

State Requirements for Initial RN Licensure

States	Requirements
Alabama	Graduate of nursing program that substantially meets same requirements as AL RN nursing programs; Soc. Security number; U.S. citizen or legal resident
Alaska	Nursing Program Verification form sent directly from approved nursing program; official transcript (with conferral date) sent from college or nursing program; fingerprinting and background check; Soc. Sec. number
Arizona	Must graduate from a board-approved state.
Arkansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successful completion of a Board approved nursing education program - Criminal background check. No person shall be eligible to receive or hold a license issued by the Board if that person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found guilty by any court in the State of Arkansas, or of any similar offense by a court in another state, or of any similar offense by a federal court of any offense listed in ACA §17-3-102.
California	All applicants must have completed an educational program meeting all California requirements.
Colorado	<p>A. The applicant graduated from a traditional nursing education program that was accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and/or Council for Higher Education Accreditation and approved by a board of nursing of a state or territory of the United States;</p> <p>B. An official school transcript reflecting completion of institutional requirements for the degree/diploma/certificate and the date of completion is provided in a manner approved by the Board; and</p> <p>C. All other requirements of state law and these Chapter 1 Rules and Regulations are met.</p>
Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successfully complete a nursing program that meets the requirements outlined in the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RSA) - Submit an official transcript of nursing education, verifying the award of a degree, diploma or certificate in nursing
Delaware	Official transcript sent directly to Board of Nursing; at least 400 clinical hours required; Nursing School Reference Form sent directly from nursing program; Criminal background check; driver's license or official identification from Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation from an Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited nursing program that has been issued an NCLEX code by NCSBN. <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation from a nursing education program that is approved or recognized by the jurisdiction in which it is based and that has been issued an NCLEX code by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation from a military nursing education program that has been issued an NCLEX code by NCSBN.

	<p>□ Graduation from a generic Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or higher program that has been issued an NCLEX code by NCSBN.</p> <p>● Livescan electronic fingerprinting</p>
Georgia	<p>- Must graduate from a board-approved program.</p> <p>- Graduates of out of state nursing schools must apply for licensure by submitting a paper application</p>
Hawaii	
Idaho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate from a RN program that is approved by the Board of Nursing in the home state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The program must meet substantially the same basic educational requirements as graduates of Idaho nursing education programs. • When applying for licensure, the applicant will need to provide official transcripts or Affidavit of Graduation documenting graduation that qualifies them to sit for the NCLEX. • Complete a fingerprint based criminal background check.
Illinois	<p>1) proof of graduation from a nursing education program that meets the requirements of Section 1300.40;</p> <p>2) verification of fingerprint processing from the Illinois Department of State Police (DSP), or its designated agent. Applicants shall contact a DSP approved fingerprint vendor for fingerprint processing. Out-of-state residents unable to utilize an electronic fingerprint process may submit to a Division recommended fingerprint vendor one set of fingerprint cards issued by the Illinois Department of State Police or one set of fingerprint cards issued by the FBI, accompanied by the processing fee specified in Section 1300.30(c)(7). Fingerprints shall be taken within the 60 days prior to application;</p>
Indiana	Must graduate from a board approved program.
Iowa	Must graduate from a board approved program.
Kansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must graduate from a board-approved program • RN Education regulations found in K.A.R. 60-2-104 and contain the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Content in biological, physical, social and behavioral sciences – must have A&P</i> ○ <i>Content in growth & development / developmental psychology</i> ○ <i>A minimum of 30 credit hours in nursing courses</i> ○ <i>Nursing courses must have theory and direct clinical experience across the lifespan</i>
Kentucky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An applicant for a KY RN license must have completed the basic curriculum for preparing registered nurses in an approved school of nursing and have completed the school's requirements for graduation; • ... [Ref: KRS 314.041 (a)]. The Kentucky Board of Nursing <i>does</i> recognize graduates from prelicensure nursing education programs that are approved/accredited by other state boards of nursing as eligible for licensure in Kentucky.
Louisiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must graduate from a board-approved program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LA criteria for licensure are found in RS37:920.A.1.a-g as follows: §920. Licensure; qualifications; examination; renewal; temporary permits A.(1) The board shall issue a license to each applicant who applies for licensure as a registered nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse who files an application upon a form and in such manner as the board prescribes, accompanied by such fee as required in R.S. 37:927, and who furnishes evidence to the board that he: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Is of good moral character. (b) Has completed the requirements of a nursing education program approved by the board which prepares him for initial licensure as a registered nurse. (c) Passes an examination to the satisfaction of the board. (d) Has completed certain course work as required by the board. (e) Is not in violation of this Part and the rules and regulations. (f) Has committed no acts or omissions which constitute grounds for disciplinary action as defined in R.S. 37:921, or if found guilty of committing such acts or omissions, the board finds, after investigation, that sufficient restitution, rehabilitation, and education have occurred. • Further, approval of a program not located in Louisiana would have to meet the criteria listed in Louisiana Administrative Code LAC 46.XLVII.Chapter 35 (MVNU meets these criteria)
Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must graduate from a board-approved program • The program must be approved by another BON. When Maine reviews applications from individuals that graduated from another state, the program must be equitable to a program approved in Maine. National nursing program accreditation has been required for Maine programs since January 1, 2015. The Board defines “National Nursing Accreditation” as accreditation by Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or other agency approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accreditation agency. • The RN applicant must also have completed a course of study of not less than 2 years in an approved program in professional nursing and holds a degree, diploma or certificate. • Applicants graduating from out-of-state programs must have the school send or e-mail a final transcript with degree and date conferred to: • Maine State Board of Nursing 158 SHS Augusta ME 04333 or • diana.k.lemelin@maine.gov • School Certification 1. The school must complete the Certification of School Form for on-line applicants located at www.maine.gov/boardofnursing in the licensing section under examination. • Criminal Background Check 1. Maine state law authorizes the State Board of Nursing to require an applicant to complete the fingerprinting process for a criminal background check on initial licensure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant must be issued a US Social Security Number before the applicant can be issued a Maine Registered Professional Nursing License.
Maryland	<p>Criminal history check (a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, to qualify for a license, an applicant shall be an individual who submits to a criminal history records check in accordance with § 8-303 of this subtitle and meets the requirements of this section.</p> <p>Registered nurses (b) An applicant for a license to practice registered nursing shall complete satisfactorily and meet all requirements for a diploma or degree from: (1) A registered nursing education program approved by the Board; or (2) An education program in registered nursing in any other state or country that the Board finds substantially equivalent to the education program in this State at the time of the applicant's graduation.</p> <p>Moral character (f) An applicant for a license under this section shall be of good moral character.</p>
Massachusetts	<p>Must graduate from a board-approved program Based on the Certificate of Graduation, the following information is evaluated to determine that the standards of the nursing program are substantially the same to those required by regulation in Massachusetts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the nursing education program was approved by the legal approving authority during the licensure applicant's enrollment; parent institution is accredited; the curriculum includes theoretical and clinical components for nursing across the lifespan (this includes: Medical/Surgical, Pediatrics, Obstetrical, and Mental Health); if program is an online program, the Program must be authorized to operate by distance education; and if the graduate completed any of their clinical rotations in Massachusetts, the Program must be authorized to operate in Massachusetts. <p>Must be of good moral character, as defined by Massachusetts law</p>
Michigan	<p>- Final, Official Transcripts or the Michigan Nursing School Certification Form, if applicable— This must be submitted directly to our office from the nursing school attended and meet the standards set forth by the Board. - - Passing NCLEX-RN Examination Scores – Score reports will be received directly from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSB)</p>
Minnesota	<p>Confirmation of graduation or a transcript is required if an applicant graduated from an approved nursing program in a United States jurisdiction or Canadian province. If an applicant submits confirmation of</p>

	graduation, the confirmation must be completed and signed by an official of the nursing program or controlling institution and must bear the seal or stamp of the program or controlling institution. If the applicant submits a transcript, it must be an official transcript from the educational institution or nursing program that verifies that the applicant has graduated from the nursing program.
Mississippi	<p>- Must have graduated from a nursing program (RN or LPN) which <i>substantially meets the same educational criteria</i> as Mississippi nursing programs.</p> <p>- Request your nursing program to submit an official transcript to the Mississippi Board of Nursing in a sealed envelope to the address below. Transcripts can be sent electronically through your nursing program using Escript. Faxed transcripts are not accepted.</p> <p>- Criminal Background Check</p> <p>Mississippi residents NOT attending a Mississippi Nursing School Program: If Mississippi is your legal primary state of residence; you must call the Board to schedule an appointment to be fingerprinted at our office. 601-957-6300</p> <p>Out-of-State residents: If your legal primary residence is another state, you must call the Board for instructions. 601-957-6300</p>
Missouri	<p>- Submit evidence of U.S. citizenship or lawful presence.</p> <p>- Official final transcript. The transcript must show the degree awarded and completion/graduation date.</p> <p>- Submit criminal background checks.</p> <p>- Must have a Social Security number</p>
Montana	<p>- Must have graduated from a board-approved program</p> <p>- Have an official transcript, sent to the board directly from the educational institution, verifying date of graduation and degree or credential conferred</p>
Nebraska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must graduate from a board-approved program • Be of good moral character; • Have completed four years of high school study or its equivalent as determined by the Board. The completion of an approved RN or PN program is sufficient evidence of having completed the equivalent of four years of high school study;
Nevada	<p>* School will send the Board an affidavit of graduation, which will make you eligible to receive an Interim Permit, if you choose; and 2) You must order an official transcript, which must indicate a nursing degree and graduation date, sent to the Board directly from your school to be eligible to receive a permanent license.</p> <p>* Out-of-state graduates - Order an official transcript, which must indicate a nursing degree and graduation date, sent to the Board directly from the school.</p>

	A completed fingerprint card
New Hampshire	<p>(1) Graduated from a board approved nursing education program in the United States or Canada that meets the requirements set forth in Nur 600, including the NCLEX-RN or NCLEX-PN course requirements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Curricular Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The curriculum shall be derived from the program's written philosophy and organizing framework and shall demonstrate logical sequencing and internal consistency. - Registered nurse programs shall provide a minimum of 1080 hours of nursing classroom instruction and concurrent clinical practice offering students the opportunity to care for individuals, families, groups and communities during various developmental stages who are experiencing physiological, or psychosocial, or environmental disruptions. (MVNU has 1260 hours) - Curricular content related to nursing courses shall include concurrent theoretical and clinical components designed to provide instructional activities benefiting individuals, families, and groups across the life span. - Curriculum components shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Experiences that promote clinical judgment, clinical management, and commitment to improving quality and safety of the health care system; and (2) Evidence-based learning experiences and methods of instruction, including distance education methods, which are consistent with the curriculum, provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Faculty supervised clinical practice shall provide clinical hours consistent with Nur 602.12 (b), (c) and (d); b. Simulation may be utilized as a teaching strategy in laboratory and clinical settings to meet objectives for purpose of calculating the hours in the curriculum; c. Simulation will not be in lieu of an entire clinical experience; and d. Clinical experiences, including those with preceptors, shall be directed by readily available nurse-educator faculty members.
New Jersey	A written certification from the registrar, or program administrator authorized by the registrar, attesting that the applicant has successfully completed all requirements for graduation from a registered professional nursing program accredited by the Board or a board of nursing in another state or a licensed practical nursing program accredited by the Board or by a board of nursing in another state. The certification shall indicate the date of graduation or the date the degree or diploma was conferred.
New Mexico	Successful completion of a Board approved program
New York	<p>- COMPLETE NEW YORK STATE'S REQUIRED COURSEWORK.</p> <p>You must complete a NYSED Approved Infection Control Course and a Child Abuse Identification and Reporting Course from an approved provider or qualify for an exemption.</p>

	<p>- HAVE YOUR NURSING SCHOOL VERIFY YOUR NURSING EDUCATION.</p> <p>Complete Section I of a Certification of Professional Education (Form 2) and send it to your nursing school and ask that they complete Section II. Your school must verify your nursing education on Form 2 and then send it directly to NYSED. Form 2 must be signed by the registrar or accompanied by a transcript signed by the registrar.</p>
North Carolina	Must graduate from a board-approved program. Approved program should satisfy these components: Education program should include these components (Refer to B1) (MVNU satisfies these components.)
North Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a US Social Security Number - Completed a board-approved program Completed a program preparing you for the level of licensure sought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an out-of-state nursing education program that meets the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is approved by another board of nursing; and ○ Includes supervised clinical experience across the life span as part of the curriculum and is equivalent in amount and time to the ND Board of Nursing approved programs. (MVNU meets these requirements.)
Ohio	
Oklahoma	Submit an official transcript showing completion of the basic professional curricula of a state Board-approved registered nursing education program conducted in a member board jurisdiction that meets the requirements of 485:10-5-6(d), and showing the diploma or degree and the date conferred. The transcript must be obtained from an entity approved and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a primary source for providing education transcripts.
Oregon	<p>Registered Nurse (RN) licensure requirements for graduates of out of state programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program must be approved through the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). - ORS 678.040 (1)(2): The applicant must have graduated from a nursing program that is accredited or approved by the licensing Board for nurses in a particular state or United States territory and approved by the Oregon Board of Nursing*; or - LPN or RN education programs do not require accreditation by an agency specifically accrediting nursing programs. (CCNE, ACEN) - The Board has introduced legislation for the 2021 Oregon legislative session to require all nursing education programs to have a clinical component regardless of state or territory approval. This will affect the ability for applicant graduating from “bridge” programs not offering a clinical component to apply for initial license or endorse their license into Oregon. The outcome of this legislation will be posted to this NCSBN website if it is passed and becomes effective. Target date for implementation would be no sooner than January 2022.
Pennsylvania	- Graduate of an approved nursing program.

	- Submit official transcript showing program completion
Rhode Island	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be of good moral character; 2. Have completed at least an approved high school course of study or the equivalent supported by diploma or certificate thereof as determined by the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; and 3. Have successfully completed the prescribed curriculum in a Board-approved basic professional nursing education program and holds a diploma from the program,
South Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submits a copy of the applicant's social security card or permanent resident card; a resident alien who does not have a social security number must have an alien identification number; - Has not committed any acts that are grounds for disciplinary action; - Has completed all requirements for graduation from an approved school of nursing or 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.
South Dakota	Complete a registered nursing program that is board approved in the state in which it originates and meets the eligibility requirements in that state to sit for the NCLEX-RN.
Tennessee	<p>Completion of an approved nursing program:</p> <p>An applicant who graduated from a school of nursing approved by a Board in another U.S. jurisdiction shall have had substantially the same course of study as stated in the minimum curriculum requirements for Tennessee approved schools of nursing at the time of his application or he shall remove deficiencies as directed by the Board.</p>
Texas	<p>Graduate of a board-approved program</p> <p>A) A professional nursing education program operated in another state may be determined to have substantially equivalent education standards to a Texas approved nursing program if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the program is approved by a state board of nursing or other governmental entity to offer a pre-licensure professional nursing program of study that awards a nursing diploma or degree upon completion; (ii) the program includes general education courses providing a sound foundation for nursing education for the level of preparation; (iii) the program's nursing courses include didactic content and supervised clinical learning experiences in medical-surgical, maternal/child health, pediatrics, geriatrics, and mental health nursing that teach students to use a systematic approach to clinical decision-making and safe patient care across the life span; and (iv) for baccalaureate degree nursing programs, nursing courses must also include didactic content and supervised clinical learning experiences, as appropriate, in community, research, and leadership.
Utah	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Demonstrate that the applicant has successfully completed an RN prelicensing education program that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) meets the requirements of Section 58-31b-601; or

	(ii) is equivalent to an approved program under Section 58-31b-601
Vermont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must graduate from a board-approved program. Nursing education programs shall be conducted in an accredited state-approved school. Accreditation may be by the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools or another accrediting body recognized by the Board. - Effective July 1, 2020, all Vermont prelicensure nursing education programs must be accredited by a national nursing accreditation organization approved by the Board.
Virginia	Must graduate from board-approved program. Graduates of nursing schools located in other states - Verification of Clinical Hours: If you attended a nursing program outside of Virginia, your FINAL official transcript must include evidence of the actual (direct client care) clinical hours broken down for each course. A nursing education program preparing a student for licensure as a registered nurse shall provide a minimum of 500 hours of direct client care supervised by qualified faculty. (MVNU meets this criteria.)
Washington	<p>Registered nursing and practical nursing applicants educated in a traditional nursing education program approved by another United States nursing board and applying for initial licensure must:</p> <p>(1) Successfully complete a board approved nursing education program. Applicants from a board approved registered nurse program who are applying for a practical nurse license:</p> <p>(a) Complete all course work required of board approved practical nurse programs as listed in WAC 246-840-575(2). Required courses not included in the registered nurse program may be accepted if the courses were obtained through a commission approved program.</p> <p>(b) Be deemed as capable to safely practice within the scope of practice of a practical nurse by the nurse administrator of the applicant's nursing education program.</p> <p>(2) Complete seven clock hours of AIDS education as required in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 8.</p> <p>(3) Successfully pass the commission approved licensure examination as provided in WAC 246-840-050.</p> <p>(4) Submit an official transcript sent directly from the applicant's nursing education program to the commission.</p>
West Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Criminal background check - Fingerprinting - Graduate from a board-approved program - Submit two certifications that must be filled out by others. The first one is to be signed by someone who has known the applicant for five or more years; it attests to good moral character. The second is to be given to the director or dean of the nursing program.
Wisconsin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Graduates from a high school or its equivalent. (b) Does not have an arrest or conviction record (c) Graduates from any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A board-approved school of professional nursing.

	2. A comparable school of professional nursing. (d) In lieu of meeting the requirement in par. (c), evidence of general and professional educational qualifications comparable to those required in this state at the time of graduation.
Wyoming	Have graduated from a board-approved program.

<https://www.ncsbn.org/14730.htm>