

# State Regulation of Nurse Practitioner Practice

The law governing nurse practitioner (NP) definition, scope of practice, prescriptive authority, and requirement of physician collaboration, if any, may be enacted by a state legislature in great detail or in general terms. Alternatively, the state legislature may give authority to a licensing board to make the rules and regulations that will govern NPs.

The likely state board to make the rules regarding NPs is the board of nursing. In many states, the board of nursing makes the rules governing NP practice. In some states, however, the board of medicine has a role. Appendix 3-A lists, for each state, the agency that regulates NPs.

## HOW LAWS ABOUT NP PRACTICE EVOLVE

State law takes two forms, statutes and regulations (sometimes referred to as *rules*). The legislature makes statutory law, and state agencies under the executive branch of government make regulations. Regulations cannot contradict statutes but often expand upon the statutes to include more detail of government administration.

When a member of the public wants to change a statute, the advocate must enlist the help of a state legislator, who can introduce a bill that will change the current statute. When a member of the public wants to change a regulation, the advocate must either convince the state agency that is responsible for the regulation to change the regulation or convince a legislator to introduce a bill that, if enacted, would override the regulation.

When an agency decides to change a regulation, the agency writes a new regulation, publishes the regulation in an official state publication, and invites comments from interested parties. The agency may or may not make changes to the proposed regulation based on comments received from interested parties. A proposed regulation becomes a final regulation—law—after it has been published in proposed form and comments have been reviewed. Final regulations are republished, in final form, in the state’s “register,” an official publication of the state.

## WHAT IS REGULATED?

Much of the state law governing NPs appears in regulations; some law is statutory. The practice issues that come under state regulation are:

- Requirements for licensure
- Scope of practice
- Prescriptive authority
- Requirement of collaboration or supervision
- Basis for license suspension, revocation, or nonrenewal
- Reimbursement under Medicaid
- Reimbursement by indemnity insurers
- Requirements of educational programs
- Standards of practice

Chapter 1 lists the state law regarding the definition of an NP. Chapter 2 lists the state law regarding the scope of practice of NPs and collaboration requirements. Chapter 5 lists the state law regarding NP prescriptive privileges.

## Licensure Requirements

State law governs the requirements for holding a professional license in the state. All states require NPs to hold state licenses as RNs. Twenty-four states require NPs to have master's degrees. Three additional states will require master's degrees as of 2005, 2006, and 2008. Thirty-five states require NPs to have obtained national certification. Appendix 3-B lists, for each state, the requirements for holding and maintaining an NP license.

## Bases for Loss of License

State law, usually a regulation, specifies the criteria under which an NP's license may be revoked, suspended, or not renewed. Examples of some state laws follow. North Carolina and Pennsylvania make continuation of practice contingent upon following the rules of physician supervision. Rhode Island's law does not address physician collaboration or supervision but is concerned about practice-related safety issues.

More specific than most, North Carolina's law enforces the requirement of a nurse practitioner to practice under physician supervision:

- . . . [A]ction shall be taken . . . if one or more of the following is found:
- That the nurse practitioner held himself or herself out or permitted another to represent the nurse practitioner as a licensed physician;
  - That the nurse practitioner has engaged or attempted to engage in the performance of medical acts other than according to the collaborative practice agreement.

*Citation:* N.C. ADMIN. CODE tit. 21 r. 36.0812.

In Pennsylvania, approval may be terminated by the board of nursing when, after notice and hearing, the board finds the registrant has “engaged in performance of medical functions and tasks other than at the direction of a physician licensed by the state board of medicine” (with exceptions), or, “the registrant has performed a medical task or function which the registrant is not qualified by education to perform” (49 PA. CODE § 21.321).

In Rhode Island, grounds for revocation/suspension include:

- Guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing
- Guilty of crime of gross immorality
- Unfit or incompetent by reason of negligence or habits
- Habitually intemperate or . . . addicted to one of the habit-forming drugs
- Mentally incompetent
- Guilty of unprofessional conduct which includes:
  - Abandonment of a patient
  - Willfully making and filing false reports or records in the practice of nursing
  - Willful omission to file reports or record nursing records or reports as required by law
  - Failure to furnish appropriate details of client’s nursing needs to succeeding nurse legally qualified to provide continuing nursing services to a client
  - Willful disregard of standards and failure to maintain standards of the nursing profession
- Failure to comply with the provisions of section 5-34-40(c) of the General Laws, as a nurse practitioner
- Guilty of willfully or repeatedly violating any of the provisions of the act and/or the rules and regulations adopted thereunder.

*Citation:* R.I. NURSING RULES § 4.1.

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APPENDIX 3-A

# Agency That Regulates Nurse Practitioners, State by State<sup>1</sup>

**ALABAMA:** Joint Committee of Board of Medical Examiners and Board of Nursing

**ALASKA:** Board of Nursing

**ARIZONA:** Board of Nursing

**ARKANSAS:** Board of Nursing

**CALIFORNIA:** Board of Nursing

**COLORADO:** Board of Nursing

**CONNECTICUT:** Board of Nursing

**DELAWARE:** Board of Nursing and Board of Medical Practice

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** Board of Nursing

**FLORIDA:** Board of Nursing

**GEORGIA:** Board of Nursing

**HAWAII:** Board of Nursing

**IDAHO:** Board of Nursing

**ILLINOIS:** Advanced Practice Nursing Board

**INDIANA:** Board of Nursing

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<sup>1</sup> Source: © Carolyn Buppert 2007.

**IOWA:** Board of Nursing

**KANSAS:** Board of Nursing

**KENTUCKY:** Board of Nursing

**LOUISIANA:** Board of Nursing

**MAINE:** Board of Nursing

**MARYLAND:** Board of Nursing

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Board of Nursing and Board of Medicine

**MICHIGAN:** Board of Nursing

**MINNESOTA:** Board of Nursing

**MISSISSIPPI:** Board of Nursing

**MISSOURI:** Board of Nursing

**MONTANA:** Board of Nursing

**NEBRASKA:** Board of Nursing

**NEVADA:** Board of Nursing

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Board of Nursing

**NEW JERSEY:** Board of Nursing

**NEW MEXICO:** Board of Nursing

**NEW YORK:** Board of Nursing

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Board of Nursing and Board of Medicine

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Board of Nursing

**OHIO:** Board of Nursing

**OKLAHOMA:** Board of Nursing

**OREGON:** Board of Nursing

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Board of Nursing

**RHODE ISLAND:** Board of Nursing regulates practice in general; Division of Professional Regulation, Board of Nursing, regulates prescription writing; Director of Health Department establishes formulary committee

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Board of Nursing and Physician Consultant to Board of Nursing

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Board of Nursing and Board of Medicine

**TENNESSEE:** Board of Nursing

**TEXAS:** Board of Nursing

**UTAH:** Board of Nursing

**VERMONT:** Board of Nursing

**VIRGINIA:** Board of Nursing and Board of Medicine

**WASHINGTON:** Board of Nursing

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Board of Nursing

**WISCONSIN:** Board of Nursing

**WYOMING:** Board of Nursing

# State-by-State Nurse Practitioner Qualifications Required by Law

## ALABAMA

- RN license
- Graduation from an organized program of study and clinical experience beyond basic educational preparation as a registered nurse, which is recognized by the Board of Nursing and/or the appropriate specialty certifying agency
- Master's degree in nursing
- Certification from a national certifying agency recognized by the Board of Nursing

*Citation:* ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 610-X-5-.02.

## ALASKA

Requirements for initial authority to practice:

- One-year academic course
- RN license
- Certification by a national certifying agency

Requirements to maintain authority to practice

- 30 hours of continuing education every 2 years

*Citation:* ALAS. ADMIN. CODE tit. 12, § 44.400.

**ARIZONA**

Board of nursing grants NP designation based on the following submission by candidate:

- RN license
- Application
- Description of educational background
- Specification of specialty area
- Specification of employer
- Verification of national certification [for new applicants after July 1, 2004]
- Statement of whether ever subject to disciplinary action by a board
- Transcript from educational institution
- As of January 1, 2001, master's degree

*Citation:* ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE R4-19-505.

**ARKANSAS**

- Evidence of education approved by board
- National certification approved by board

*Citation:* ARK. CODE ANN. § 17-87-302.

**CALIFORNIA**

- RN license
- Completion of a program of study, which conforms to the board standards or
- Certification by a national or state organization or
- Documentation of remediation of areas of deficiency in course content and/or clinical experience and verification by a nurse practitioner and by a physician who meet the requirements for faculty members specified in Section 1484(c) of clinical competence in the delivery of primary health care.

*Citation:* CAL. CODE REGS. § 1482.

**COLORADO**

- RN license
- Completion of NP program accredited by nationally recognized accrediting agency and/or completion of an exam required by the national certifying agency
- On or after July 1, 2008, successful completion of a graduate degree in the appropriate specialty
- For prescriptive authority, a graduate degree in nursing, satisfactory completion of specific educational requirements in the use of con-



trolled substances and prescription drugs . . . and post graduate experience as an APN in a relevant clinical setting . . . consisting of not less than 1800 hours completed within the preceding 5 years.

*Citation:* COLO. REV. CODE ANN. § 12-38-111.5 and 111.6.

## CONNECTICUT

- RN license
- Certification as NP from a national certifying body
- 30 hours education in pharmacology for advanced nursing practice
- As of December 31, 1994, master's degree

*Citation:* CONN. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 20-94a.

## DELAWARE

- RN license
- Master's or certificate with national certification
- If no national certificate is available in the specialty, master's degree will qualify

*Citation:* DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 24 § 1902(b)(1).

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- RN license
- Good ethical standing within the profession
- Successful completion of a post-basic education program applicable to the area of practice that is acceptable to the Board or accredited by a national accrediting body that is relevant to the advanced practice registered nurse's area of practice
- Pass the examination required by the major

*Citation:* D.C. STAT. DIV. 1, TITLE 3, SUBT. I,  
CH. 12, SUBCH. VI, § 3-1206.08.

## FLORIDA

- RN license
- Malpractice insurance
- One of the following:
  1. Completion of a formal, post-basic educational program of at least one academic year, the purpose of which is to prepare nurses for advanced practice
  2. Certification by an appropriate specialty board
  3. Graduation from a program leading to a master's degree

*Citation:* FLA. STAT., CH. 464.012.

As of July 1, 2006, applicants for certification as an advanced registered nurse practitioner shall submit proof of national advanced practice nurse certification from an approved nursing certification board.

*Citation:* FLA. ADMIN. CODE. CH. 64B9-4.002.

## GEORGIA

- RN license
- Completion/graduation from a nurse practitioner education program greater than 9 months in length
- Certification by the certifying agent of the American Nurses Association, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners, AWHONN, or AANP and authorization to practice by the board
- Master's degree as of January 1, 1999

*Citation:* GA. COMP. R. & REGS. § r.410-12-.03.

## HAWAII

- RN license
- Unencumbered licenses in all other states where licensed
- MSN or certification from a national certifying body recognized by the board

*Citation:* HAW. REV. STAT. ANN. § 457-8.5.

- Completed application
- Proof of unencumbered license as RN in other states
- Official complete transcript of master's degree in clinical nursing or nursing science or evidence of current certification in the nursing specialty sent from a recognized national certifying body
- Documentation relating to any disciplinary action ordered by or pending before any board of nursing
- Documentation regarding any criminal conviction within the past 20 years

*Citation:* HAW. ADMIN. R. § 16-89-83.

- Recognition as an APRN by the board of nursing
- Transcript of a master's degree in clinical nursing
- Current certification in the nursing practice specialty
- Successful completion, within the 3-year period preceding the application, at least 30 hours of advanced pharmacology education . . .
- Verification of 1000 hours of clinical experience in an institution as a recognized APRN practitioner in the applicant's nursing practice

specialty, within the 3-year time period immediately preceding the date of application

- A collegial working relationship . . . between a physician . . . and a recognized APRN to be granted prescriptive authority and
- Payment of a fee.

*Citation:* HAW. ADMIN. R. § 16-89C-5.

## IDAHO

To practice:

- RN license
- Completion of NP program accredited by a national organization recognized by the board
- Passing results on the certification examination administered by an organization recognized by the board
- Current national certification as a nurse practitioner from an organization recognized by the board

*Citation:* IDAHO STATUTES 54-1405 and  
IDAHO ADMIN. CODE 23.01.01.285.03.

To prescribe:

- 30 hours of pharmacology education

*Citation:* IDAHO ADMIN. CODE 23.01.01.315.01.

## ILLINOIS

To practice:

- Current registered nurse licensure
- National certification from one of five accrediting bodies
- Master's degree or other advanced practice formal education program

*Citation:* ILL. ADMIN. CODE, tit. 68 § 1305.20.

## INDIANA

To practice:

- Graduation from an accredited graduate or certificate program that prepares NPs

*Citation:* IND. ADMIN. CODE tit. 848, § r. 4-1-4.

To prescribe:

- Active, unrestricted registered nurse license
- Baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing

- Completion of a graduate-level course in pharmacology, or
- 30 hours of continuing education in the past two years
- Attestation to a lack of substance abuse or conviction of a felony
- A collaborative agreement

*Citation:* IND. ADMIN. CODE tit. 848, § r. 5-1-1.

## IOWA

- Master's or completion of a formal advanced practice educational program of study in a nursing specialty area approved by the board
- Appropriate clinical experience as approved by Board of Nursing

*Citation:* IOWA ADMIN. CODE r. 655-7.2(3).

## KANSAS

- Completion of a formal, post-basic nursing education program located or offered in Kansas, approved by the board, which prepares nurses to function in an expanded role for which application is made
- Completion of an out-of-state program approved by the board
- Possession of a certificate issued by another board of nursing that requires completion of a formal program
- 3 college hours in advanced pharmacology

*Citation:* KAN. ADMIN. REGS. § 60-11-103.

## KENTUCKY

- RN licensure
- Completion of an organized post-basic program of study and clinical experience acceptable to the board
- Certification by a national organization recognized by the board
- Facility with English language

*Citation:* KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 314.042.

## LOUISIANA

To practice:

- RN license
- Master's degree in appropriate program
- National certification

*Citation:* LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 46 § XLVII.4507.

To prescribe:

- RN licensure
- APRN licensure
- Evidence of 500 hours of practice as a licensed ARNP within 6 months prior to applying for prescriptive authority
- 36 hours of education in pharmacotherapeutics
- 12 contact hours in physiology/pathophysiology
- Collaborative practice agreement
- Each year, 6 hours of continuing education in pharmacology or pharmacologic management

*Citation:* LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 46 § XLVII.4513.

## MAINE

- Transcript from NP program
- Evidence of current certification
- Evidence of a minimum of 1500 hours of practice in the expanded role within 5 years or completion of NP program within 5 years
- Evidence of satisfactory completion of 45 contact hours of pharmacology
- As of January 1, 2006, a master's degree

*Citation:* CODE ME. R. § 02 380 008.

For prescriptive and dispensing authority:

If the applicant has not prescribed drugs within the past 2 years, the applicant shall provide evidence of satisfactory completion of 15 contact hours of pharmacology within the 2 years prior to applying for approval to practice.

If the applicant has not prescribed drugs within the past 5 years, the applicant shall provide evidence of satisfactory completion of 45 contact hours (or three credits) of pharmacology within the 2 years prior to applying for approval to practice.

For certified nurse practitioners with prescriptive authority in other US jurisdictions:

1. Minimum of 200 hours of practice in an expanded specialty role within the preceding 2 years.
2. 45 contact hours (or three credits) of pharmacology equivalent to the requirements set forth in Section 64(3)(A) and (B).

If the applicant has not prescribed drugs within the past 2 years, the applicant shall provide evidence of satisfactory completion of 15 contact hours of pharmacology within the 2 years prior to applying for approval to practice.

If the applicant has not prescribed drugs within the past 5 years, the applicant shall provide evidence of satisfactory completion of 45 contact hours (or three credits) of pharmacology within the 2 years prior to applying for approval to practice.

*Citation:* CODE ME. R. § 02 380 008.

## MARYLAND

- RN license
- Completion of a program for preparation of NPs approved by the board
- Passing of an examination as designated by the board

*Citation:* MD. REGS. CODE tit. 10 § 27.07.03.

## MASSACHUSETTS

- RN license
- Advanced nursing knowledge and clinical skills acquired through an appropriate educational program
- Current certification in practice area

*Citation:* MASS. ANN. LAWS CH. 112 § 80B and  
CODE MASS. REGS tit. 244, § § 4.05 and 4.13(2).

## MICHIGAN

- RN license
- Submission of an application for certification in a specialty area of nursing
- Meets standards of advanced practice certification agencies [5 agencies listed]

*Citation:* Mich. ADMIN. CODE R338.10404.

## MINNESOTA

- RN license
- Graduation from NP program
- Certification as NP by national certifying agency
- To prescribe, a written agreement with a physician

*Citation:* MINN. STAT. ANN. §§ 148.235 and 148.284.

## MISSISSIPPI

- RN license
- BS in nursing
- Applicants who graduated from a nurse practitioner program after December 31, 1998 are required to submit official evidence of gradua-

tion from a graduate program with a concentration in the applicant's respective advanced practice nursing specialty

- Graduation from an NP program and clinical experience that occurred following the bachelor's degree or as part of a master's degree program
- Certification by a national organization recognized by the board

*Citation:* MISS. Nursing REGS. CH. IV, § 2.

## MISSOURI

- RN license
- Evidence of completion of a graduate degree from an advanced nursing education program
- Certification by a national organization or 3 graduate hours in pharmacology and evidence of 1500 hours of clinical practice in advanced practice
- Evidence of satisfactory, active, up-to-date certification/recertification/maintenance and/or continuing education/competency

*Citation:* MO. CODE REGS. tit. 4, § 200-4.100.

## MONTANA

- RN license
- National certification
- Completion of post-basic professional nursing program in APN area
- Master's degree or certificate from post-master's program

*Citation:* MONT. ADMIN. R. 8.32.305.

## NEBRASKA

To practice:

- RN license
- Evidence of having successfully completed an approved advanced practice registered nurse program
- Evidence of having successfully completed 30 contact hours of education in pharmacotherapeutics
- Submission of proof of having passed an examination pertaining to the specific advanced practice registered nursing role in nursing adopted or approved by the boards

*Citation:* NEB. Rev. STAT. § 71-1722.

To prescribe:

- Master's or doctorate degree in nursing
- Completed an approved advanced practice registered nurse program

- Demonstration of separate course work in pharmacotherapeutics, advanced health assessment, and pathopsychology
- Completion of a minimum of 2000 hours of practice under the supervision of a physician
- An integrated practice agreement with a collaborating physician
- Professional liability insurance

*Citation:* NEB Rev. STAT. § 71-1723.02.

## NEVADA

- Completion of a program for advanced practice, at least 1 year in length . . . approved by the board
- If completed a program after July 1, 1992, be certified as an advanced practitioner of nursing by a nationally recognized certifying agency or hold a bachelor's degree in nursing from an accredited school
- If completed an educational program after June 1, 2005, holds a master's degree in nursing or related field approved by the board

*Citation:* NEV. ADMIN CODE CH. 632, § 632.260.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Transcript of a nurse practitioner education program approved by the board, including 225 hours of theoretical nursing content and 480 hours of precepted practice
- 30 hours of continuing education in the past 2 years
- Documentation of competence
- National certification

*Citation:* N.H. CODE ADMIN. R. ANN. [NUR] 304.02.

## NEW JERSEY

- Proof of current RN license in good standing
- At least 18 years of age
- Of good moral character
- A registered professional nurse
- Successfully completed an educational program, including pharmacology, approved by the board
- Passed a written examination approved by the board

*Citation:* N.J. STAT. ANN. § 45-11-47.

- Application with educational and experience data
- Proof of education—post-basic nursing certificate program accredited by or acceptable to the board
- Proof of current certification
- Graduation from master's program for NPs



- Completion of a graduate level pharmacology course
- If 5 years have elapsed since completed graduate level pharmacology course, 30 continuing education units in pharmacology
- Passing of the highest level practice exam in the area of specialization approved by the board

*Citation:* N.J. ADMIN. CODE tit. 13, § 37-7.1, 7.2, and 7.3.

## NEW MEXICO

- RN license
- Formal post-graduate program for the education and preparation of nurse practitioners; master's degree if applying after January 1, 2001 for initial licensure
- National certification

*Citation:* N.M. ADMIN. CODE § 16.12.2.13.A.

To prescribe:

- 400 hours of precepted work experience in past 2 years
- DEA registration
- Maintain a formulary

*Citation:* N.M. ADMIN. CODE § 16.12.2.13.O(5)(a).

## NEW YORK

- Completion of an educational program approved by the Department of Education, or
- Certification as NP by a national certifying body, and
- 3 semester hours in pharmacology

*Citation:* N.Y. COMP. Codes R. & REGS. tit. 8, § 64.4.

## NORTH CAROLINA

To practice:

- Unrestricted license to practice as RN and unrestricted approval to practice as NP
- Successful completion of approved educational program
- Submission of any information deemed necessary to evaluate the application
- Beginning January 1, 2005 all registered nurses seeking first-time nurse practitioner registration in North Carolina shall hold a master's degree in Nursing or related field with primary focus on Nursing; have successfully completed a graduate level nurse practitioner education program accredited by a national credentialing body. . . .

*Citation:* N.C. ADMIN. CODE tit. 21, § 36.0803.

To maintain license:

- 100 hours of continuing education every 2 years.

*Citation:* N.C. ADMIN. CODE tit. 21, § r36.0807.

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

- RN license
- Appropriate education [completion of a graduate education program with nursing focus, with exceptions]
- Current certification by a national organization
- Submit a scope of practice statement according to established board guidelines. . . .

*Citation:* N.D. ADMIN. CODE § 54-05-03.1-04.

To prescribe:

- Licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse in North Dakota
- Submit an application
- Evidence of completion of 30 hours of education in pharmacotherapy
- An affidavit from a physician who will be participating in the collaborative prescriptive agreement. . . .

*Citation:* N.D. ADMIN. CODE § 54-05-03.1-09.

## **OHIO**

For a certificate of authority:

- RN license
- Graduate degree in nursing specialty . . .
- Certification . . .
- Collaborating physician or podiatrist. . . .

*Citation:* OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 4723.41.

## **OKLAHOMA**

- Successful completion of a formal program of study approved by the Board
- Certification from a certifying body recognized by board of nursing
- Certificate of recognition from the Board

*Citation:* OKLA. STAT. ANN. tit. 59 § 567.3a(5).

The advanced practice nurse applicant for prescriptive authority shall:

- hold a current R.N. license and recognition as an A.R.N.P., C.N.M. or C.N.S. in Oklahoma;
- submit a completed application approved by the Board of prescriptive authority and the required fee;

- submit a written statement from a physician supervising prescriptive authority which identifies a mechanism for:
  - appropriate referral, consultation, and collaboration between the advanced practice nurse and physician supervising prescriptive authority;
  - availability of communication between the advanced practice nurse and physician supervising prescriptive authority through direct contact, telecommunications, or other appropriate electronic means for consultation, assistance with medical emergencies or patient referral;
- submit documentation verifying completion of forty-five contact hours or three academic credit hours of education, as required by law and defined in the rules and regulations, which are applicable to the scope of practice, in pharmacotherapeutics, clinical application, and use of pharmacological agents in the prevention of illness, and in the restoration and maintenance of health in a program beyond basic nursing preparation. Such contact hours or academic credits shall be obtained within a time period of three (3) years immediately preceding the date of application for prescriptive authority. The three (3) year time period may be waived if the applicant has graduated from their advanced practice educational program within a time period of three years immediately preceding the date of application for prescriptive authority and submits the following documentation:
  - Course descriptions with course objectives verifying the integration of didactic and clinical hours in pharmacotherapeutic management content throughout the advanced practice program curriculum; and
  - Credentials of the faculty teaching the courses verifying the faculty's scope of practice includes prescribing.
  - Verification of the total number of contact hours completed in pharmacotherapeutics. The following categories identify how this requirement may be met. No more than the identified percentage for each category may apply toward the contact hour/academic hour or the equivalent requirements for initial application:
    - > Category A: Up to 100% of requirement (3 credit hours)
    - > Category B: Up to 100% of requirement (45 contact hours)
    - > Category C: Up to 50% of requirement (22.5 contact hours)
    - > Category D: Up to 20% of requirement (9 contact hours)
    - > Category E: Up to 20% of requirement (9 contact hours)
- Submit documentation verifying successful completion of a graduate degree at an advanced practice level or post-master's certificate at an advanced practice level, if the Master's degree is in nursing.

*Citation:* OKLA ADMIN. CODE § 485:10-16-3.

**OREGON**

To practice:

- RN license
- Master's degree in nursing
- Satisfactory completion of an NP program specific to the expanded specialty/category for which application is made
- Meet the practice requirement of OAR 851-050-0004

*Citation: OR. ADMIN. § R. 851-050-0002.*

- The practice requirement as a nurse practitioner must be met through practice, which meets the definition in OAR 851-050-0000(27) in the following manner:
  - Completion of a nurse practitioner program within the past 1 year; or
  - Completion of a nurse practitioner program within the past 2 years and a minimum of 192 hours of practice as a nurse practitioner; or
  - 960 hours of nurse practitioner practice within the 5 years preceding certification application or renewal; or
  - Completion of a Board supervised advanced practice re-entry program which meets the requirements of OAR 851-050-0006 within 2 years immediately preceding issuance of certification under a limited or registered nurse license and a limited nurse practitioner certificate.
- As of July 1, 2005, prior practice as a registered nurse requirement for nurse practitioner applicants will be as follows:
  - All initial applicants must provide documentation of a minimum of 384 hours of registered nurse practice, which includes assessment and management of clients and is not completed as an academic clinical requirement or continuing education program.
  - The applicant shall verify completion of the required hours before issuance of the nurse practitioner certificate.
  - This requirement shall be waived for individuals practicing in the specialty area as a licensed certified nurse practitioner in another state for at least 384 hours in the advanced practice role.
- All practice hours claimed are subject to audit and disciplinary action for falsification.
- A nurse practitioner student may practice in Oregon provided he or she meets the following requirements:
  - A current, unencumbered registered nurse license in Oregon;
  - Enrollment in a nurse practitioner program accredited by a state approved national accrediting body;
  - Submission of a written, signed agreement between the student and a nurse practitioner or physician who are agreed to serve as a preceptor;

- Identification of the faculty advisor accountable for general supervision from the nurse practitioner program; and
- Proof of program approval by the Office of Degree Authorization of Oregon Department of Education.

*Citation:* OR. ADMIN. R. § 851-050-0004.

- RN license
- 100 clock hours of continuing education obtained through independent learning activities, unstructured learning activities, and structured learning activities
- Verification of practice hours which meet the practice requirement in OAR 851-050-000

*Citation:* OR. ADMIN. § R. 851-050-0138.

## PENNSYLVANIA

- RN license
- Master's degree and certification by a national certification organization for initial certification after 2002
- Successful completion of a course of study consisting of at least 1 academic year in a program administered by nursing in an institution of higher education as approved by the Board
- Evidence of continuing competency in the area of medical diagnosis and therapeutics at the time of renewal of the applicant's certification
- 30 hours of continuing education per year

To prescribe:

- Completion of a CRNP program approved by the Board
- 45 hours of advanced pharmacology
- 16 hours of approved continuing education in pharmacology in the 2 years prior to the biennial renewal date of the CRNP certification
- Comply with standards of the State Board of Medicine. . . .

*Citation:* 49 PA. CODE § 21.271, 21.332, 21.361, and 21.283,  
and ACT 206 OF 2002, § 8.3.

## RHODE ISLAND

- Be of good moral character
- RN license
- Completion of an accredited educational program resulting in a master's degree and/or an approved nurse practitioner course of study
- Passing of a national certifying examination recognized by the board

*Citation:* R.I.R. § R5-34-NUR/ED 3.2.

To prescribe:

- Completion of 30 hours of education in pharmacology within 3 years prior to application

To maintain prescriptive privileges:

- Completion of 30 hours of CE in pharmacology every 6 years

*Citation:* R.I.R. § R5-34-NUR/ED 9.3.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

- RN license
- Certification by a national organization acceptable to the Board
- Master's degree in nursing

To prescribe:

- 45 contact hours of education in pharmacotherapeutics
- 15 hours of education in controlled substance

*Citation:* S.C. CODE ANN. § 40-33-34.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

- RN license
- Completion of an approved program for the preparation of NPs
- Passing of any examination that the boards in their discretion may require

*Citation:* S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 36-9A-4.

## **TENNESSEE**

- RN license
- Graduation from a program conferring a master's or higher in nursing, or national certification in a nursing specialty of licensure to practice in Tennessee was obtained prior to July 1, 2005, and
- Current national specialty certification in the appropriate specialty area

*Citation:* TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. tit. 11, CH. 1000-4-.03.

## **TEXAS**

- Licensed as registered nurse and nurse practitioner in Texas
- Evidence of educational preparation
- Minimum 400 hours of current practice within preceding biennium unless graduated from appropriate program within the preceding biennium
- 20 contact hours of continuing education every 2 years

- Current certification in an advanced nursing role and specialty recognized by the board

*Citation:* 22 TEXAS ADMIN. CODE § 221.4.

For prescriptive authority:

- Have successfully completed courses in pharmacotherapeutics, pathophysiology, advanced assessment, and diagnosis and management of problems within the clinical specialty

*Citation:* 22 TEXAS ADMIN. CODE § 222.2.

## UTAH

- Physical and mental health that will allow the applicant to practice safely as an advanced practice registered nurse
- Current registered nurse license
- Graduate degree in nursing or a related area of specialized knowledge
- Successful completion of course work in patient assessment, diagnosis and treatment, and pharmacotherapeutics from an education program approved by the division in collaboration with the board
- Passing of examinations as required by division rule made in collaboration with the board
- Certification by a program approved by the division in collaboration with the board

*Citation:* UTAH CODE ANN. § 58-31b-302(3).

## VERMONT

- RN license
- Completion of formal educational program approved by Board of Nursing
- Certification by national organization recognized by Board of Nursing

*Citation:* VT. CODE R. CH. 4, SUBCHAPTER 8, II.

## VIRGINIA

- RN license
- Completion of educational program designed to prepare nurse practitioners, approved by the board
- Evidence of professional certification by an agency accepted by the board

*Citation:* 18 VA. ADMIN. CODE 90-30-80A.

For prescriptive authority:

- Current license as a nurse practitioner
- Evidence of certification as a nurse practitioner, or

- Completion of a graduate level course in pharmacology as part of NP program within 5 years prior to submission of the application, or
- Practice as NP for no less than 1000 hours and 15 continuing education units related to the area of practice for each of the 2 years prior to submission of the application or 30 hours of education in pharmacology acceptable to the boards taken within 5 years prior to submission of the application
- Submit a practice agreement between NP and supervising physician
- Board approves practice agreement
- File an application and pay fees

*Citation:* 18 VA. ADMIN. CODE 90-40-40.

## WASHINGTON

- RN license
- Completion of a formal advanced nursing education, meeting the requirements of Washington Administrative CODE 246-839-305
- Documentation of initial certification credential granted by a national certifying body recognized by the commission, approved ARNP specialty whose certification program is approved by the commission and subsequently maintain currency and competency as defined by the certifying body
- Accountability for practice based on and limited to the scope of his/her education, demonstrated competence, and advanced nursing experience
- Documentation of any additional formal education, skills training, or supervised clinical practice beyond the basic ARNP preparation . . .

*Citation:* WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 246-839-300.

For prescriptive authority:

- Designated as an ARNP in Washington
- Evidence of completion of 30 hours of education in pharmacotherapeutics. . .
- Submission of an application form

*Citation:* WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 246-840-410.

## WEST VIRGINIA

- RN license
- Current national certification in area recognized by West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses
- After December 31, 1998, a master's degree in nursing

*Citation:* W. VA. CODE ST. R. § 19-7-3.



For prescriptive authority:

- Licensed as advanced nurse practitioner in West Virginia
- Baccalaureate degree
- Successful completion of 45 contact hours of education in pharmacology and clinical management of drug therapy under a program approved by the board, 15 hours of which shall be completed within the two-year period immediately before the date of application
- Evidence of good moral character and not addicted to alcohol or the use of controlled substances
- Submit an application and fee

*Citation:* W. VA. CODE ST. R. § 30-7-15b.

## WISCONSIN

- RN license
- Certification by a national certifying body approved by the board as a nurse practitioner
- For applicants who receive certification after July 1, 1998, a master's degree in nursing or a related health field granted by a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency approved by the board of education in the state in which the college or university is located

*Citation:* WISC. ADMIN. CODE § N 8.02(1).

## WYOMING

- Master's degree in nursing, or an advanced practice registered nurse specialty or has completed an accredited advanced practice registered nurse educational program prior to January 1, 1999; and
- Completed an advanced program of study in a specialty area in an accredited nursing program, has taken and passed a national certification examination in the same area and has been granted recognition by the board to practice as an APRN . . .

*Citation:* WYO. STAT. ANN. § 33-21-120(a)(1).

- RN license
- Submit an application and fee
- Completion of a nationally accredited educational program for advanced practitioners of nursing with a specific curriculum appropriate to the proposed specialty area of practice, accepted by the board
- Certification in a specific specialty area of advanced practice, accepted by the board, or master's degree in nursing, with specific curriculum

preparation at the advanced practice/clinical specialist level, accepted by the board

- Submission of a written plan of practice and collaboration

*Citation:* WYO. BOARD OF NURSING RULES, CH. 4, § 3(a).

For prescriptive authority:

- Recognition as an advanced practitioner of nursing in Wyoming
- Documentation of completion of a minimum of two semester credit hours, three quarter credit hours, or 30 contact hours of course work approved by the board in pharmacology and clinical management of drug therapy or pharmacotherapeutics within the five year period immediately before the date of application
- Documentation of completion of 400 hours of advanced nursing practice in recognized areas of specialty within the two year period immediately before the date of application
- Compliance with the standards of nursing practice, the rules and regulations, and the act
- A written plan of practice and collaboration
- Completed application

*Citation:* WYO. BOARD OF NURSING RULES, CH. 4 § 8.c.