



FAQ

Nursing Education Questions

Does the Minnesota Board of Nursing regulate/approve nursing education programs that lead to the initial licensure of a practical nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN), or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN)? The Minnesota Board of Nursing approves licensure preparing programs in Minnesota for APRNs, RNs, and LPNs. The approved Minnesota programs can be found on the Board's website under the Education tab:

<https://mn.gov/boards/nursing/education/>.

What is the Next Generation NCLEX exam (NGN)? The NCLEX exam for RN and LPN licensure has been offered since 1982, with computer-adapted testing conversion in 1994. April 1, 2023, a new and improved NCLEX launches. The exam assesses clinical judgment and decision-making through a variety of test item types such as: select all that apply and multiple response grouping. NCSBN offers additional information about the [Next Generation NCLEX \(NGN\)](#).

If I attend an out-of-state or online APRN program, will I be able to license in MN?

APRN graduates are eligible for licensure in MN if they complete a graduate level APRN program that is accredited by a national nursing accrediting body. The program must prepare you for the certification exam in the role and population for which you are seeking. The program must include at least one graduate-level course in each of the following areas: advanced physiology and pathophysiology; advanced health assessment; and pharmacokinetics and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents.

If I attend an online APRN program, what should I know? Always confirm the program is accredited by a national nursing accrediting body. You should also know that most out of state APRN programs require you to obtain your own practicum site and preceptor. This can be a challenging endeavor.

Does the Minnesota Board of Nursing regulate/approve post-licensure nursing education programs that do not lead to obtaining another license (RN to BSN), (BSN to MSN)? No, the Board does not have jurisdiction to approve nursing programs that are non-licensure preparing programs.

Does the Minnesota Board of Nursing approve out-of-state nursing programs? No, The Minnesota Board does not have jurisdiction to approve out-of-state nursing programs.

What is the difference between an approved and an accredited pre-licensure nursing education program? What does accreditation mean?

- Board approval means that the program is in compliance with Minnesota Rules 6301 for offering licensure preparing nursing programs in Minnesota. Once you complete an approved nursing program, you will be eligible to take the licensure exam.
- Accreditation means that the nationally recognized nursing competencies and standards are met in its program. Graduating from an accredited nursing program will be helpful in seeking employment in some settings or if you plan to pursue higher education in nursing.
- All pre-licensure nursing programs in Minnesota must be approved and accredited.

Will completing an approved program allow me to be licensed? If you complete an approved licensure preparing program and pass the NCLEX examination, you are eligible for licensure in Minnesota. Additional requirements include a criminal background check.

Where can I find a list of approved continuing education courses for Minnesota? The Minnesota Board of Nursing does not approve specific continuing education providers or courses. It is considered the nurse's responsibility to determine whether the course enhances their ability to practice nursing and meets the criteria established by the Board. A list of resources for continuing education can be found on the Board's website under the Licensure tab and Continuing Education link: <https://mn.gov/boards/nursing/licensure/continuing-ed/> .

I wish to provide continuing education to nurses, how do I obtain an approval from the Minnesota Board of Nursing? The Minnesota Board of Nursing does not approve specific continuing education providers or courses. Criteria have been established for continuing education activities, approved activities, and other acceptable continuing education activities. In each case, if the criteria are met, the continuing education is considered acceptable. For more information regarding the Board's criteria and continuing education provider information, please visit the website under the Licensure tab and Continuing Education link: <https://mn.gov/boards/nursing/licensure/continuing-ed/>.

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