



Alabama Board of Nursing  
Rules and Regulations on Distance Education

1. Does this regulation apply to faculty members who are teaching Alabama students from a different state? (a) For example, many online nursing classes have students from several states and are taught via a video conferencing platform. If one of those, say 10, students is living in Alabama, would the faculty member have to get a Alabama nursing license because of that one student?

Yes, Alabama Board of Nursing Administrative Code 610-X3-.03 section on Distance Education requires distance education faculty maintain the same minimum qualification for faculty in traditional ground programs, including licensure in Alabama.

See the referenced chapter and section as interpreted and applied:

(5) Faculty located outside of the state who are employed by the governing institution for delivery of instruction by distance education methods, online instruction or satellite instruction for an Alabama nursing program shall meet the minimum qualification for faculty as set forth in this chapter including licensure in Alabama.

In addition, Alabama Board of Nursing Administrative Code 610-X3-.02 section on Standards of Approval states:

(7) The governing institution and nursing program administrator shall provide sufficient numbers of qualified faculty to assure that curriculum implementation and expected program outcomes are achieved. Minimum qualifications of nurse faculty shall include:

- (a) An active unencumbered Alabama registered nurse license.
- (b) At least one graduate degree in nursing or health-related field,
- (c) Be academically and experientially qualified to teach in the area assigned.

2. Level of licensure: If the faculty member does have to get licensed, what level of licensure is required for an online MSN program that has a Alabama resident enrolled?

There is no level of licensure in the state of Alabama. However, as Alabama Board of Nursing rules and regulations have been clarified and interpreted, faculty that teach in a

distance education context are required to have the same minimum qualifications as faculty in traditional ground education programs.

3. Do these requirements apply to online MSN programs or just RN programs? For example, some states have these types of regulations for RN programs and not MSN programs.

Alabama Board of Nursing does not regulate graduate nursing education programs. Rules and regulations, of the Administrative Code 610-X-3-.05 section on Outcome Standards apply to entry level nursing programs. The rule and regulation as interpreted is:

(1) Graduates shall demonstrate theoretical and clinical competence for entry into practice.

However, if a faculty member from another state is supervising an APRN or RN, (1) our license statute provides an exemption for 30 calendar days when the out-of-state RN is providing educational or consultative services. The faculty member making the site visit would qualify for this exemption. Code of Alabama, Nurse Practice Act, § 34-21-6. Exemptions.