

Oklahoma Board of Nursing
2501 N. Lincoln Blvd., Ste. 207
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 962-1800
<http://www.oklahoma.gov/nursing>

INSTRUCTIONS for LICENSURE by EXAMINATION

APPLICATION FEE - \$85.00

Use this application if you:

- Have NOT previously applied for Licensure by Examination at the same licensure level in Oklahoma
 - *If you HAVE applied previously and received a notification of your non-passing from this Board, **STOP** this application immediately and submit the application to “Rewrite the Licensure Exam” instead*
- Are NOT licensed at the same level in another state, U.S. territory, or country; and
- Have not previously held a license (at the same level) in Oklahoma; and
- Wish to take the licensure examination for initial licensure in Oklahoma; and
- Wish to apply for a single-state license; and
- Were educated in a nursing program approved by a member board jurisdiction in the United States or U.S. territory
 - *If you have **not graduated** from an LPN or RN program and need to apply for examination through Equivalent education, you must complete the “Request for Evaluation of Practical Nurse Equivalency Eligibility” found in the Other Applications link in your Nurse Portal account first and receive approval from this Board prior to submitting this application.*

You are submitting an application for a single-state Oklahoma license. A single-state Oklahoma license will allow you to practice nursing in Oklahoma only. **To apply for a multistate license, you must submit the *Application for Multistate Licensure by Examination*.**

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION.

Pursuant to 485:10-1-3 (b) (2): **REFUNDS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED
FOR SUBMISSION OF AN INCORRECT APPLICATION**

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE IN OKLAHOMA

Age: The applicant for licensure must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age.

Verification of citizenship status: State law requires the Board of Nursing to issue a license only to U.S. citizens, nationals and legal permanent resident aliens; and to qualified alien applicants who present, *in person*, valid documentary evidence of:

1. A valid, unexpired immigrant or nonimmigrant visa status for admission into the U.S.;
2. A pending or approved application for asylum in the U.S.;

3. Admission into the U.S. in refugee status;
4. A pending or approved application for temporary protected status in the U.S.;
5. Approved deferred action status; or
6. A pending application for adjustment of status to legal permanent residence status or conditional resident status.

Applicants in the above six categories will only be eligible to receive a license that is valid for the time period of their authorized stay in the U.S., or if there is no date of end to the time period of their authorized stay, for one year. The license is required to indicate that it is temporary. The information will be verified through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program, operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Graduation from a state Board-approved program of registered or practical nursing: You must be a graduate of a **state Board-approved program** of registered or practical nursing. An official transcript from the nursing education program must be submitted directly from the nursing education program. The transcript must show 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. The nursing education program you attended **must have included theory and clinical experience in the following areas:**

- Care of the adult
- Care of children
- Maternal-newborn nursing
- Psychiatric-mental health nursing (Exception: psychiatric clinical experience is not required for practical nurse applicants)

Completion of the licensure examination: Once all other requirements for licensure have been met, you will be made eligible to take the NCLEX-RN or NCLEX-PN licensure examination. In order to be made eligible, you must have registered with the testing service (<https://www.nclex.com/>).

Review of criminal history: State law (59 O.S. § 567.18.B.) requires each applicant for licensure to have a fingerprint-based background check completed not more than ninety (90) days old at the time of submission of the application for licensure. The background check consists of fingerprint-based searches of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal History Record Information databases and name index searches of computerized databases containing criminal history records. Please read the *Privacy Act Statement and Applicant Notification* found in the Appendix to this set of instructions. Please see the “Instructions” section for further information on obtaining a fingerprint-based background check.

In addition to the background check, applicants for licensure are required to notify the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, in writing, specific information related to criminal charges and/or convictions, investigations, disciplinary actions, and/or judicial declaration of mental competence. A “report in writing” means that the applicant/licensee provided a description stating in his/her own words the date, location, and circumstances of the incident, and if applicable, the resulting action taken by the court, agency, or disciplinary board. The report should be in the form of a statement in the provided space on the application. Certified court records or a board order, as applicable, must be uploaded during the application process. A verbal report does not constitute a “report in writing”. A written report not accompanied by a full set of certified court records or the board order(s) does not constitute a “report in writing”. Failure to report such action is a violation of the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act*.

An applicant for a license to practice as a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse must submit to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing “certified written evidence that the applicant has never been convicted of a felony crime that substantially relates to the occupation of nursing and poses a reasonable threat to public safety” [59 O.S. § 567.5, 567.6].

Forms referenced can be found on the Board’s website located at this link:
<http://www.oklahoma.gov/nursing/applications.html>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION

It is recommended that you submit your application to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing approximately two months (but no more than four months) before graduation. This will ensure adequate time for processing.

1. **Completion of application:** The application is to be submitted online via your Nurse Portal account found on the Board’s home page. You must complete all modules of the application with your **full legal name** which is the name on your birth certificate and any subsequent legal name changes. Please indicate “NMN” if you do not have a middle name. Please upload copies of legal documentation to support your legal names (ex: birth certificate, marriage license). **You must provide a Social Security number on the application.** This information is mandatory, pursuant to 56 O.S. § 240.21A, for administration of the tax laws of the State of Oklahoma.

If you have been licensed with this Board under a different name, you must complete a *Name Change Request* found in the [Other Applications link](#) on your Nurse Portal page, upload a certified copy of the legal document changing your name and submit the required fee in order to be licensed under your new name.

2. **Citizenship:** All applicants for licensure must upload the appropriate notarized *Evidence of Status Form*.

If you are a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or legal permanent resident alien, you must upload a photocopy of one of the documents listed under “Acceptable Documents to Establish Evidence of Citizenship” on the *Evidence of Status Part A Form*.

According to State law, **if you are a qualified alien, you must bring in person** the *Evidence of Status Form* to the Board office along with the original documents that support your qualified alien status, as shown on the *Evidence of Status Part B Form*. At the Board office, a staff member will copy your qualified alien status documentation and will notarize the *Evidence of Status Form*.

3. **Background Check:** Each applicant must provide fingerprint images to be used for the purpose of permitting a state and national criminal history records search through the OSBI and FBI. The Oklahoma Board of Nursing is not authorized to receive criminal history record information prior to receiving an application; therefore, you will receive information on obtaining a fingerprint-based background check in the Message Center of your Nurse Portal account after your application has been successfully submitted. In the event that you submit an incorrect application and fingerprints are collected and submitted following the submission of the incorrect application, note that the criminal history records search must be conducted through the Board’s vendor, IDEMIA no more than (90) days prior to receipt of the application in the Board office. The results of the search are provided directly to the Board office by the OSBI usually within one to two weeks. Please read the *Privacy Act Statement and Applicant Notification* found in the Appendix to this set of instructions. Procedures for changing, correcting or updating OSBI and/or FBI results are set forth in Title 28, C.F.R., §16.34 and will be furnished as needed.

4. ***Criminal Charges, Disciplinary Action, or Judicial Declaration of Mental Incompetence:*** If you answer “yes” to the criminal charge, discipline, or competency questions on the application, you must **write a statement in the available space on the application form, describing the date, location and circumstances of the incident, and the resulting action taken by the court or disciplinary board.** If you have more than one incident you are reporting, you must speak to every case/charge that has been filed. In addition, you will be required to upload certified copies of identified documents.

(A) Have you ever had disciplinary action taken against a nursing license, recognition, certificate, or privilege to practice; any professional or occupational license, recognition, or certificate; and/or any application for a nursing or professional or occupational license, recognition, or certificate in any state, territory or country not previously reported **in writing** to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing?”

- a. If you answered “yes”, you must type in the space available a statement describing the date, location, and circumstances of the incident(s), and, if applicable, the resulting action(s) taken by the disciplinary board.
- b. If you are reporting more than one incident, you must describe every case that has been filed.
- c. You will need to upload certified copies of the charges/complaints, findings of fact, and orders from the licensing agency.

(B) Is there currently any investigation of your nursing license, recognition, certificate, or privilege to practice; and/or any professional or occupational license, recognition, or certificate; and/or any application for a nursing and/or professional or occupational license, recognition, or certificate in any state, territory or country not previously reported **in writing** to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing?

- a. If you answered “yes”, you must type in the space available a statement describing the date, location, and circumstances of the incident(s), and, if applicable, the resulting action(s) taken by the disciplinary board.
- b. If you are reporting more than one incident, you must describe every case that has been filed.

(C) Have you been charged and/or convicted in any criminal offense not previously reported in writing to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, including those pending appeal? (You may exclude minor traffic violations, but must report all DUI/DWI charges and/or DUI/DWI convictions)

Check all that apply:

-] been convicted of a misdemeanor?
-] been convicted of a felony?
-] pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
-] received deferred adjudication, to include but not limited to deferred prosecution agreement?
-] been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilt?
-] been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? Court-ordered confinement?
-] been granted pre-trial diversion, to include but not limited to Drug Court?
-] have any pending criminal charges?
-] have any pending violation of the law?

-] been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?
] No, none of the above applies.

NOTE: Expunged and Sealed Offenses: While expunged or sealed offense, arrests, tickets, or citations need not be disclosed, it is your responsibility to ensure the offense, arrest, ticket or citation has, in fact, been expunged or sealed. It is recommended that you submit a copy of the Court Order expunging or sealing the record in question to our office with your application. Non-disclosure of relevant offenses raises questions related to truthfulness and character.

(D) If you checked any of the above (except “No, none of the above applies”):

- a. If you answered “yes”, you must type in the space available a statement describing the date, location, and circumstances of the incident(s), and, if applicable, the resulting action(s) taken by the court.
- b. If you are reporting more than one incident, you must describe every case that has been filed.
- c. You will need to upload certified copies of Court Records to include the Information Sheet, Incident Report, Complaint, and/or Charges; Affidavit of Probable Cause; Judgment and Sentence; and verification of completion of the Judgment and Sentence. The Court Records must be obtained from the Court(s) in which the offense(s) occurred.

(E) Have you ever been judicially declared incompetent in any state, territory or country not previously reported **in writing** to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing?

- a. If you answered “yes”, you must type in the space available a statement describing the date, location, and circumstances of the incident(s), and, if applicable, the resulting action(s) taken by the court or agency. If you are reporting more than one incident, you must describe every case that has been filed.
- b. You will need to upload a certified copy of the Court Order.

(F) Have you ever submitted a petition for a Determination of Eligibility to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing?

5. **Fee:** Payment must be made in the form of VISA, MasterCard or electronic fund transfer when completing the application online. **Fees submitted are not refundable.**

TRANSCRIPT

An official transcript should be submitted from your school after you have graduated. Many of the nursing education programs automatically send graduate transcripts to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing as a courtesy to their graduates; however, you will need to check with the director of your program on the school’s policy. Please ensure that the transcript includes the conferral date of the degree earned.

Graduates from out-of-state programs should request that the school send an official copy of the transcript to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing. The Board must evaluate the curriculum provided in the out-of-state program to ensure that it meets the state’s curricular requirements. Out-of-state candidates must also submit **course descriptions** for nursing and related courses for evaluation. The course descriptions must be from the time you were enrolled in the program and may be obtained from the school’s catalog or course syllabi. If the course descriptions from your school do not verify the required curriculum, additional documentation from your program will be required.

NCLEX REGISTRATION

The National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) is administered by Pearson VUE and delivered through Pearson Professional Centers. In order to be eligible to take the examination, you must register with Pearson VUE. You may register with the testing service on their website: <https://www.nclex.com/> or at 866-496-2539. When registering, you must provide the testing service your email address.

You must be registered with Pearson VUE to receive an *Authorization to Test* letter (ATT), which is issued by Pearson VUE after your application has been approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing. Once you are registered with NCLEX, your NCLEX registration will remain effective for one year, awaiting the approval of the Board, or until you are approved and take the examination, whichever comes first. After the Board approves your registration and you have received your ATT, you have 90 days to schedule and take the examination.

- It is recommended that you schedule an appointment **immediately** upon receiving the ATT to ensure that you are able to get your choice of dates and times.
- You must take the examination within 90 days from the date the ATT was issued or you will forfeit your fee and have to re-register.
- Instructions for scheduling an appointment and information regarding test center locations are included with the ATT letter.
- Please note current requirements for documents that you must take to the testing center on your test day as found on the NCLEX website.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN®

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Oklahoma Board of Nursing provides reasonable accommodations for candidates with disabilities that may interfere with their performance on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®) and/or Licensed Practical nurses (NCLEX-PN®). A person with a disability is defined in federal law.

If you are requesting that reasonable accommodations be provided to take the NCLEX-RN® and/or NCLEX-PN®, please download the document “Requesting Reasonable Accommodations for NCLEX: Instructions and Form” from the OBN website by accessing: <http://www.oklahoma.gov/nursing/applications.html>. During the application process, you will be required to upload the completed form with supporting documents.

Registration with Pearson Vue must be in place **before** reasonable accommodations can be approved. Candidates requesting reasonable accommodations **will not be approved** to take the NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN®, or receive an online authorization to test until the reasonable accommodations for testing have been approved by the Board of Nursing.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Test results will NOT be provided over the telephone by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

You are required to notify the Board of any address changes occurring during the registration and testing process. This notification is to be submitted via your Nurse Portal account.

Your application to the Board for licensure is valid for one year after receipt. After that time, a new application and fee must be submitted. If you take and fail the examination, a rewrite application and fee must be submitted. You may view average processing times of a completed application on our website at: <http://www.oklahoma.gov/nursing/agency-data-and-reports.html>. All applications are reviewed in the order they are received. To check on the status of your application, visit the Nurse Portal. If further review is required, the processing time may be lengthened. Every effort is made to process applications expeditiously.

Once licensed, the License Verification Portal <https://okbn.boardsofnursing.org/licenselookup> on the Board's website will be the first place your new license will be noted.

Registered Nurse licenses expire the last day of the licensee's birth month in even-numbered years, and Licensed Practical Nurse licenses expire the last day of the licensee's birth month in odd-numbered years following the date of issuance. The application fee includes the processing of your application and licensure through the current renewal period. **Fees are not pro-rated and are non-refundable.**

In accordance with Oklahoma law (59 O.S. § 567.7 E), the Executive Director shall suspend the license or certificate of a person who submits a check, money draft, or similar instrument for payment of a fee which is not honored by the financial institution named. The suspension becomes effective ten (10) days following delivery by certified mail of written notice of the dishonor and the impending suspension to the person's address on file. Upon notification of suspension, the person may reinstate the authorization to practice upon payment of the fees and any and all costs associated with notice and collection. The suspension shall be exempt from the Administrative Procedures Act.

INFORMATION ON TIME LIMIT AFTER GRADUATION TO TAKE AND PASS THE NCLEX

All applicants for licensure by examination must submit a completed application, transcript, and fee to the Board and a completed registration form and fee to the authorized testing service **within two years of completion of the nursing education program**. If more than two years has elapsed, you must complete additional education as follows:

- 1) Successfully complete a Board-approved refresher course in accordance with the Board's policy;
or
- 2) Successfully complete nursing didactic coursework and faculty-supervised clinical experience in a board-approved nursing education program at the appropriate education level, to include at least 80 hours in classroom and skills laboratory review and at least 80 hours participating in patient care activities in the clinical setting

After completion of the required additional education, the applicant will have two additional years to take and pass the NCLEX examination [OAC 485:10-7-1 (e) and 485:10-9-1 (e)].

If it has been more than two years since you graduated from your nursing education program, you must submit evidence of either completing a Board-approved refresher course or coursework/clinical experience in a nursing education program, as outlined above. The following evidence will be accepted:

- 1) An official transcript or original copy of a certificate of completion identifying successful completion from a Board-approved refresher course
- 2) An official transcript from an educational institution offering a board-approved nursing education program at the same educational level as the program you originally completed, documenting at least 80 contact hours of theory/skills laboratory coursework and 80 contact hours in clinical coursework. Credit hours will be converted to contact hours using the following ratios: 15 contact hours per credit hour for theory, 30 contact hours per credit hour for skills laboratory, and 45 contact hours per credit hour for clinical coursework.

A list of nursing education programs and refresher courses approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing is available on the Board's website: <http://www.oklahoma.gov/nursing/education-program-types.html>

INFORMATION ON TIME LIMIT AFTER PREVIOUSLY PASSING THE NCLEX WITHOUT RESULTANT LICENSURE

If more than two (2) years has elapsed since you successfully passed the NCLEX-RN / NCLEX-PN and did **NOT** obtain licensure as a Registered Nurse / Licensed Practical Nurse, you must complete additional education as follows:

- 1) Successfully complete a Board-approved refresher course in accordance with the Board's policy;
or
- 2) Successfully complete nursing didactic coursework and faculty-supervised clinical experience in a board-approved nursing education program at the appropriate education level, to include at least 80 hours in classroom and skills laboratory review and at least 80 hours participating in patient care activities in the clinical setting.

If it has been more than two (2) years since you passed the NCLEX, you must submit evidence of either completing a Board-approved refresher course or coursework/clinical experience in a nursing education program, as outlined above. The following evidence will be accepted:

- 1) An official transcript or original copy of a certificate of completion identifying successful completion from a Board-approved refresher course; or
- 2) An official transcript from an educational institution offering a board-approved nursing education program at the same educational level as the program you originally completed, documenting at least 80 contact hours of theory/skills laboratory coursework and 80 contact hours in clinical coursework. Credit hours will be converted to contact hours using the following ratios: 15 contact hours per credit hour for theory, 30 contact hours per credit hour for skills laboratory, and 45 contact hours per credit hour for clinical coursework.

COMMON MISTAKES THAT DELAY PROCESSING

- **Failing to submit fingerprint images to be used for the purpose of permitting a state and national criminal background search**
- **Failing to provide the full legal name and Social Security number on the application**
- **Failing to provide license or certificate numbers, if the applicant holds another health-related license or certificate**
- **Failing to upload an *Evidence of Status Form* and supporting documentation**
- **Failing to request that an official transcript be submitted directly by the nursing education program**
- **Having a different name on the application from the name on the transcript or testing service registration form**
- **Not registering with the testing service for the examination**
- **Failing to upload a degree plan and course descriptions for review (*required only for students graduating from out-of-state programs*)**
- **Failing to write in the space available for each question a complete description and upload complete documentation regarding a history of criminal charges, disciplinary action, or judicial declaration of incompetence**

Appendix

Privacy Act Statement and Applicant Notification

Authority: The FBI's acquisition, preservation, and exchange of fingerprints and associated information is generally authorized under 28 U.S.C. 534. Depending on the nature of your application, supplemental authorities include Federal statutes, State statutes pursuant to Public Law 92-544, Presidential Executive Orders, and federal regulations. Providing your fingerprints and associated information is voluntary; however, failure to do so may affect completion or approval of your application.

Principal Purpose: Certain determinations, such as employment, licensing, and security clearances, may be predicated on fingerprint-based background checks. Your fingerprints and associated information/biometrics may be provided to the employing, investigating, or otherwise responsible agency, and/or the FBI for the purpose of comparing your fingerprints to other fingerprints in the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system or its successor systems (including civil, criminal, and latent fingerprint repositories) or other available records of the employing, investigating, or other responsible agency. The FBI may retain your fingerprints and associated information/biometrics in NGI after the completion of this application and, while retained, your fingerprints may continue to be compared against other fingerprints submitted to or retained by NGI.

Routine Uses: During the processing of this application and for as long thereafter as your fingerprints and associated information/biometrics are retained in NGI, your information may be disclosed pursuant to your consent, and may be disclosed without your consent as permitted by the Privacy Act of 1974 and all applicable Routine Uses as may be published at any time in the Federal Register, including the Routine Uses for the NGI system and the FBI's Blanket Routine Uses. Routine uses include, but are not limited to, disclosures to: employing, governmental or authorized non-governmental agencies responsible for employment, contracting, licensing, security clearances, and other suitability determinations; local, state, tribal, or federal law enforcement agencies; criminal justice agencies; and agencies responsible for national security or public safety.

Applicant Record Challenge: Before a final decision is made, you have the opportunity to complete or challenge the accuracy of the information contained in the FBI identification record. The procedure for obtaining a change, correction, or updating an FBI identification record is set forth in Title 28, CFR 16.34. For information on updating the national criminal history record, visit www.FBI.gov.

If certified documents are obtained for the purpose of updating your criminal history record, the documents should be forwarded to the FBI and to the repository in the state where the arrest occurred.