**BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING**

**Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP)**

**SARP Policy 18-03**

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| **Title** | SARP Eligibility Criteria for Admission |
| **Purpose** | The purpose of this policy is to establish the eligibility criteria for admission into the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP or Program) of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (Board). |
| **Date Adopted/Reviewed** | November 14, 2018 (approved), June 12, 2019 (Revised), July 10, 2019 (Revised), November 13, 2019 (revised) |
| **Eligibility Criteria**    **Application Deadlines** | SARP applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria at the time that they submit their application for first-time participation or re-enrollment following previous successful discharge in the program:  1. The applicant must hold a Massachusetts nursing license that is current and in good standing. The applicant **will not** meet this criterion if his or her Massachusetts license is expired, surrendered, suspended, revoked, or on probation (disciplinary).  2. The applicant must admit to substance use disorder and be either a first-time participant[[1]](#footnote-1) in a program designed for substance abuse rehabilitation for licensed professionals; a former participant who has successfully completed the program; or a participant in full compliance with a comparable program seeking to transfer into SARP[[2]](#footnote-2).  3. The applicant must possess the physical and psychological ability to participate in SARP. The applicant **will not meet** this criterion if he or she has a medical, and or mental health condition, *except as provided for in SARP policy 13-01*, that:  a. prevents the applicant from practicing nursing in a safe and competent manner;  b. necessitates treatment with a medication that is a substance of abuse; or  c. prevents the applicant from complying with SARP requirements.  4. Must be of good moral character pursuant to the Board’s Licensure Policy 00-01 *Determination of Good Moral Character Compliance.[[3]](#footnote-3)* Applicants will be found to be of good moral character if they have a criminal matter(s) at any stage in the criminal justice process, AND:   1. They are a result of the applicant’s admitted substance use disorder; and 2. Are not considered a permanent exclusion crime as defined in Attachment A of Policy 00-01.   All applicants seeking re-enrollment in the program, following previous successful discharge, with any open criminal matters, pending investigations, or pending disciplinary actions must be reviewed by SAREC and the full Board to determine program eligibility.  5. The applicant must be in good standing and be eligible for current licensure before all other professional licensing bodies that have issued a license, registration or certification to him or her, except that the applicant may have an active disciplinary restriction imposed by another professional licensing body if:  a. the basis for the discipline is substance abuse, and  b. the Board has declined to take reciprocal disciplinary action.  The Application for SARP Admission, including admission of a substance use disorder, must be completed and returned to SARP staff within 30 days of receipt by the applicant. The applicant must have all completed required supplemental documentation submitted within 90 days of the receipt of the application by SARP staff. |
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1. Applicants seeking readmission into the SARP program following previous termination for non-compliance must comply with the eligibility requirements set forth in SARP Policy 18-02. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Any applicant seeking to participate in SARP and another jurisdiction’s program concurrently must petition for review by SAREC and or the Board. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Board will review any applications that include criminal matters that do not comply with the Good Moral Character Policy to determine SARP eligibility. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)