Occupational Licensing Study
50 State Comparison

State Board of Nursing
Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionist
Licensed Practical Nurse
Registered Nurse

Presented by the Pennsylvania Department of State
2020
Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner

A professional nurse who is certified by the State Board of Nursing in a specialty and who, while functioning in the expanded role as a professional nurse, performs acts of medical diagnosis or prescription of medical therapeutic or corrective measures in collaboration with a licensed physician.

Clinical Nurse Specialist

An individual licensed to practice professional nursing who meets the educational and examination or equivalency requirements and is certified by the State Board of Nursing as a clinical nurse specialist.

Dietitian – Nutritionist

An individual licensed to practice dietetics-nutrition.

The practice involves the integration and application of principles derived from the sciences of food nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, management and behavior to provide for all aspects of nutrition therapy for individuals and groups, including nutrition therapy services and medical nutrition therapy.
Licensed Practical Nurse

A nurse licensed to practice by the State Board of Nursing.

Practical nursing is the performance of selected nursing acts in the care of the ill, injured or infirm under the direction of a licensed professional nurse, a licensed physician or a licensed dentist which do not require the specialized skill, judgment and knowledge required in professional nursing.

Registered Nurse

An individual who has graduated from a state-approved school of nursing, passed the NCLEX-RN Examination and is licensed by the State Board of Nursing to provide patient care.
Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner

Degree Requirement

Examination Requirement

2020
Collaborative Practice Agreement for CRNPs

State has Collaborative Practice Agreement requirement for CRNPs:
- Yes
- No

*A collaborative practice agreement is a written statement that defines the joint practice of a physician and an advanced practice nurse/CRNP in a collaborative and complementary working relationship.

Continuing Education Requirement

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

**CE Reporting Cycles**
- 38 States: 2 years
- 2 States: 1 year
- 3 States: 3 years
- 0 CE hours
- 2 CE hours/2 yrs
- 10 - 29 CE hours/2 yrs
- 30 - 49 CE hours/2 yrs
- 50 - 75 CE hours/2 yrs
- 100 CE hours/2 yrs

*MO, ND, NY, SD & VT do not have CE requirement
Initial Licensing Fee

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and finger printing fees.

Renewal Fees

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

**For the CRNP renewal fee comparison, fees included the adjusted biennial renewal fee as well as the fee for prescriptive authority for CRNP in each state.
**Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner**

### States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

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- Not specified in Legislation:
Clinical Nurse Specialist

Degree Requirement

Degrees:
- Masters

Examination Requirement

**Pennsylvania also offers an alternative education path for CNS: An applicant for initial certification who completed an educational program in a related discipline previously recognized for National certification as a CNS may be granted certification from the Board in the area of the applicant's current National certification from the American Nurses Association or the American Nurses Credentialing Center.**
**Clinical Nurse Specialist**

**CNS Prescriptive Authority**

- **Independent Authority**
- **Supervision Required (By D.O. or M.D.)**
- **No Prescribing Authority**

*CNS Prescriptive Authority*:

- Prescriptive authority allows a CNS to provide pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic treatments and order diagnostic and laboratory tests in addressing and managing specialty health problems of patients and populations.

**Continuing Education Requirement**

- **PA U.S. avg.**
- **MEDIAN: 30 hours**
- **30 Hours**
- **36.20 Hours**

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.*

**CE Reporting Cycles**

- 1 year: 4 States
- 2 years: 38 States
- 3 years: 4 States
- MO, ND, NY & SD do not have CE requirement
**Clinical Nurse Specialist**

### Initial Licensing Fee

- **PA**
  - Fee Amount: $115.00

- **U.S. Avg.**
  - Fee Amount: $128.43

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.

### Renewal Fees

- **PA**
  - Fee Amount: $56.00

- **U.S. Avg.**
  - Fee Amount: $107.98

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.

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**THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING**

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and finger printing fees.*

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2020  

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pg. 7
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### States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

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**Clinical Nurse Specialist**

**THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING**
Dietitian–Nutritionist

Degree Requirement

Examination Requirement
**Dietitian–Nutritionist**

### Training / Experience Requirement

- **States that do not license this profession**
- **800 Training Hours**
- **1000 Training Hours**
- **900 Training Hours**
- **1200 Training Hours**

### Continuing Education Requirement

- **States that do not license this profession**
- **0 CE Hours**
- **4 CE hours/2 yrs**
- **10 - 20 CE hours/2 yrs**
- **24 CE hours/2 yrs**
- **30 CE hours/2 yrs**

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.*

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**CE Reporting Cycles**

- **1 year**
- **2 years**
- **5 years**

TN & UT do not have CE requirement. 3 states do not license this profession.
The State Board of Nursing

Dietitian-Nutritionist

Initial Licensing Fee

- PA: $95.00
- U.S. Avg.: $144.69
- HIGHEST: $300.00 (Maryland)
- MEDIAN: $120.00
- LOWEST: $20.00 (Indiana)

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and fingerprint fees.

Renewal Fees

- PA: $71.00
- U.S. Avg.: $125.25
- HIGHEST: $300.00 (Maine)
- MEDIAN: $116.50
- LOWEST: $20.00 (Indiana)

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.

Renewal Cycles:
- 28 States: Biennial
- 17 States: Annual
- 2 States: Triennial
- 3 States: Do not license this profession

2020
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Licensed Practical Nurse

Degree Requirement

Degrees:
- Orange: Graduate of an approved school of practical nursing

Examination Requirement

States with 1 required examination
- Blue

States with 2 required examinations
- Yellow
Licensed Practical Nurse

Good Moral Character Requirement

- **Yes**
- **No**

State has Good Moral Character Requirement for Licensure:

State has Good Moral Character Requirement for Licensure:

Continuing Education Requirement

- 0 CE Hours
- < 10 CE Hours/2 yrs
- 11 - 20 CE Hours/2 yrs
- 21 - 29 CE Hours/2 yrs
- 30 CE Hours/2 yrs

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.*

CE Reporting Cycles

- 1 year
- 2 years
- 3 years

10 states do not have CE requirement for LDNs
Licensed Practical Nurse

Initial Licensing Fee

- **PA**: $95.00
- **U.S. Avg.**: $129.53
- **LOWEST**: $40.00 (Georgia)
- **HIGHEST**: $375.00 (Alaska)
- **MEDIAN**: $100.00

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.

Renewal Fees

- **PA**: $76.00
- **U.S. Avg.**: $99.16
- **LOWEST**: $24.00 (New York)
- **HIGHEST**: $225.00 (California)
- **MEDIAN**: $90.00

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.

Renewal Cycles

- 42 States: Biennial
- 5 States: Annual
- 3 States: Triennial
**Licensed Practical Nurse**

### States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

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The State Board of Nursing

Registered Nurse

Degree Requirement

Degrees:
- Graduate of Board Approved Registered Nurse Education Program (Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) or a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or a diploma nursing program)

Examination Requirement

- States with 1 required examination
- States with 2 required examinations
The state of Nurse Licensure Compact Membership is shown on the map below.

The map shows the states that are members of the Nurse Licensure Compact (green) and those that are not (red). The states are color-coded based on the number of Continuing Education (CE) hours required per two years:
- 0 CE hours
- < 10 CE hours/2 yrs
- 11 - 20 CE hours/2 yrs
- 21 - 29 CE hours/2 yrs
- 30 CE hours/2 yrs

Some states do not have a CE requirement at all.*

The MEDIAN number of CE hours required is 24 hours. The U.S. average is 22.93 hours. Ten states require 30 hours.

To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

*8 states do not have a CE requirement.
Registered Nurse

Initial Licensing Fee

- HIGHEST: $375.00 Alaska
- MEDIAN: $100.00
- LOWEST: $40.00 Georgia

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.

Renewal Fees

- HIGHEST: $240.00 Washington
- MEDIAN: $100.00
- LOWEST: $36.00 Hawaii

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.
**States with Reciprocity or Endorsement**

**Reciprocity**  
- District of Columbia  
- Massachusetts

**Endorsement**  
- Alabama, New Hampshire  
- Alaska, New Jersey  
- Arizona, New Mexico  
- Arkansas, New York  
- California, North Carolina  
- Colorado, North Dakota  
- Florida, Ohio  
- Georgia, Oklahoma  
- Hawaii, Oregon  
- Illinois, Pennsylvania**  
- Indiana, Rhode Island  
- Iowa, South Carolina  
- Kansas, South Dakota  
- Kentucky, Tennessee  
- Louisiana, Texas  
- Maine, Utah  
- Maryland, Vermont  
- Michigan, Virginia  
- Minnesota, Washington  
- Mississippi, West Virginia  
- Missouri, Wisconsin  
- Nebraska, Wyoming

**Limited / Compact**  
- Connecticut  
- Delaware  
- Idaho  
- Montana

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Observation Section

States that license Medical Assistants / Aides

- States that license Medical Assistants / Aides
- States that register Medical Assistants under its state’s Nursing Board
- States that certify Medical Assistants under its state’s Nursing Board
- States that do not license Medical Assistants

States that license Lactation Consultants

- States that license Lactation Consultants under its state’s Nursing Board
- States that do not license Lactation Consultants
- States that register Lactation Consultants under its state’s Nursing Board
- States that certify Lactation Consultants under its state’s Nursing Board
Sources: State Licensing Boards

Alabama
https://www.abn.alabama.gov/

Alaska
https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofNursing.aspx

Arizona
https://www.azbn.gov/laws-rules/statutes/

Arkansas

California
http://rn.ca.gov/applicants/index.shtml

Colorado
https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Nursing_Laws

Connecticut

Delaware
http://delcode.delaware.gov/title24/c019/

District of Columbia
https://idc.health.dc.gov/node/149382

Florida
http://floridasnursing.gov/licensing/licensed-practical-nurse-registered-nurse-by-examination/

Georgia

Hawaii

Idaho
https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title54/Ch14/

Illinois
http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/068/06801300sections.html

Indiana
http://www.in.gov/pla/2493.htm

Iowa

Kansas
https://ksbn.kansas.gov/

Kentucky
http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/TITLE201.htm#chap020

Louisiana

Maine
http://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/

Maryland
http://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota
https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=6301.2340

Mississippi
https://www.msbn.ms.gov/licensure/applications-and-forms

Missouri
https://pr.mo.gov/nursing-licensure-rn.asp

Montana

Nebraska
http://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Nurse-Licensing.aspx

Nevada
https://www.nrs.gov/NRS/NRS-632.html#NRS632Sec440

New Hampshire
http://www.nh.gov/health/nursing-professional-boards/nursing-board/laws-and-regulations

New Jersey

New Mexico
http://nmstat.nmsu.edu/Chapters/55_and_64/Chapter55/Section19.htm

New York
http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/nurse/part52-12.htm

North Carolina

North Dakota

Ohio
http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4723-7

Oklahoma
http://nursing.ok.gov/act4.html

Oregon

Pennsylvania
https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Nursing/Pages/Board-Laws-and-Regulations.aspx

Rhode Island
http://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=231#eleven

South Carolina
https://llr.sc.gov/nurse/

South Dakota

Tennessee
https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/nursing-board/nursing-board/statutes-and-rules.html

Texas

Utah
https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title58/Chapter31B/C58-31b_1800010118000101.pdf

Vermont
https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-of-professions/nursing.aspx

Virginia
https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Nursing/

Washington
http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/NursingCommission/NurseLicensing/RegisteredNurse/LicenseRequirements

West Virginia
http://www.legis.wv.us/WVCODE/code.cfm?chap=30&art=7#1

Wisconsin
https://dsps.wi.gov/pages/Professions/RN/Default.aspx

Wyoming
https://wsbn.wyo.gov/