

Application for RN licensure in the United States
for graduates from a foreign school of nursing

The oversight of the RN licensure exam (NCLEX-RN) in the United States is the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN).

Individuals are then licensed in the state that they want to practice in.

A good resource for graduates of foreign schools of nursing is:

[https://www.ncsbn.org/o8 Manual for International nurses.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/o8%20Manual%20for%20International%20nurses.pdf)

Process and resources:

1. Contact **Commission of Graduates of Foreign Schools of Nursing** (CGFNS) for pre-determination of qualifications needed to practice nursing in the United States. See attached APPLICANT HANDBOOK. (<http://cgfns.org>) There are three parts to this process:
 - a. **Part One - Credentials Review**
CGFNS certifies that you are a first-level, general (Registered) nurse (as defined historically by the International Council of Nurses) by evaluating your education and registration/license.
 - b. **Part Two - Qualifying Exam of Nursing Knowledge**
The Qualifying Exam is a one-day test of your nursing knowledge. It is a paper and pencil exam that is given in two parts. Part One in the morning and Part Two in the afternoon.
 - c. **Part Three - An English Language Proficiency Examination: TOEFL, TOEFL iBT, TOEIC, or the Academic Module of IELTS**
An English language proficiency examination is taken to determine your proficiency in the English language. The following examinations have been approved to meet the English language proficiency requirement:
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language – Internet-based (TOEFL iBT)
 - Test of English for International Communicators (TOEIC)
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (Academic Module)
2. If interested in applying for Illinois licensure, and particularly in the Chicago area, there is a good resource. This free service may help you navigate the CGFNS and NCSBN requirements as well as the specifics of licensure in Illinois: **Chicago Bilingual Nurse Consortium** (<http://chicagobilingualnurse.org>)
3. Become familiar with what the state you are interested in practicing in requires for licensure besides taking and passing the NCLEX-RN, i.e. do you need a social security card. In Illinois, the governmental agency that oversees RN license in the **Illinois Department of Finance and Professional Regulations**. The web site for nursing program and licensure information is: <http://www.idfpr.com/dpr/WHO/nurs.asp>
4. In anticipation/preparation for taking the NCLEX-RN exam you may want to take a review course. A recognized provider is KAPLAN. (<http://www.kaptest.com/nclex>)
5. Make application for testing and licensure. The company in charge of the licensing is Continental Testing Service (<http://www.continentaltesting.net/state.html>). Licensure application is \$88.00. The testing company that the NCSBN contracts with for test application is Pearson Vue. The test costs is \$200.00 http://www.pearsonvue.com/nclex/bulletin_2010.pdf

Note: this qualifying exam can be taken internationally, including in Australia