

Professional Licensing Agency
402 West Washington Street
Room W072
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204



Eric J. Holcomb
Governor of Indiana
Deborah J. Frye
IPLA Executive Director

May 26, 2022

RE: Requirements for graduates of foreign nursing schools

After review of House Enrolled Act 1003-2022 (“HEA 1003-2022”),¹ the Indiana State Board of Nursing (“Board”) seeks to clarify the requirements for graduates of foreign nursing schools who are applying for licensure by either endorsement or examination.

Before describing the requirements in detail, the Board finds it pertinent to differentiate between applications by endorsement and applications by examination. To qualify for an application by endorsement, the applicant must have already been licensed in another jurisdiction in the United States. To qualify for an application by examination, the applicant must have completed a degree program through an accredited nursing program in the United States.

For graduates of foreign nursing schools, there are additional requirements to show that their education is comparable to a degree program through an accredited nursing program in the United States. Those graduates who are applying by endorsement for either a registered nurse license (“RN”) or a practical nurse license (“LPN”), are required by Indiana Code § 25-23-1-11² and Ind. Code § 25-23-1-12,³ respectively and as amended by HEA 1003-2022, to provide documentation of one of the following:

1. Achieving a passing score on an examination prepared by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools International, Inc (“CGFNS”).
2. A satisfactory Credentials Evaluation Service (“CES”) Report issued by CGFNS.
3. A satisfactory VisaScreen Certificate verification letter issued by CGFNS.

As those applying by endorsement have already successfully passed the NCLEX-RN or NCLEX-PN in another jurisdiction, it would be duplicative for applicants to provide the Board with documentation of passing the CGFNS examination. Therefore, it is preferable for those applying by endorsement to provide either a CES Report or a VisaScreen Certificate.

HEA 1003-2022 did not address requirements for graduates of foreign nursing schools who are applying by examination. RN applicants are required to provide documentation that demonstrates achieving a passing score on an examination prepared by CGFNS. LPN applicants are required to provide a CES Report, as the examination is not available for those education programs.

Additional questions or concerns on these requirements can be directed to the Board via email to pla2@pla.in.gov or phone to (317) 234-2043.

Sincerely,

Board Director
Indiana State Board of Nursing

¹ [HEA 1003-2022](#)

² [Ind. Code § 25-23-1-11 Requirements for registered nurse applicants; endorsement license; fees; use of title](#)

³ [Ind. Code § 25-23-1-12 Requirements for practical nurse applicants; endorsement license; fees; use of title](#)