



Georgia Board of Nursing

Frequently Asked Continuing Competency Questions

Information for Registered Nurses

Option One

Completion of thirty (30) continuing education hours by a Board approved provider [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(1)].

- *How do I know if the courses I want to take are accepted by the Board?* The Board does not approve individual continuing education providers. Please visit the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/nursing for a list of acceptable providers.

- *My agency is offering a class in the near future. How can we ensure that the hours are accepted by the Board?* The Board does not approve individual continuing education providers. Please visit the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/nursing for a list of acceptable providers. Contact any of the accepted providers to determine how to have your hours approved by one of those agencies.

- *Do I have to take courses in specific subjects?* Currently, the Board does not mandate minimum hours in specific areas of study.

- *How do I submit my documentation to the Board?* All continuing education information will be submitted to CE Broker. Visit www.cebroke.com to create your free account and begin uploading your documentation.

Option Two

Maintenance of certification or recertification by a national certifying body recognized by the Board in Rule 410-11-12 [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(2)].

- *If I have been certified, recertified or maintained my certification during the biennial renewal period am I required to complete any other form of continuing education?* If your certification is issued by one of the certifying bodies listed in Board Rule 410-11-.12 and you were certified, recertified or simply maintained your certification during the biennial renewal period then you may use your certification to satisfy the continuing education requirements.

- *Rule 410-11-.12 refers to advanced practice registered nurses and I'm not an APRN. What do I do?* If your certification (RN or APRN) is issued by one of the certifying bodies listed in Board Rule 410-11-.12 and you were certified, recertified or simply maintained your certification during the biennial renewal period then you may use your certification to satisfy the continuing education requirements.

- *How do I submit my documentation to the Board?* All continuing education information will be submitted to CE Broker. Visit www.cebroker.com to create your free account and begin uploading your documentation.

Option Three

Completion of an accredited academic program of study in nursing or a related field as recognized by the Board [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(3)].

- *I am currently enrolled in a post licensure nursing education program (RN-BSN, MSN, DNP, etc.). Will I be required to complete additional continuing education activities?* As long as you completed a course of at least two credit hours during the biennial renewal period you may use the coursework to satisfy the continuing education requirements.

- *I am enrolled in an education program but it is not a nursing program. Will completion of non-nursing courses be acceptable to the Board?* Acceptable areas of study include respiratory therapy, informatics, health care administration, and business administration.

- *How do I submit my documentation to the Board?* All continuing education information will be submitted to CE Broker. Visit www.cebroker.com to create your free account and begin uploading your documentation.

Option Four

Verification of competency by a health care facility or entity licensed under O.C.G.A. § 31-7 or by a physician's office that is part of a health system and at least five hundred (500) hours practiced as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the Board [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(4)].

- *How do I know if my health care facility is licensed under O.C.G.A. § 31-7?* Please contact your facility administration to determine if your facility is licensed under O.C.G.A. § 31-7. You may also find it helpful to use this link (<http://dch.georgia.gov/gamap2care%C2%AE-find-facility>) to visit the website for the Georgia Department of Community Health. At that site, use the "Find a Facility" search tool to search for licensed health care related facilities licensed by that agency.

- *I work for a physician's office. Can I use Option Four?* If the physician's office is part of a health system (i.e., Piedmont Healthcare, Navicent Health, Emory Healthcare) and the nurse practiced at least five hundred (500) hours as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the Board then you may use Option Four.

- *I work for the Georgia Department of Public Health. Can I use Option Four?* At its May 13-15, 2015 meeting, the Board approved the use of Option Four by nurses employed by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

- *I am employed by a health care facility located outside of Georgia. Can I use Option Four?* Please contact your facility administration to determine if your facility is licensed in Georgia under O.C.G.A. § 31-7. You may also find it helpful to use this link (<http://dch.georgia.gov/gamap2care%C2%AE-find-facility>) to visit the website for the Georgia Department of Community Health. At that site, use the "Find a Facility" search tool to search for licensed health care related facilities licensed by that agency.

- *I am employed by a health care facility licensed under O.C.G.A. § 31-7 and my position requires licensure as a registered nurse but I am not currently practicing "bedside nursing." Can I use Option Four?* If your employer is a health care facility licensed under O.C.G.A. § 31-7 and the nurse practiced at least five hundred (500) hours as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the Board then you may use Option Four.

- *Who can sign the Continuing Competence – Evidence of Active Nursing Practice Form?* Currently, there is no law, rule or policy which specifically addresses who can complete the form. Each facility must identify the appropriate nursing leadership to complete the form.

- *What happens if I work for a health care facility as described in Option Four but my employer won't complete the Verification of Competency Form?* Contact your employer now to determine whether or not the administration will complete the Verification of Competency Form on your behalf. If your employer will not complete the form you will need to select another option to satisfy the continuing competency requirements.

- *How do I submit my documentation to the Board?* All continuing education information will be submitted to CE Broker. Visit www.cebroker.com to create your free account and begin uploading your documentation.

Option Five

Completion of a Board approved reentry program or graduation from a nursing education program [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(5)].

- *How is this different from Option Two?* Option Two requires that a nurse complete a single, two academic credit hour course during the biennial renewal period. Option Five makes provision for individuals who have completed a Board approved reentry program or have graduated from a nursing education program during the biennial renewal period.

- *How do I submit my documentation to the Board?* All continuing education information will be submitted to CE Broker. Visit www.cebroker.com to create your free account and begin uploading your documentation.

Information for Licensed Practical Nurses

Option One

Completion of twenty (20) continuing education hours by a Board approved provider [O.C.G.A. §43-26-39(b.1)(1)].

- *How do I know if the courses I want to take are accepted by the Board?* The Board does not approve individual continuing education providers. Please visit the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/nursing for a list of acceptable providers.

- *My agency is offering a class in the near future. How can we ensure that the hours are accepted by the Board?* The Board does not approve individual continuing education providers. Please visit the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/nursing for a list of acceptable providers. Contact any of the accepted providers to determine how to have your hours approved by one of those agencies.

- *Do I have to take courses in specific subjects?* Currently, the Board does not mandate minimum hours in specific areas of study.

- *How do I submit my documentation to the Board?* All continuing education information will be submitted to CE Broker. Visit www.cebroker.com to create your free account and begin uploading your documentation.

Option Two

Completion of an accredited academic program of study in registered professional nursing, as recognized by the board. [O.C.G.A. §43-26-39(b.1)(2)].

- *What registered nursing programs are approved by the Board?* A complete list of Board approved, Georgia based nursing education programs is available on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/nursing under "Education and Exam."

- *How do I submit my documentation to the Board?* All continuing education information will be submitted to CE Broker. Visit www.cebroker.com to create your free account and begin uploading your documentation.