

Board of Nursing

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED NURSE  
APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE *BY EXAMINATION***

NCLEX Examination Applicants - Complete the instructions below in the order listed.

1. **Licensed Nurses** – You must have had continuing nursing practice prior to submitting an application for licensure by “examination”. Contact an approved credential evaluation organization who can evaluate your education and include information about your license from the foreign country. Request a **Professional Report that includes education and licensure information**.

You may use Josef Silny & Associates Inc. [www.jsilny.org](http://www.jsilny.org) or CGFNS [www.cgfns.org](http://www.cgfns.org) International Education Evaluations for your Professional credential evaluation.

**Never Licensed in your Country** - if you were never licensed as a nurse, but completed a nursing education degree (Associate or Baccalaureate) in a foreign country less than five years from the date of completion of your education evaluation report, you may apply for licensure by examination. You must **request and education evaluation report** from Josef Silny & Associates - [www.jsilny.org](http://www.jsilny.org) , International Education Evaluations <https://myiee.org/university/dc-board-of-nursing>, or one of the NACES member credential evaluation providers.

2. If your nursing education was completed in a country that is **not identified as having English as its native or primary language**, you must satisfactorily complete an English proficiency test. See the acceptable tests and scores listed with the *Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)*. See below or go to: <https://www.hrsa.gov/office-global-health/foreign-healthcare-worker-requirements>
3. If you are living outside of the US, you must obtain a national criminal background check from your country of residence. It is sometimes called a national police check. Upload a copy of the original report with your application.
4. Apply to DC Board of Nursing for “Licensure by Examination” You may apply online by going to this website and following the instructions:  
<https://doh.force.com/dchealthrenewals/s/licenseapplications>
5. If you do not have a Social Security Number, you must follow the instructions to complete a SSN Affidavit when applying online.
6. You must also agree to the criminal background check (CBC) question when completing the online application. Schedule and complete the fingerprint scan for the criminal background check, using the code on your application payment receipt.
7. Register and pay for the NCLEX exam – [www.pearsonvue.com/nclex](http://www.pearsonvue.com/nclex)
8. Receive authorization to test (ATT) from Pearson Vue, after application is approved.
9. Schedule and take the NCLEX within 90 days of the ATT, or your application is closed.

For questions regarding education, contact the Nurse Specialist for Education –  
<https://dchealth.dc.gov/bon>

**HRSA English Competency Tests**

<b>English Competency Tests</b>	<b>Scores: RN</b>	<b>Scores: LPN</b>
Cambridge Assessment English: B2 First, C1 Advanced, or C2 qualifications exams	Cambridge English Scale 176 overall and 185 Speaking	Cambridge English Scale 169 overall and 185 Speaking
Educational Testing Service: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Paper-delivered Test	540	530
Educational Testing Service: TOEFL Internet-Based Test	81 with minimum of 57 on Reading, Listening, and Writing and 24 on Speaking	77 with minimum of 53 on Reading, Listening, and Writing and 24 on Speaking
Educational Testing Service: TOEIC (Listening and Reading)	725	700
Educational Testing Service: TOEIC (Speaking/Writing)	160 Speaking/150 Writing	160 Speaking/150 Writing
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	6.5 academic with minimum of 7 on Speaking	6 academic or general with minimum of 7 on Speaking
Michigan English Test (MET)	Overall 55; minimum Speaking section score of 55	Overall 55; minimum Speaking section score of 55
Occupational English Test (OET)	OET Grade C+ for Reading, Writing, and Listening OET Grade B for Speaking	OET Grade C for Reading, Writing, and Listening OET Grade B for Speaking
Pearson PTE Academic	55, no section below 50	55, no section below 50

Date Last Reviewed: June 2022

**Resources for English as Second Language Courses**

University of District of Columbia for ESL course:  
801 North Capitol Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-274-5800

Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School  
514 V Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202 797-4700

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