Internationally Educated Nursing Applicants Licensure Requirements

Applicants who completed their nursing education outside the United States or in certain U.S. territories may be required to submit additional documentation when applying for licensure by examination or endorsement in Georgia.

Requirements vary based on where the applicant completed their nursing education, the type of application submitted, and whether the applicant is seeking a single-state license or an Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) multistate license.

Which Application Should You Submit?

Examination – International: Select this application if you graduated from a nursing program outside the United States and have never held a nursing license in the United States.

Endorsement: Select this application if you currently hold a nursing license in another U.S. jurisdiction and are applying for licensure in Georgia.

Please review the requirements below to determine which documentation must be submitted with your application.

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1. Credentials Evaluation Service (CES) Report

A Credentials Evaluation Service (CES) Report issued by TruMerit (formerly CGFNS) is required for internationally educated nursing applicants under the following circumstances:

Licensure by Examination: A CES Report is required.

Licensure by Endorsement: A CES Report is required if either of the following applies:

- The applicant cannot provide documentation verifying at least 500 hours of licensed nursing practice in another U.S. jurisdiction.
- The applicant is applying for an eNLC multistate license, regardless of nursing practice hours.

Important: TruMerit Certification Program certificates and TruMerit International Commission on Healthcare Professions (ICHP) VisaScreen certificates are not accepted as substitutes for a CES Report.

Applicants Educated in U.S. Territories

Puerto Rico Graduates

- **Licensure by Examination:** A CES Report is required.
- **Licensure by Endorsement:** A CES Report is required if the applicant cannot provide documentation verifying at least 500 hours of licensed nursing practice in another U.S. jurisdiction or is applying for an eNLC multistate license.

Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Other U.S. Territories

- **Licensure by Examination:** A CES Report is not required.
- **Licensure by Endorsement:** A CES Report is not required.

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2. English Language Proficiency

Applicants may be required to demonstrate English language proficiency based on their native language, the language of instruction in their nursing education program, and the type of license requested.

Licensure by Examination: An English language proficiency test is required if English is not the applicant's native language or the nursing education program was not taught in English, unless the Board determines that a substantial portion of the applicant's nursing education program was conducted in English.

Licensure by Endorsement – Single-State License: An English language proficiency test is not required.

Licensure by Endorsement – eNLC Multistate License: An English language proficiency test is required if English is not the applicant's native language or the nursing education program was not taught in English.

Applicants Educated in U.S. Territories

Puerto Rico Graduates: The same English language proficiency requirements apply as described above for examination and endorsement applicants.

Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Other U.S. Territories: An English language proficiency test is not required.

Important: The Board only accepts the **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)**. Under Board rules, TOEFL is required when English is not the applicant's native language, unless the Board determines that a substantial portion of the applicant's nursing education was conducted in English. Applicants must meet the minimum passing score established by the Board.

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3. Verification of Current Nursing Licensure

Applicants are required to provide verification of nursing licensure based on their application type and the jurisdiction where their nursing license was issued.

Licensure by Examination: Applicants must provide verification of current nursing licensure issued by another country.

Licensure by Endorsement: Applicants must provide verification of an active nursing license issued by another U.S. state or jurisdiction.

Applicants Educated in U.S. Territories

Puerto Rico Graduates:

- **Licensure by Examination:** Verification of current nursing licensure is required.

- **Licensure by Endorsement:** Verification of current nursing licensure is required.

Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Other U.S. Territories:

- **Licensure by Endorsement:** Verification of an active nursing license issued by another U.S. state or jurisdiction is required.

4. How to Submit Verification of Licensure

Verification may be obtained through the following sources, depending on the jurisdiction where the nursing license was issued:

- **TruMerit CES Report**: May be used to verify nursing licensure issued by another country.
- **Nursys:** May be used to verify nursing licensure issued by a participating U.S. state or jurisdiction.

Applicants licensed in jurisdictions that do not participate in Nursys must arrange for official verification to be submitted by the appropriate licensing authority.