

Competency Requirements

According to the Nurse Practice Act, Section 40-33-40: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c033.php>

Demonstration of competency for Endorsement applications and Biennial Renewal of an active license requires documented evidence of at least ONE of the following requirements during the licensure period:

1. completion of thirty contact hours from a continuing education provider recognized by the board; **OR**
2. maintenance of certification or re-certification by a national certifying body recognized by the board; **OR**
3. completion of an academic program of study in nursing or a related field recognized by the board; **OR**
4. verification of competency and the number of hours practiced as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the Board.

Reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status of five years or less requires documented evidence of at least one of the following within the preceding two years:

1. completion of thirty contact hours from a continuing education provider recognized by the board and successful completion of a course in legal aspects approved by the board; **OR**
2. maintenance of certification or re-certification by a national certifying body recognized by the board; **OR**
3. completion of an academic program of study in nursing or a related field recognized by the board; **OR**
4. verification of competency and the number of hours practiced in another jurisdiction where authorized to practice, as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the board; **OR**
5. successful completion of a refresher course approved by the board.

Reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status of more than five years requires documented evidence of at least one of the following within the preceding two years:

1. successful completion of a refresher course approved by the board, **OR**;
2. successful completion of the NCLEX appropriate to the area of licensure.

Demonstration of competency for reinstatement from lapsed or inactive status or licensure of a person who holds a current authorization to practice in another state or jurisdiction in this country or territory or dependency of the United States requires documented evidence of a least one of the requirements in subsection (B) during the preceding two years.

Failure to comply with applicable continued competency requirements results in nonrenewal or denial of the application.

A licensee shall maintain all documented evidence of compliance for at least four years. This documented evidence must be presented by the licensee within five business days of request by a representative of the department acting in its discretion or in accordance with a random audit of a sample of licensees. Failure to provide satisfactory documented evidence of compliance within the prescribed time results in the immediate temporary suspension or cancellation of the license pending compliance with all requirements for licensure and until order of the board.

Competency Requirement Criteria

The following information outlines the criteria of the Competency Requirements as defined by the Nurse Practice Act, Section 40-33-40: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c033.php>.

CONTINUING NURSING EDUCATION CONTACT HOURS:

General Information:

- There is not a limit for contact hours that may be obtained by correspondence or online/computerized courses as long as the offering is approved by one of the providers/organizations listed.
 - An approved course offering may be counted only one time within the licensure period regardless of the number of times attended.
 - **For license renewal:** Contact hours must be completed during the licensure period and may not be carried over to the next licensure period.
 - **For reinstatement from a lapsed or inactive status license 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 SCBON to accept a program offered by a provider or organization not listed.
- A. The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina (SCBON) 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) and American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).** For a list of accredited providers/ organizations, visit <https://www.nursingworld.org/organizational-programs/accreditation/find-an-accredited-organization/> or <https://www.jointaccreditation.org/accredited-providers>.
 - Any State Board of Nursing
 - Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
 - Dept. 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)

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Required documents to receive credit:

Certification of Attendance must include:

- Name of licensee
- Title of educational activity
- Date of activity
- Approving provider/organization name, course number and address
- 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:
 - School seal
 - Name of licensee
 - Name of institution/ school
 - Dates of attendance
 - Names of courses and numbers
 - 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

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION OR RE-CERTIFICATION

General Information:

- **For license renewal:** The certification or re-certification must have been initially awarded during the licensure period or maintained during the entire period.
 - **For reinstatement from a lapsed or inactive status license 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 SCBON to accept a program offered by a provider or organization not listed.
- 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)

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- **National Certifying Board for Ophthalmic Registered Nurses (NCBORN)**
 - Certification for Registered Nurse in Ophthalmology (CRNO)
- **National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA)**
For NCCA 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 \(CANS\)](#)

Required documents

Credential/Certificate must include:

- Name of licensee
- Name of certifying organization
- Type of certification/title
- Date of certification
- Date of certification expiration

COMPLETION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF STUDY IN NURSING OR A RELATED FIELD RECOGNIZED BY THE BOARD:

General Information:

- **For license renewal:** The academic program of study or degree must have been completed during the licensure period.
 - **For reinstatement from a lapsed or inactive status license of five years or less:** The academic program of study or degree must have been completed during the licensure period.
- 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.

Required documents

Official transcript must be mailed from the school directly to the SCBON. The transcript must include:

- Name of Institution/School
- School Seal
- Name of licensee
- Dates of attendance/ date degree was awarded
- Names of courses and numbers
- Grades and number of credits
- Type of degree awarded

EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION

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.

- A. 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).

Required documents

Have employer fill out the Employer Certification form provided.

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:
 - NCSBN Products, Learning Extension: *Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses* at <https://www.ncsbn.org/11067.htm> or <https://www.ncsbn.org/courses.htm> .

Required documents

Certificate of attendance must include:

- Name of licensee
- Title of education activity
- Date of activity
- Approving provider/organization name, number and address
- Number of contact hours awarded