www.cambridgemichigan.org](http://www.cambridgemichigan.org)): Total passing score of 81 and a speaking section score of 3.

**Step 2:** Apply for licensure by examination (NCLEX®).

1. On receipt of your completed *Certification of Graduation from a Board Approved Nursing Education Program Located in Canada* (including supporting documentation), PCS will certify qualified applicants on behalf of the Board. Qualified applicants will be notified by PCS in writing and will be provided an *Application for Initial Licensure as a Nurse by Examination* information and instruction packet.
  - Ineligible applicants will be notified in writing of criteria for reconsideration.
2. Complete the *Application for Initial Licensure as a Nurse by Examination* in accordance with the instructions.

<sup>1</sup> CGFNS is comprised of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools, the International Commission on Healthcare Professions and the International Consultants of Delaware

### **Important Information Regarding United States Social Security Numbers (SSN)**

A United States Social Security Number (SSN) is required. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 13A, the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing is required to obtain your SSN on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR). The DOR will use your SSN to ascertain whether you are in compliance with Massachusetts laws relating to taxes and child support.

If you do not have a SSN *and are eligible for one*, you must obtain one and provide it to the Board. If you are not eligible for a SSN, you must complete the Board's **AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR MASSACHUSETTS NURSE LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION** (page 4) and attach the completed affidavit to the *Certification of Graduation from a Board Approved Nursing Education Program Located in Canada*.

For complete SSN information, contact the U.S. Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213, or [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

### **Tips for Avoiding Processing Delays:**

- Certification of Graduation from a Board Approved Nursing Education Program Located in Canada* deemed incomplete will receive a discrepancy letter via mail or e-mail.
- The name and addresses used on the *Certification of Graduation from a Board Approved Nursing Education Program Located in Canada* and the *Application for Initial Licensure as a Nurse by Examination Initial Licensure as a Nurse by Examination Application* must match exactly.
- Notify PCS in writing of any change in address prior to being notified of your certification. Include name, address, Social Security Number, licensure type (RN or PN) and the new address. Telephone calls are not accepted for address changes.
- Submission of completed *Certification of Graduation from a Board Approved Nursing Education Program Located in Canada* and fee acknowledges that the applicant understands and agrees to all provisions herein.
- Retain copies of all information and your completed *Certification of Graduation from a Board Approved Nursing Education Program Located in Canada* for future reference.



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AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR MASSACHUSETTS NURSE LICENCURE BY EXAMINATION

REGISTERED NURSE PRACTICAL NURSE (Please check one)

Full name: (Last) (First) (Middle) (Maiden/Previous)

Address: (No.) (Street) (City) (State/Country) (Zip/Postal Code)

Date of Birth:

- 1. In accordance with regulations of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (Board), I will inform the Board within thirty (30) days of any change in my address.
2. The Board is required by law (MGL c. 30A, s. 13A) to report to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue the Social Security Number of every applicant for a nursing license.
3. As soon as I become eligible, I will apply for a Social Security Number.
4. I understand that my failure to provide my valid Social Security Number to the Board within ten (10) days of receipt and/or the submission of false information to the Board...
5. I understand that if I fail to supply my valid Social Security Number to the Board before my Massachusetts nursing license expires...

ATTESTATION: By signing this Affidavit, I certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that the information provided herein is truthful and accurate.

Signature of Applicant Date

Name of Applicant (Print)



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## PROOF OF GRADUATION FROM A BOARD-APPROVED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM LOCATED IN CANADA

**APPLICANT: PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY (TYPE OR PRINT)**

Applicant name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Maiden/other)

Address of Record \_\_\_\_\_  
(No. and Street) (City) (Province) (Country) (Postal Code)

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ US SSN \_\_\_\_\_  
(see page iii)

RN/PN Number (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am applying to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing for eligibility for licensure. I hereby authorize you to furnish to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing the information requested below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Signature of applicant) (Province issued)

## NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR: PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Name of student while enrolled in the program

\_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Nursing Education Program \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Admission (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Graduation (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Nursing education program was government-approved at the time of graduation?  Yes  No

Nursing education program is offered at the post-secondary education level?  Yes  No

Language of Nursing: Classroom Instruction \_\_\_\_\_ Course Textbooks \_\_\_\_\_ Clinical Practice \_\_\_\_\_

Program:  Practical Nurse/Vocational Nurse  Registered Nurse  Withdrawn from RN program

Degree Awarded:  Certificate  Diploma  Associate  Baccalaureate  Entry Level Masters

Program type:  First-level general (RN)  Second-level general (LPN)  Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Please continue to next page.***

Subject Area	Theory Hours	Clinical Hours
Care of the Adult-Medical		
Care of the Adult-Surgical		
Maternal/Infant Nursing		
Care of Children		
Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing		
Gerontology/Geriatric Nursing		

Explanations/Additional Comments (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify the above to be a true report for the above named nurse according to the records in this office.



Authorized Person Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Province/Territory: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**Professional Credential Services  
ATTN: MA Nursing by Exam  
P.O. Box 198788  
Nashville, TN 37219**



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**VERIFICATION OF NURSE LICENSURE  
 BY CANADIAN PROVINCE OR TERRITORY**

**APPLICANT: PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY (TYPE OR PRINT)**

Applicant name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last (Maiden /other)

Address of Record \_\_\_\_\_  
(No. and Street) (City) (Province) (Country) (Postal Code)

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ US SSN \_\_\_\_\_  
(see page iii)

RN/PN Number (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am applying to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing for eligibility for licensure. I hereby authorize you to furnish to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing the information requested below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Signature of applicant) (Province issued)

**PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL LICENSING AUTHORITY: PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION**

Licensee's name as appearing on original license \_\_\_\_\_

Licensee's name as appearing on current license \_\_\_\_\_

Nursing education program from which licensee graduated:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Month/Year graduated

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
(City/Town) (Province/Territory)

Nursing education program was government-approved at the time of graduation ?  Yes  No

Program:  Practical Nurse/Vocational Nurse  Registered Nurse  Withdrawn from RN program

Degree Awarded:  Certificate  Diploma  Associate  Baccalaureate  Entry Level Masters

Program type:  First-level general (RN)  Second-level general (LPN)  Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Please continue to next page.***

Method of Licensure (check one):      Date of Licensure Examination: \_\_\_\_\_

Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination

NCLEX-RN (English only)

Canadian Registered Nurse Exam

Canadian Nurses Association Testing Service (CNATS) Comprehensive Exam Score: \_\_\_\_\_.

CNATS Exam Series Scores: Medical\_\_Psychiatric\_\_Obstetrics\_\_Nursing\_\_\_\_Children \_\_\_\_\_

Was the Exam written in English?     Yes     No

Licensee's Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_      Date of original issue \_\_\_\_\_

Has License Ever Been Disciplined?     Yes     No    *(If "Yes", Provide A Certified Copy of All Related Documents.)*

Is Licensee Currently Under Investigation?     Yes     No    *(If "Yes" Please Explain.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***I certify the above to be a true report for the above named nurse according to the records in this office.***



Authorized Person Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Province/Territory: \_\_\_\_\_

Once completed, please return this form to:

**Professional Credential Services  
ATTN: MA Nursing by Exam  
P.O. Box 198788  
Nashville, TN 37219**