

ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING
www.abn.alabama.gov



ALL OUT OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OFFERING NURSING PROGRAMS IN ALABAMA

Nursing Programs offered by those out-of-state institutions that are not part of State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) are required to comply with Alabama law. Those that fail to register with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) and the Division of Licensure of the Alabama Community College System are not authorized to offer nursing programs or send students to Alabama for clinical activities. Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) requirements are listed below:

SARA Institutions Are Not Required To Register With ACHE, But Must Meet The ABN Requirements.

Nursing: Pre-licensure

Any program offering a pre-licensure track (LPN, RN) in Alabama shall meet all requirements of Alabama law for pre-licensure programs as specified in Code of Alabama (1975) § 34-21-21, § 34-21-22, § 34-21-5 and ABN Administrative Code sections 610-X-3-.02, 610-X-3-.03, 610-X-3-.04, 610-X-3-.05, 610-X-3-.07. Attending programs that have met requirements as specified in Code of Alabama (1975) and ABN Administrative Code sections allows eligibility to sit for the national licensure examination required by Alabama Board of Nursing to enter practice as a licensed practical or registered nurse upon successful passage of the NCLEX®.

Nursing: Post-licensure

Any program offering advanced practice nursing degrees (CRNP, CRNA, CNS, CNM) to Alabama residents shall meet all requirements of Alabama law for advanced practice programs.

Nursing: Distance Education

Distance education programs offering advanced practice degrees, certifications, courses, preceptorial or clinical experiences must adhere to Code of Alabama (1975) and ABN Administrative Code sections 610-X-3-.03, 610-X-3-.04 as interpreted:

610-X-3-.03 - Distance Education

DISTANCE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS- INCLUSIVE OF SARA INSTITUTIONS

- (1) Delivery of instruction by distance education methods shall enable students to meet the goals, competencies, and objectives of the educational program and the standards of the Board, including supervised clinical learning experiences.
- (2) A distance-learning program shall establish a means for assessing individual student and program outcomes.
- (3) A distance-learning program offering courses in Alabama shall have accreditation by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- (4) Comply with all standards of this Chapter, including those related to clinical supervision of student learning experiences. The Board may request periodic reports for the purpose of data collection or to determine compliance with the provisions of this chapter.
- (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**

Advanced practice applicants for approval in Alabama are required to meet Alabama requirements for national certification, graduation from a specific program type for advanced practice approval, and completion of the appropriate application. State approval of a program to offer Alabama licensed nurses' opportunities for advanced degrees does not indicate eligibility for approval as an advanced practice nurse in Alabama. www.abn.alabama.gov

PERTINENT QUESTIONS ADDRESSED

1. Does the Alabama State Board of Nursing regulate post-licensure nursing education programs?

Alabama Board of Nursing(ABN) does not regulate graduate nursing education programs. Rules and regulations of the ABN 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.

2. Does the Alabama State Board of Nursing regulate post-licensure nursing education programs leading to a new licensure or certification?

While the ABN does not regulate post-licensure nursing education programs leading to a new licensure or certification, the referenced section of the ABN Administrative Code 610-X-3-.04 Out of State Programs Conducting Clinical in Alabama and Out Of State Institutions Offering Nursing Programs In Alabama **provides stipulations, rules, regulations and**

requirements of out of state institutions offering nursing programs and clinical learning experiences in Alabama. Nursing Programs offered by out-of-state institutions are required to comply with Alabama law.

OUT OF STATE PROGRAMS CONDUCTING CLINICAL IN ALABAMA INCLUSIVE OF SARA INSTITUTIONS

ABN Administrative Code, 610-X-3-.04 Out of State Programs Conducting Clinical in Alabama

- (1) A nursing education program based outside the state of Alabama that plans to provide students with clinical learning experiences in Alabama shall submit to the Board a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of the expected clinical learning experience:
- (a) A letter of intent identifying the governing institution, the type of nursing education program, and the status of approval from accrediting bodies and state of origin. The letter shall include:
- (i) Name of student, including license number if the student is licensed in Alabama.
 - (ii) Name and license number of the clinical supervisor. Clinical supervision shall meet the qualification set forth in this chapter
 - (iii) Name and location of the clinical facility and statement from Director of Nursing/Chief Nursing Officer of clinical facility regarding the availability of clinical learning experiences for in-state and out of state nursing students.
 - (iv) Learning outcomes expected of the student.
 - (v) Name and license number of the nursing faculty responsible for the evaluation and oversight of the student's clinical learning experience.
- (2) The governing institution offering the nursing program shall be a postsecondary educational institution that is accredited by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- (3) The nursing education program shall have full approval in the state of origin.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-21-5

History: Filed September 25, 2006. Effective October 31, 2006. **Amended:** Filed September 21, 2007.

Effective October 26, 2007. **Amended:** Filed November 19, 2010. Effective December 24, 2010

3. Does the Alabama State Board of Nursing regulate post-licensure nursing education programs requiring clinical hours with direct patient care?

Primarily, the answer to the question posed is embedded in the response to question (1). The referenced section from ABN Administrative Code 610-X-3-.02 Standards for Approval addresses requirements for entry level programs. A section of this specific rule and regulation has been lifted for perusal:

- (10) The curriculum of a nursing education program shall:
- (a) Enable the student to develop the nursing knowledge, skills and abilities

required for entry-level practice, consistent with the scope and standards of nursing practice.

(b) Comply with the standards set forth in this chapter. (c) Be evidence based, and outcome focused.

(c) Provide theoretical and clinical experiences specific to the expected scope of practice of graduates from each type of entry level nursing education program and shall include:

(i) Content for students to attain knowledge and competence in providing a safe and effective care environment based on the practice analysis of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the Board of Nursing standardized procedure annual report as well as the results of the systematic plan of evaluation.

(ii) Prevention of illness.

(iii) Maintenance, promotion, and restoration of health.

(iv) Psychological integrity of individuals across the life span.

(v) Clinical reasoning skills to assist in recognizing, analyzing, and applying relevant knowledge and skills to nursing care.

(vi) Clinical learning experiences to provide opportunities for students to develop cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills in the provision of nursing care.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-21-2(2)

History: September 27, 1982. Amended May 6, 1985. Amended May 23, 1997.

Repealed and Replaced: Filed July 22, 2002. Effective August 26, 2002.

Amended effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed September 25, 2006.

Effective October 31, 2006. **Amended:** Filed March 12, 2007. Effective April 16, 2007. **Amended:** Filed September 21, 2007. Effective October 26, 2007.

Amended: Filed November 19, 2010. Effective December 24, 2010. **Amended:** Filed March 16, 2012. Effective April 20, 2012. **Amended:** Filed April 21, 2015.

Effective May 28, 2015.

610-X-3-.01 Definitions

(1) **Approved Program:** A nursing education program that meets all of the standards as specified in these rules.

(3) **Clinical and theoretical competence:** The possession of knowledge, attitudes and skills, and the ability to apply these attributes to meet current standards of nursing practice and education as specified in Chapter 610-X-6, Standards of Nursing Practice, Chapter 610-X-3, Nursing Education Programs, and Chapter 610-X-4, Licensure.

(4) **Clinical Learning Experiences:** Organized plan of learning experiences that provides nursing students an opportunity to develop competencies in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of nursing care appropriate to the scope of practice for the level and type of program.

(5) **Clinical Supervisor:** A licensed registered nurse, acting in a supervisory capacity of clinical learning experiences, who is accessible to assign or prescribe a course of action, give procedural guidance, direction and evaluation for a

nursing student(s).

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-21-2(2)

History: September 27, 1982. Amended May 6, 1985. Amended May 23, 1997. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed July 22, 2002. Effective August 26, 2002. Amended effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed September 25, 2006. Effective October 31, 2006. **Amended:** Filed September 21, 2007. Effective October 26, 2007. **Amended:** Filed November 19, 2010. Effective December 24, 2010.

4. Will the Alabama State Board of Nursing recognize the two tracks that lead to NP certification should our students seek licensure in your state?

The ABN Administrative Code for Practice as a Certified Nurse Practitioner in section 610-X-5-.02 Qualifications for Approval to Practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner and ARTICLE 2 LICENSES of the Nurse Practice Act § 34-21-21 License to practice professional nursing, use of title "registered nurse." provides guidance in this area for students seeking licensure in the state of Alabama:

**Alabama Board of Nursing Administrative Code
610-X-5-.02 Qualifications for Approval to Practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner**

- (1) The applicant for approval to practice as a certified registered nurse practitioner shall have:
- (a) An active Alabama registered nurse license. Initial applicants shall have an unencumbered active Alabama registered nurse license unless authorized by the Board.
 - (b) Met all requirements for completion of or graduation from an organized program of study and clinical experience beyond the basic educational preparation as a registered nurse that prepares nurse practitioners and is recognized by the Board of Nursing and the appropriate specialty-certifying agency.
 - (c) At least a master's or higher degree in advanced practice nursing from an accredited program recognized by the Board.
 - (d) Current certification as a certified registered nurse practitioner granted by a national certifying agency recognized by the Board of Nursing in the clinical specialty consistent with educational preparation and appropriate to the area of practice
- (2) The applicant for initial approval as a certified registered nurse practitioner who meets one of the following criteria is exempt from the requirement for a master's degree in nursing:
- (a) Graduation prior to 1996 from a Board-recognized post-baccalaureate program preparing nurse practitioners.
 - (b) Graduation prior to 1984 from a non-baccalaureate program preparing nurse practitioners.
- (3) The Board of Nursing may grant a waiver of the master's degree requirement at its discretion.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-84.

History: Effective June 26, 1995. **Amended:** Filed August 25, 2003. Effective September 29, 2003.

§ 34-21-21 License to practice professional nursing; use of title "registered nurse."

(a) An applicant for a license to practice professional nursing as a registered nurse shall submit to the board written evidence of qualification, verified by oath, that such applicant is of good moral character, holds a diploma from an accredited high school or, in the opinion of the board, the equivalent thereof, has successfully completed an educational program in a school of nursing approved by the board, and is a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government.

(b) A license to practice professional nursing as a registered nurse may be obtained in the following manners:

(1) BY EXAMINATION. The applicant shall be required to pass an examination on such subjects as the board may determine; and, upon successfully passing such examination, the board shall issue such applicant a license.

(2) BY ENDORSEMENT. The board may issue a license to practice professional nursing as a registered nurse to an applicant who has been duly licensed as a registered nurse under the laws of another state, territory, or foreign country, if, in the opinion of the board, such applicant meets the qualifications required of registered nurses in this state at the time of his or her graduation. There shall be no license to practice professional nursing granted by the previously known waiver method.

(3) BY TEMPORARY PERMIT. The board may issue temporary permits to practice professional nursing to graduates of approved schools of nursing pending completion of licensing procedures; to qualified applicants pending licensure procedures under subdivision (2); and to those nurses licensed by other states who will practice in this state for a period of one year or less, subject to the discretion of the board.

(c) Any person who holds a license to practice professional nursing as a registered nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title "registered nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall assume or use such title or abbreviation or other words, letters, signs, or devices to indicate that the person using same is licensed to practice professional nursing as a registered nurse.

(d) Any person holding a license or certificate of original registration to practice nursing as a registered nurse, issued by the Alabama Board of Nurses' Examiners and Registration and which was valid on December 31, 1965, shall be eligible for licensing to practice professional nursing as a registered nurse under the provisions of this chapter.

(Acts 1965, No. 867, p. 1615, §15; Acts 1975, No. 427, p. 1024, §1; Act 2009-15, p. 29, §3.)

610-X-3.01 Definitions

(16) Unencumbered license: an active license that has no current stipulations, conditions, or limitations.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-21-2(2)

History: September 27, 1982. Amended May 6, 1985. Amended May 23, 1997. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed July 22, 2002. Effective August 26, 2002. Amended effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed September 25, 2006. Effective October 31, 2006. **Amended:** Filed September 21, 2007. Effective October 26, 2007. **Amended:** Filed November 19, 2010. Effective December 24, 2010.

