

Massachusetts Board of Nursing

Information for Graduates of US Nursing Programs and Eligibility for Licensure in Massachusetts

Does my nursing education meet the standards required to be licensed in Massachusetts?

According to Massachusetts regulation, [244 CMR 8.00](#) Initial Licensure by Examination or Reciprocity requires graduation from an approved nursing education program.

Approved Nursing Education Program means a nursing education program for Registered Nurses or Practical Nurses, as applicable, located in Massachusetts and approved by the Board pursuant to [244 CMR 6.00](#), *or* a nursing education program located outside Massachusetts which, in the opinion of the Board, maintains **standards substantially the same** as those required for approval of a nursing education program in Massachusetts *and* which program is approved by the nursing board or corresponding body in the jurisdiction where the program is located.

Based on the Certificate of Graduation, the following information is evaluated to determine that the standards of the nursing program are substantially the same to those required by regulation in Massachusetts:

- the nursing education program was approved by the legal approving authority during the licensure applicant's enrollment;
- parent institution is accredited;
- the program maintains program accreditation by a Board recognized accrediting agency;
- the curriculum includes theoretical and clinical components for nursing across the lifespan (this includes: Medical/Surgical, Pediatrics, Obstetrical, and Mental Health);
- the program follows the NCSBN Guidelines for Substitution of Clinical Hours with High Fidelity Simulation;
- if program is an online program, the Program must be authorized to operate by distance education; and
- if the graduate completed any of their clinical rotations in Massachusetts, the Program must be authorized to operate in Massachusetts.

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