

FAQs For Foreign Nurse License Candidates

Frequently Asked Questions

1. With whom should I speak for help to begin the process?

Contact the Iowa Board of Nursing at 515-281-5535 or visit the board's Website at nursing.iowa.gov.

2. What is the licensing process in Iowa?

- a. Individuals who were educated and registered/licensed as nurses in a foreign country must have their credentials evaluated by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) prior to application for the NCLEX.
- b. Application materials for CGFNS may be obtained from CGFNS, 3600 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651 (USA).

CGFNS may also be contacted via their website at <http://www.cgfns.org/> or by telephone at 215/349-8767.

Customer Service

Telephone: 215/349-8767

(Between 8 – 12 Eastern Time US)

CGFNS does not accept collect telephone calls.

- c. Applicant (RN or LPN) must apply for the complete full education course by course report through the CGFNS credentials evaluation service (Professional Report).
- d. Applicants educated in a non-English speaking country will be required to take a test of the English language proficiency through the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).
- e. The nurse completes the Iowa application for license as by examination packet and the NCLEX examination application.
- f. The NCLEX examination can be taken in any state for an Iowa license.

3. Does my license to practice nursing in my country have to be current?

The license must be valid (current) and unencumbered. This will be verified during the CGFNS review.

4. Do I need to have a social security number?

No. If the applicant does not have a social security number the documentation that allows them access to the U.S. must be submitted with the application.

5. At what point do I need to have a social security number?

A social security number is not required to apply for a license in Iowa. The applicant will be asked to submit documentation of what authority allows them access to the U.S.

6. How do I obtain a nursing license in the United States (test, cost)?

Cost to obtain a license in the United States:

CGFNS (Professional Report)	\$335
NCLEX examination application	\$200
Iowa Board of Nursing Application	\$ 93
English language proficiency report	\$ 85

The NCLEX application form is provided online at www.vue.com/nclex.

7. Do I need to take the CGFNS in the United States?

No.

8. Do I need to take NCLEX to be licensed to practice nursing in Iowa?

Yes. The NCLEX is the licensing examination.

9. Are any of these exams offered in other languages?

No. A test of English language is required as part of the CGFNS process.

10. Are there resources available to help me learn English in order to write the TOEFL?

Community colleges and high schools provide classes or individual assistance.

11. Is there any program available to help me prepare for the licensing exams?

Contact a school of nursing; some offer classes and others offer individual assistance. All Iowa schools are listed on the Iowa Board of Nursing Website at nursing.iowa.gov.

12. Where can I go if I want to go back to school in nursing?

Contact a school of nursing. All Iowa schools are listed on the Iowa Board of Nursing website at nursing.iowa.gov.

13. With whom should I speak about a work visa?

Immigration and Naturalization Services (800-375-5283). (The Division of Latino Affairs may have more information.)