

481—653.6(147,148,148J) Provisional licensure for foreign medical graduates.**653.6(1) General provisions.**

a. The board may grant a provisional license to a foreign medical graduate who meets the qualifications provided in Iowa Code chapter 148J and these rules.

b. A provisional license may be issued for a period of not more than one year and may be renewed annually prior to expiration.

c. A provisional license will specifically limit the licensee to practice at the health care facility that provided the foreign medical graduate with the offer of employment as required by Iowa Code chapter 148J to qualify for this license.

d. The board may cancel a provisional license if the licensee has practiced outside the scope of this license, the licensee's employment is terminated with the health care facility who offered the licensee employment to qualify for the provisional license, or the licensee ceases to have an eligible immigration status for employment in the United States of America or for any of the grounds for which licensure may be revoked or suspended as specified in Iowa Code sections 147.55, 148.6, and 272C.10 and 481—Chapter 661. When cancellation of such license is proposed, the board will promptly notify the licensee by serving a statement of charges and notice of hearing upon the licensee pursuant to 481—Chapter 506. This contested case proceeding shall be governed by the provisions of 481—Chapter 506.

e. A provisional licensee must notify the board of any change in the licensee's home address or the address of the place of practice within one month of making an address change.

f. A provisional licensee must notify the board of any change in name within one month of making the name change. Notification requires a notarized copy of a marriage license or a notarized copy of court documents.

g. A provisional licensee file will be closed and labeled "deceased" when the board receives a copy of the physician's death certificate.

653.6(2) Provisional license eligibility. To be eligible for a provisional license, an applicant shall meet all of the following requirements:

a. Fulfill the application requirements specified in subrule 653.6(3);

b. Be at least 21 years of age;

c. Present evidence of holding a medical degree from an international medical program in good standing. This can be achieved in the following two ways:

(1) The international medical program the licensee successfully completed is approved by the ECFMG; or

(2) By presenting sufficient evidence to the board that the international medical program the applicant completed is substantially similar to the requirements of the LCME;

d. Be in good standing with and have no pending discipline before the licensing or regulatory institution in the foreign country;

e. Have practice in medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery as a licensed physician for five years following the completion of a residency or substantially similar postgraduate medical training. The applicant can demonstrate the postgraduate medical training is substantially similar to a residency in the following two ways:

(1) The residency or postgraduate training is approved by the ACGME, AOA, RCPSC, or CFPC; or

(2) By presenting sufficient evidence to the board that the residency or postgraduate training is substantially similar to the requirements of one of the four agencies listed in subparagraph 653.6(2) "e"(1);

f. Demonstrate proficiency in English by providing a valid ECFMG certificate or verification of a passing score on the TSE or TOEFL examination administered by the Educational Testing Service;

g. Be licensed in a jurisdiction outside the United States or Canada and present evidence that any licenses held in any jurisdiction are unrestricted;

h. The applicant's license is not denied by the board due to the commission of a disqualifying offense, as provided in 481—subrule 652.3(3); and

i. Have a passing score in all steps of the USMLE.

653.6(3) Provisional license application.

a. Requirements. To apply for a provisional license, an applicant must:

(1) Pay a nonrefundable special license fee and a fee for the evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the criminal history background checks by the DCI and the FBI as specified in 481—paragraph 651.4(3) “a”;

(2) Complete and submit forms provided by the board, including required credentials, documents, a completed fingerprint packet, and a sworn statement by the applicant attesting to the truth of all the information provided by the applicant;

(3) Provide a sworn statement from the director or the director’s designee of the medical licensing or regulatory institution in the individual’s resident country that the applicant’s license is in good standing and is not subject to any pending discipline;

(4) Provide a certified record from the national policy agency in the individual’s resident country of a complete criminal history of the applicant;

(5) Provide verification of successful completion of a medical degree;

(6) Provide a valid ECFMG certificate or verification of a passing score on the TSE or TOEFL examination administered by the Educational Testing Service; and

(7) Provide a sworn statement and supporting documents from the health care facility offering employment to the provisional licensee applicant that the facility has had the applicant’s immigration status reviewed by a licensed attorney of this jurisdiction and a determination was made that the applicant has proper immigration status for employment in the United States of America.

b. Application. The application shall request the following information:

(1) Name, date and place of birth, home address, and mailing address;

(2) A statement listing every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been authorized to practice, including license numbers and dates of issuance;

(3) A chronology accounting for all time periods from the date the applicant entered medical school to the date of the application;

(4) A photocopy of the applicant’s medical degree issued by an educational institution and a sworn statement from an official of the educational institution certifying the date the applicant received the medical degree and acknowledging what, if any, derogatory comments exist in the institution’s record about the applicant. A complete translation of any diploma not written in English shall be submitted;

(5) A statement disclosing and explaining any warnings issued, investigations conducted, or disciplinary actions taken, whether by voluntary agreement or formal action, by a medical or professional regulatory authority, educational institution, training or research program, or health facility in any jurisdiction;

(6) A statement disclosing and explaining the applicant’s involvement in civil litigation related to practice in any jurisdiction. Copies of the legal documents may be requested if needed during the review process;

(7) A statement disclosing and explaining any charge of a misdemeanor or felony involving the applicant filed in any jurisdiction, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside; and

(8) A completed 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.

653.6(4) *Provisional license application review process.* The process below shall be utilized to review each application for a provisional license.

a. An application is considered open from the date the application form is received in the board office with the nonrefundable provisional licensure fee.

b. After reviewing each application, staff will notify the applicant or the health care facility offering the applicant employment about how to resolve any problems identified by the reviewer. The applicant shall provide additional information when requested by staff or the board.

c. If the final review indicates no questions or concerns regarding the applicant’s qualifications for licensure, staff may administratively grant a provisional license.

d. If the final review indicates questions or concerns that cannot be remedied by continued communication with the applicant, the executive director, director of licensure and administration, and director of legal affairs will determine whether the questions or concerns indicate any uncertainty about the applicant's current qualifications for licensure.

- (1) If there is no current concern, staff will administratively grant a provisional license.
- (2) If any concern exists, the application will be referred to the committee.

e. Staff will refer to the committee for review matters that include but are not limited to falsification of information on the application, criminal record, substance abuse, questionable competency, physical or mental illness, or educational disciplinary history.

f. If the committee is able to eliminate questions or concerns without dissension from staff or a committee member, the committee may direct staff to administratively grant a provisional license.

g. If the committee is not able to eliminate questions or concerns without dissension from staff or a committee member, the committee will recommend that the board:

- (1) Request that the applicant appear for an interview;
- (2) Grant a provisional license;
- (3) Grant a license under certain terms and conditions or with certain restrictions;
- (4) Request that the applicant withdraw the licensure application; or
- (5) Deny a license.

h. The board will consider applications and recommendations from the committee and:

- (1) Request that the applicant appear for an interview;
- (2) Grant a provisional license for practice at the medical college designated in the application;
- (3) Grant a license under certain terms and conditions or with certain restrictions;
- (4) Request that the applicant withdraw the licensure application; or
- (5) Deny a license. The board may deny a license for any grounds on which the board may discipline a license. The procedure for appealing a license denial is set forth in rule 481—652.15(147,148).

653.6(5) *Provisional license application cycle.* If the applicant does not submit all materials within 90 days of the board's initial request for further information, the application will be considered inactive. An applicant must reapply and submit a new nonrefundable application fee and a new application, new documents and new credentials.

653.6(6) *Renewal of a provisional license.*

a. If the provisional licensee has not qualified for and received a permanent license, the licensee must renew prior to expiration.

b. A provisional licensee may apply for a one-year renewal by submitting the following:

- (1) A completed renewal application;
- (2) The renewal fee as specified in 481—paragraph 651.4(3)“b”;
- (3) Evidence of continuing education and training on chronic pain management, end-of-life care, and identifying and reporting abuse as specified in 481—Chapter 654; and
- (4) A letter from the chief medical officer for the health care facility employing the licensee that addresses the individual's fitness to the practice of medicine in Iowa, how the anticipated contribution will serve the public interest of Iowans, and the need for renewal of this license.

c. Failure of the licensee to renew a license within one month of the expiration date will cause the license to become inactive. A licensee whose license is inactive is prohibited from practice until a new provisional license is granted according to subrules 653.4(3) and 653.4(4).

653.6(7) *Conversion of a provisional license to a full license.*

a. After three consecutive years of holding a provisional license in good standing, the provisional licensee may apply to have the licensee's license converted to a full license to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery, provided the license has not been revoked pursuant to Iowa Code section 148J.2. The provisional licensee may alternatively elect to continue to renew the licensee's provisional license on a yearly basis.

b. The provisional licensee shall make application to the board for conversion of the licensee's provisional license using the application form provided by the board. The application shall include the following:

- (1) A completed application;
- (2) The renewal fee as specified in 481—paragraph 651.4(3)“b”;
- (3) Evidence of continuing education and training on chronic pain management, end-of-life care, and identifying and reporting abuse as specified in 481—Chapter 654.
- (4) A letter, submitted by the chief medical officer for the health care facility employing the licensee, that addresses the individual’s fitness to practice medicine in Iowa, how the anticipated contribution will serve the public interest of Iowans, and the need for renewal of this license.
- (5) An updated criminal background check as described in subrule 653.6(3).
- (6) A statement disclosing and explaining any informal or nonpublic actions, warnings issued, investigations conducted, or disciplinary actions taken, whether by voluntary agreement or formal action, by a medical or professional regulatory authority, an educational institution, a training or research program, or a health facility in any jurisdiction.
- (7) A statement disclosing and explaining the applicant’s involvement in civil litigation related to the practice in any jurisdiction. Copies of the legal documents may be requested if needed during the review process.
- (8) A statement disclosing and explaining any charge of a misdemeanor or felony involving the applicant filed in any jurisdiction, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding to have the conviction or plea set aside is pending. Copies of the legal documents may be requested if needed during the review process.
- (9) The full legal name, date and place of birth, home address, mailing address, principal business address, and personal email address regularly used by the applicant or licensee for correspondence with the board.
- (10) A statement listing every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been authorized to practice, including license numbers and dates of issuance.

[ARC 9113C, IAB 4/16/25, effective 5/21/25; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/11/25]