



## SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

4305 S. Louise Ave., Suite 201 | Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115

605-362-2760 | <https://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/>

### LPN/RN Licensure by Endorsement Requirements for International Applicants and for Applicants Educated in Non-English Nursing Education Programs

*It is illegal to practice as a nurse without a current license or a valid temporary permit.*

Applicants educated internationally, or who completed a non-English speaking nursing education program, who have passed the PN or RN NCLEX, must meet these requirements.

#### Single-state Licensure Requirements

The applicant must:

1. Be a graduate of an educational program leading to nurse licensure that meets South Dakota nursing education requirements that were in place at the time the nurse graduated from the educational program.
2. Have successfully passed the NCLEX.
3. Complete SD Board of Nursing application by using one of the following:
  - **Online Application:** If the applicant has a valid US Social Security Number access application here: [https://www.sdbon.org/rn\\_lpn/endorse/](https://www.sdbon.org/rn_lpn/endorse/).
  - **Paper Application:** If the applicant does not have a valid US Social Security Number, a paper application must be requested by email: [sdbon@state.sd.us](mailto:sdbon@state.sd.us)
4. Complete a criminal background check using the fingerprint cards provided by the SD Board of Nursing.
5. Request primary source verification of original state of licensure from [www.nursys.com](http://www.nursys.com).
6. Have your current or previous employer complete the Employment Verification Form verifying the number of hours worked in the nursing profession:
  - At least 140 hours in any 12 month timeframe within the preceding six years **OR**,
  - An accumulated total of at least 480 hours within the preceding six years.

#### Multi-state Licensure Requirements

In addition to the above, the applicant must:

1. Hold a valid US Social Security Number.
2. Provide verification of equivalent nursing education and passing an English Language Proficiency exam by Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) or a credential evaluation service approved by another Board of Nursing. The verification must come directly from the credential evaluation service or from the Board of Nursing where previously licensed.

#### Associated Statutes and Rules:

- Pursuant to §§ SDCL 36-9-29 to 32, inclusive, and §§ SDCL 36-9-37 to 36-9-38.1, inclusive, the SDBON has the authority to examine and license duly qualified applicants.
- Pursuant to SDCL 36-9-97, ARSD 20:48:03:01, ARSD 20:48:03:07, ARSD 20:48:03:08, each applicant for initial licensure is required to submit a full set of fingerprints with a completed application for the purpose of obtaining a state and federal criminal background check.