**The Massachusetts (MA) Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) will no longer print paper licenses beginning with the 2018 renewal period.**

Verification of licensure is available on-line at <https://checkalicense.hhs.state.ma.us/MyLicenseVerification/>

On-line license verification is maintained by the Board, updated in real time, and represents the most accurate licensing information.

Assistance is available at [elicensing.helpdesk@state.ma.us](mailto:elicensing.helpdesk@state.ma.us)

**Primary Source Verification**

Prior to issuing a license, the Board requires primary source verification of specific documents, as described below. After initial licensure by the Board, licensees attest to continued compliance with Board requirements during each renewal period.

**Initial[[1]](#footnote-1) Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Licensure**

The Board determines an individual’s eligibility for initial nurse licensure by exam based upon review of each application submitted.

***Education Verification***

Graduation from a Board approved RN or LPN education program in the United States, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory or Canada is certified by the program’s administrator or the program administrator’s designee. Certification of graduation is received by the Board directly from the educational program. In addition, transcripts must be received directly from the pre-licensure nursing program from which the applicant graduated.

MA requires determination of educational comparability for those educated outside of the United States, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory or Canada. A detailed analysis of the nursing education received by applicants graduating from foreign nursing programs is done by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)[[2]](#footnote-2). All documents must be received by CGFNS directly from the primary source.

Should the foreign education program be taught in a language and/or with textbooks other than English, the analysis confirms required English proficiency in four components (reading, writing, speaking, listening), based on Board-designated passing scores from Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-Based Test (TOEFL® iBT), International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic, Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN), Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic), or Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB). Score reports must be received by the Board directly from the testing service.

***NCLEX® Pass/Fail Status***

National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®) is a nationwide computerized adaptive testing (CAT) examination for the licensing of nurses in the United States since 1994 and Canada since 2015. A passing score on the NCLEX® is required for initial licensure. Exam pass/fail status is delivered directly to the Board from the testing service.

**Reciprocal[[3]](#footnote-3) Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Licensure**

The Board verifies all nursing licensure held by an applicant in another state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory or non-U.S. country. Verifying information is accepted for review only when delivered directly from the agency from which the information was requested.

***Education Verification***

Graduation from a Board approved RN or LPN education program in the United States, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory or Canada is verified by the Board through review of the applicant’s nursing education program transcript, which must be received directly from the program.

MA requires determination of educational comparability for those educated outside of the United States, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory or Canada. A detailed analysis of the nursing education received by applicants graduating from foreign nursing programs is done by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)[[4]](#footnote-4). All documents must be received by CGFNS directly from the primary source.

Should the foreign education program be taught in a language and/or with textbooks other than English, the analysis confirms required English proficiency in four components (reading, writing, speaking, listening), based on Board-designated passing scores from Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-Based Test (TOEFL® iBT), International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic, Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN), Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic), or Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB). Score reports must be received by the Board directly from the testing service.

**Advanced Practice Registered Nurses**

The Board requires primary source verification of education, certification, and out-of-state licensure verification for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) prior to issuing an authorization for the following clinical categories:

* Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP)
* Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
* Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)
* Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist (PCNS)
* Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

***Education Verification***

The Board reviews transcripts that identify the applicant successfully completed an educational program designed to prepare the graduate for practice as an APRN in a specific clinical category (CNM, CNP, CRNA, PCNS, CNS). The education program must be approved by a national accrediting organization for academic programs acceptable to the Board[[5]](#footnote-5) and must include core content in advanced assessment, advanced pathophysiology and advanced pharmacotherapeutics. Transcripts must be received from the educational program directly to the Board.

***Certification***

The Board verifies current certification in the clinical category granted by a [Board recognized certifying organization](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/hcq/dhpl/nursing/nursing-practice/aprn/advanced-practice-registered-nursing-faqs.html). Verification must be received from the certifying organization directly to the Board.

***Out-of-State Licensure***

The Board verifies good standing for all active and inactive nursing licenses granted in MA and any other state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. Territory. Verifying information is accepted for review only when delivered directly from the agency from which the information was requested.

7/14/16

1. Initial Licensure means licensure by exam; applicant not previously licensed as a nurse in another state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory, or Canada. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CGFNS, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, founded in 1977, is an internationally recognized immigration-neutral authority on credentials evaluation and verification pertaining to the education, registration and licensure of nurses and health care professionals across the world. CGFNS provides a detailed analysis of an applicant’s credentials earned at multiple levels of nursing education received outside the United States according to requirements specific to Massachusetts. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Reciprocal Licensure means licensure without examination; applicant is or has previously been licensed as a nurse in another state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory, or Canada under laws which, in the opinion of the Board, maintain standards substantially the same as those required for licensure as a Registered Nurse or Practical Nurse in Massachusetts [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. CGFNS, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, founded in 1977, is an internationally recognized immigration-neutral authority on credentials evaluation and verification pertaining to the education, registration and licensure of nurses and health care professionals across the world. CGFNS provides a detailed analysis of an applicant’s credentials earned at multiple levels of nursing education received outside the United States according to requirements specific to Massachusetts. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The Accreditation Commission For Education in Nursing (ACEN)

   The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

   The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA)

   The American College of Nurse-Midwives Division of Accreditation (ACNM) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)