

655—3.4 (17A,147,152,272C) Licensure by examination.

3.4(1) Applicants shall meet qualifications for licensure set forth in subrule 3.3(1).

3.4(2) The board contracts with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. to use the NCLEX® for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses.

a. The passing standard for the NCLEX® is determined by the board.

b. NCLEX® results are reported as pass or fail.

c. The NCLEX® is administered according to guidelines set forth by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.

d. Examination statistics are available to the public.

3.4(3) Application—graduates of board-approved programs.

a. The board shall:

(1) Provide information about licensure application to applicants, nursing education programs in Iowa, and others upon request.

(2) Determine eligibility of each applicant upon receipt of an application, fees, official nursing transcript and notification of NCLEX® registration.

b. The applicant shall:

(1) Submit a completed application for license by examination.

(2) Submit two completed sets of the fingerprint packet to facilitate a national criminal history background check. The fee for the evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the DCI and FBI criminal history background checks will be assessed to the applicant.

(3) Submit fee for application for license by examination plus the fee for evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the criminal history background checks as identified in the definition of “fees” in rule 655—3.1(17A,147,152,272C). All fees are nonrefundable.

(4) Register for the NCLEX® and submit registration fee to the national test service.

(5) Direct the nursing program to submit to the board an official nursing transcript denoting the date of entry, date of graduation, and diploma or degree conferred.

(6) Inform the board that the primary state of residence is Iowa or a noncompact state and provide a current street address.

(7) Submit a copy of a sentencing order(s) with the license application if an applicant has a criminal conviction history.

(8) Self-schedule the examination at an approved testing center. Applicants who do not test within 91 days of authorization are required to submit a new application and fee to the board.

(9) Complete NCLEX® registration within 12 months of board receipt of the application for license, fingerprint packet and fees. The board reserves the right to destroy documents after 12 months.

3.4(4) Application—individuals educated and licensed in another country.

a. The board shall:

(1) Provide information about licensure application to applicants and others upon request.

(2) Determine eligibility of each applicant upon receipt of:

1. Application for licensure by examination.

2. Two completed sets of the fingerprint packet to facilitate a national criminal history background check.

3. Application fee for license by examination plus the fee for evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the criminal history background checks as identified in the definition of “fees” in rule 655—3.1(17A,147,152,272C). All fees are nonrefundable.

4. Notification of NCLEX® registration.

5. Official nursing transcript denoting date of entry and date of graduation validated by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS).

6. Validation of licensure/registration in the original country by CGFNS.

7. Full education course-by-course report submitted by CGFNS for licensed practical nurse and registered nurse applicants.

8. Verification of ability to read, write, speak and understand the English language as determined by the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for licensed practical nurse and registered nurse applicants. Applicants shall be exempt from the TOEFL or IELTS examination when the native language is English; nursing education was completed in a college, university or professional school located in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand or the United Kingdom; language of instruction in the nursing program was English; and language of the textbooks in the nursing program was English.

b. The applicant shall:

(1) Submit completed application for license by examination, including two sets of the completed fingerprint packet.

(2) Submit fee for application for license by examination plus the fee for evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the criminal history background checks as identified in the definition of “fees” in rule 655—3.1(17A,147,152,272C). All fees are nonrefundable.

(3) Register for the NCLEX® and submit registration fee to the national test service.

(4) Direct CGFNS to validate the official nursing transcript.

(5) Direct CGFNS to validate licensure/registration in the original country.

(6) Complete the full education course-by-course report application of the CGFNS Credentials Evaluation Service (CES) for licensed practical nurse and registered nurse applicants.

(7) Complete TOEFL or IELTS requirements for licensed practical nurse and registered nurse applicants.

(8) Inform the board of primary state of residence and current mailing address.

(9) Submit a copy of a sentencing order(s) with the license application if an applicant has a criminal conviction history.

(10) Self-schedule the examination at an approved testing center. Applicants who do not test within 91 days of authorization are required to submit a new application and fee to the board.

(11) Complete NCLEX® registration within 12 months of board receipt of the application for license, fingerprint packet and fees. The board reserves the right to destroy documents after 12 months.

3.4(5) Application—individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act shall be provided modifications in the NCLEX® or NCLEX® administration.

a. The board shall:

(1) Notify applicants of the availability of test modifications for individuals with documented disabilities.

(2) Upon request, notify applicants of the process for obtaining board approval of test modification as defined in paragraph 3.4(5) “*b.*”

(3) Determine eligibility for test modification upon receipt of:

1. Written request for test modifications in the NCLEX® or NCLEX® administration.

2. Written documentation of the applicant’s disability and need for test modifications, including results of diagnostic testing when appropriate, submitted by a qualified professional with expertise in the area of the diagnosed disability, or interpretation of results.

3. Written documentation of test modifications provided to the applicant while enrolled in the nursing education program, if applicable.

b. The applicant shall:

(1) Submit to the board a written request for specific modifications in the NCLEX® or NCLEX® administration.

(2) Direct a qualified professional with expertise in the area of the diagnosed disability or interpretation of test results to submit to the board written documentation of the applicant's disability and need for specific test modifications, including the history of the disability and results of diagnostic testing.

(3) Direct the nursing program to submit to the board documentation of test modifications provided to the applicant while enrolled in the nursing education program, if applicable.

(4) Complete examination application requirements defined in subrule 3.4(3) or 3.4(4).

3.4(6) Reexamination.

a. An applicant who has graduated from an approved practical nurse program and has failed the NCLEX-PN® is eligible to take the NCLEX-PN® an indefinite number of times.

b. An applicant who has graduated from an approved registered nurse program and has failed the NCLEX-RN® is eligible to take the NCLEX-RN® an indefinite number of times.

c. An applicant who fails the NCLEX® and reapplies for license by examination shall be required to complete application for license by examination, submit the fee for application by examination, complete NCLEX® registration and submit a registration fee to the national test service. Two sets of the completed fingerprint packet, plus the fee identified in the definition of "fees" in rule 655—3.1(17A,147,152,272C), are required if 12 months have passed since the previous criminal history background check.

3.4(7) Certificate of license by examination. Upon completion of the relevant qualifications for license by examination defined in these rules, the board shall issue a certificate of license by examination and a current license to practice as a registered nurse/licensed practical nurse. The board staff may issue a certificate of license pending receipt of a report on the applicant from the DCI/FBI.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 147.36, 147.80 and 152.7(3).