

Competency Requirement Criteria (Contact Hours Included)

1. Continuing Nursing Education Contact Hours

A. The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina will accept continuing education contact hours approved by the following providers/ organizations:

- **Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)** Over 1,900 providers. For a list of ACCME accredited providers/ organizations, please visit <http://www.accme.org/news-publications/publications/lists-current-and-former-cme-providers/list-all-currently-accredited>
- **American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)**
- **American Academy of Physician Assistances (AAPA)**
- **American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)**
- **American College Health Association (ACHA)**
- **American Nurses Association (ANA)** For a list of ANA accredited providers/ organizations, visit <http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/AboutANA/WhoWeAre/AffiliatedOrganizations/>
- **American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)** Over 300 Providers, 40 Approvers. For a list of ANCC accredited organizations, please visit www.nursecredentialing.org/Accreditation/AccreditedOrganizations.aspx
- **Any State Board of Nursing**
- **Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)**
- **Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
- **Healthcare Advisory Board**
- **Joint Commission Resources**
- **National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNP)**
- **National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service (NAPNES)**
- **National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses (NFLPN)**
- **National League for Nurses (NLN)**

Required Documents

Certificate of attendance that includes:

1. Name of licensee
2. Title of educational activity
3. Date of activity
4. Approving provider/ organization name, course number and address
5. Number of contact hours awarded

How to convert continuing education credit:

- 1 contact hour = 60 minutes
- 1 CME = 60 minutes or 1.0 contact hours
- 1 contact hour = 0.1 CEU
- 1 CEU = 10 contact hours

B. The Board will also accept completion of a nursing course(s) (NUR(S) designated) during the licensure period that is a requirement for an academic program of study or degree leading to an advanced degree in nursing (a level above basic nursing educational preparation for licensure) provided the following criteria is met:

1. Course(s) is equivalent to at least 30 contact hours of study
 - 1 academic semester hour = 15 contact hours
 - 1 academic quarter hour = 12.5 contact hours
2. Minimum grade of “C” was received for course
3. Academic program of study or degree curriculum display lists the course as a requirement or an official letter from the College/ University is provided stating the course is required for the program of study/ degree completion
4. Course is designated as a nursing (NUR) course
5. Nursing courses completed must be from an academic program of study leading to an advanced degree in nursing that is approved by a State Board of Nursing or that is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
6. Courses will not be accepted that were taken for audit or were not completed

Required Documents

1. Curriculum display listing the course as required for the academic program of Study / degree completion or an official letter from the College/ University stating the course is required for the program of study/ degree completion
2. Official transcript mailed directly from the school to the Board office that includes:
 - a. School seal
 - b. Name of licensee
 - c. Name of institution/ school
 - d. Dates of attendance
 - e. Names of courses and numbers
 - f. Grades and number of credits

C. The Board will accept “repeat” courses and *In-service education programs* if they are approved by one of the above listed organizations and certificates are provided.

“Repeat” courses include but are not limited to:

- Basic Life Support (BLS)
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)
- Advanced Neonatal Life Support (ANLS)
- Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) including S.T.A.B.L.E. and PEARS
- Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO)
- Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course (ENPC)
- Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC)
- Disaster Life Support courses

D. General Information

1. There is not a limit for contact hours that may be obtained by correspondence or on-line/ computerized courses as long as the offering is approved by one of the above providers/ organizations.
2. An approved course offering may be counted only one time within the licensure period regardless of the number of times attended.

For licensure renewal: Contact hours must be completed during the licensure period and may not be carried over to the next licensure period.

For reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status of five years or less: Contact hours and legal aspects in nursing course must be completed within the preceding two years.

Licensees may submit an application to request the Board accept a program offered by a provider or organization that is not listed above.

2. Maintenance of Certification or Re-certification

A. The State Board of Nursing will accept the following certifying organizations:

- **Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC)**

For a list of ABSNC certifications, visit <http://nursingcertification.org/absnc/programs>

- **American Board for Transplant Certification (ABTC)**
 - Certified Clinical Transplant Coordinator (CCTC)
 - Certified Clinical Transplant Nurse (CCTN)
 - Certified Procurement Transplant Coordinator (CPTC)
 - Certified Transplant Preservationist (CTP)
 - **Dermatology Nursing Certification Board:**
 - Dermatology Nurse Certified (DNC)
 - Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner (DCNP)
 - **HIV/AIDS Nursing Certification Board (HANCB)**
 - AIDS Certified Registered Nurses (ACRN)
 - Advanced AIDS Certified Registered Nurses (AACRN)
 - **National Alliance of Certified Legal Nurse Consultants (NACLNC)**
 - Certified Legal Nurse Consultants (CLNC)
 - **National Certifying Board for Ophthalmic Registered Nurses (NCBORN)**
 - Certification for Registered Nurse in Ophthalmology (CRNO)
 - **National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA)**
- For ACCA certifications, visit <http://www.credentialingexcellence.org/p/cm/ld/fid=121>
- **Plastic Surgical Nurses Certification Board (PSNCB)**
 - Certified Plastic Surgical Nurse (CPSN)
 - Certified Aesthetic Nurse Specialist (CANS)

B. Required Documents

Credential/ certificate that includes:

1. Name of licensee
2. Name of certifying organization
3. Type of certification/ title
4. Date certification awarded
5. Date of certification expiration

C. General Information

For licensure renewal:

The certification or re-certification must have been initially awarded during the licensure period or maintained during the entire period.

For reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status of five years or less:

The certification or re-certification must have been initially awarded or maintained within the preceding two years.

Licensees may submit an application to request the Board accept a certification offered by an organization that is not listed above.

3. Completion of an Academic Program of Study

A. The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina will accept completion of an academic program of study awarding an advanced degree in nursing (a level above basic nursing educational preparation for licensure) or completion of an academic program of study awarding a degree in the following related fields: Health Care Management, Health Care Administration, Public Health, Gerontology, Informatics, Health Education and Genetics.

B. Required Documents

Official transcript mailed directly from the school to the Board office that includes:

1. School seal
2. Name of licensee
3. Name of institution/ school
4. Dates of attendance/ date degree awarded
5. Names of courses and numbers
6. Grades and number of credits
7. Degree awarded

C. General Information

For licensure renewal:

The academic program of study or degree must have been completed during the licensure period.

For reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status of five years or less:

The academic program of study or degree must have been completed within the preceding two years.

4. Employer Certification

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina will accept verification of competency and the number of hours practiced, as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the Board.

The Board does not set the number of hours a nurse must practice nursing to document continued competency; however, the nurse must practice enough hours that the employer can/ will verify the nurse's competency. The definition of competence may be found in the Nurse Practice Act, Chapter 33, Section 40-33-20(22).

General Information

The practice hours must meet the definition of the practice of nursing as defined in the Nurse Practice Act, Chapter 33, Section 40-33-20(46) "Practice of Nursing" as well as Section 40-33-20(48) "Practice of Registered Nursing" or Section 40-33-20(47) "Practice of Practical Nursing" as applicable.

5. Legal Aspects in Nursing Courses

A. The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina will accept completion of a legal aspects in nursing course from one of the following providers:

- South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC)
- Greenville Technical College, Continuing Education Health Sciences/ Nursing
- Workshops Conducted by the South Carolina Board of Nursing
- NCSBN Products -- Learning Extension, Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses

B. Required Documents

Certificate of attendance that includes:

1. Name of licensee
2. Title of educational activity
3. Date of activity
4. Approving provider/ organization name, number and address
5. Number of contact hours awarded

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