

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF NURSING EXAMINATIONS FOR LICENSURE OF REGISTERED NURSES

Graduates of the nursing program are eligible to take the NCLEX Examination for Registered Professional Nurses (RN) once they have successfully completed a Board approved RN nursing program.

A Graduate Temporary Practice Permit is required by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing in order for a person to practice professional nursing during the one year period from completion of his or her education program. A temporary practice permit authorizes practice as a graduate nurse in Pennsylvania under the direct supervision of a professional nurse currently licensed in Pennsylvania. A graduate may begin work as a graduate nurse after having completed the nursing degree program and having received the temporary practice permit. A payment of \$70 needs to accompany the application to the State Board of Nursing.

The Board is responsible for public health and safety and requires a variety of factors to be considered and weighed when deciding whether or not to issue someone a license. Until recently whether or not an individual possessed “good moral character” or had been convicted of a “crime or moral turpitude” or otherwise engaged in “unethical or dishonest practice or conduct” could be considered.

On July 1, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf signed into law Act 53 of 2020 which made changes to licensing rules that govern the use of criminal history information in determining whether to grant, deny, suspend, or revoke a professional license. Please see the details of [Act 53 of 2020](#).

This act requires each board to publish a schedule of criminal offenses that may constitute grounds to deny, suspend, or revoke a license. The list must also identify which crimes are likely to pose a barrier to licensure because they are considered to be offenses “directly related” to the occupation/profession. Please see the link for the complete list of [PA criminal convictions that may constitute grounds to refuse to issue, suspend, or revoke a license, certificate, registration, or permit](#).