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Such articles and other interesting facts / anecdotes about nursing profession are mailed by us on fortnightly basis to all Nurses registered with us at www.nurses-careers-abroad.com for Newsletter Distribution. Please register if you wish to be on the direct mailing list.

Welcome to all. The previous issue of our News Letter had an article on “Nursing Careers”. Now the next article is on “Requirements to Become a Registered Nurse in U.S.A”

Requirements to Become a Registered Nurse in U.S.A

Each USA state has a nursing board. Each nursing board has its own set of regulations for overseas-trained nurses. To work in the USA as an RN, you have to be licensed by the relevant state board of nursing.

To become a licensed nurse in the USA, most states have two main requirements:

1. **CGFNS and**
2. **NCLEX-RN**

1. CGFNS

The CGFNS (Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools®) Certification Program is designed for first-level, general nurses educated and licensed outside of the United States who wish to assess their chances of passing the U.S. registered nurse licensing exam, the NCLEX-RN, and attaining licensure as registered nurses within the United States.

Eligibility :

In order to be eligible for the program, a nurse must be educated and hold both initial and current registration/licensure as a first-level, general nurse as defined historically by the International Council of Nurses (ICN).

A first-level nurse is called a registered or professional nurse in most countries. A second-level nurse, often called an enrolled, vocational, practical nurse or nurse assistant, is not eligible to be licensed as a registered nurse in the U.S., and therefore, is not eligible for the Certification Program.

A general nurse must have obtained theoretical instruction and clinical practice in a variety of nursing areas. A nurse who specialized in one area without being educated and registered/licensed as a general nurse is not eligible for the Certification Program.

Contents of the Program :

The Certification Program is a three-part program, comprised of a credentials review, a one-day qualifying exam of nursing knowledge, and an English language proficiency exam. Upon successful completion of all three elements of the program, the applicant is awarded a CGFNS Certificate.

- **Credentials Review:** CGFNS evaluates an applicant's education and registration credentials to certify that the applicant is a first-level, general nurse and meets all of the registration requirements to be licensed as a professional in that field
- **CGFNS Qualifying Exam:** The actual exam is divided into two parts with a total of 260 questions. The qualifying exam measures the applicant's knowledge and is based on what nurses must know and do when they practice nursing in the United States. The qualifying exam is held 4 times a year in over 40 countries in the world.
- **English Language Proficiency Exam.** The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the Test of English for International Communications (TOEIC) and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are currently being used to meet the English language proficiency requirement of the Certification Program. TOEFL and TOEIC are administered worldwide by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). IELTS is jointly managed by: British Council, and IDP: IELTS Australia.

Program Benefits :

Anyone with an interest in selecting candidates who have a high probability of success on the NCLEX-RN® examination will find the program highly beneficial. Nurse applicants, U.S. Boards of Registered Nurses, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, universities and employers all make use of the CGFNS Certification Program.

Attaining a CGFNS Certificate helps applicants in three ways. **First**, the certificate will help applicants meet state requirements for the registered nurse licensure exam. Most states require a CGFNS Certificate from nurse educated abroad before they can take the NCLEX-RN® examination.

Second, CGFNS Certificate holders consistently have a higher rate of success on the NCLEX-RN® examination than internationally-educated nurses who do not hold a CGFNS Certificate. Passing the CGFNS Qualifying Exam can help applicants to feel reasonably assured of success on the NCLEX-RN® examination.

Finally, the CGFNS Certificate helps applicants to qualify for an occupational visa. CGFNS was named in section 343 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996 as an organization qualified to administer a screening program for healthcare professionals who are seeking an occupational visa. The International Commission on Healthcare Professions (ICHP), a division of CGFNS, developed VisaScreen™: Visa Credentials Assessment to meet the requirements of section 343. For foreign-educated nurses who do not hold a U.S. license by examination, passing a predictor exam, such as the CGFNS Qualifying Exam, is a requirement of section 343.

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Nurses - Careers Abroad

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- 1. Since the articles are either from archives generally in public domain or contributed by some of you with no exclusive rights we do not place any restriction on your forwarding these articles to your friends in good faith.*
- 2. We have received offers from Nurses for publishing Articles /Anecdotes / Real Life Experiences proposed to be forwarded by them to Nurses-Careers-Abroad. We heartily welcome the idea. We shall do so mentioning the name of the sender. Contributors are advised to submit their Name, Address, Email and Phone Number so that we can cross check with them(for editing etc.) before publishing the article. Please bear in mind that we can publish only one article per week and subsequently these shall be archived at the website under Nurses Newsletter Archives.*
- 3. Nurses-Careers-Abroad also proposes to establish a "NURSES-BLOG" on the website for the Nursing Fraternity. Look for it at www.nurses.careers.abroad.com*
