



IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING



BRAD LITTLE- GOVERNOR
JUDY TAYLOR- BOARD CHAIR
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Continued Competence Requirements for Renewal of an LPN or RN License

To renew an LPN or RN license, a licensee must accomplish at least two of any of the learning activities (in the Practice, Education, or Professional engagement sections) within the two 2-year renewal period, from the date of renewal to the following expiration date.

Practice:

- Current nursing specialty certification; or
- One hundred hours of practice or simulation practice, paid or unpaid, in which the nurse applies knowledge or clinical judgment in a way that influences patients, families, nurses, or organizations

Education, Continuing Education, E-learning, and In-service:

- Fifteen contact hours of continuing education, e-learning, academic courses, nursing-related in-service offered by an accredited educational institution, healthcare institution, or organization (a contact hour equals not less than fifty minutes); or
- Completion of a minimum of one semester credit hour of post-licensure academic education relevant to nursing, offered by a college or university accredited by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; or
- Completion of a Board-recognized nurse refresher course or nurse residency program; or
- Participation in or presentation of a workshop, seminar, conference, or course relevant to the practice of nursing and approved by an organization recognized by the Board to include, but not limited to: a nationally recognized nursing organization; an accredited academic institution; a provider of continuing education recognized by another board of nursing; a provider of continuing education recognized by a regulatory board of another discipline; or
- A program that meets criteria established by the Board

Professional Engagement:

- Acknowledged contributor to a published nursing-related article or manuscript; or
- Teaching or developing a nursing-related course of instruction; or
- Participation in related professional activities including, but not limited to, research, published professional materials, nursing-related volunteer work, teaching (if not licensee's primary employment), peer reviewing, precepting, professional auditing, and service on nursing or healthcare related boards, organizations, associations or committees



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Documentation Requirements

Each applicant must maintain documentation of meeting this requirement for the duration of the current 2-year renewal period. If you are selected for an audit, you will be contacted to submit your documentation to the Idaho Board of Nursing and must provide such documentation within 30 days of the request.

Documentation of Compliance Examples

- National certification – e.g. copy of current certificate
- Post-licensure academic education – e.g. academic transcript, grade report
- Completion of a Board-recognized refresher course – e.g. certificate, provider verification of successful completion of course
- Completion of research or a nursing project – e.g. abstract, research summary, role of licensee in research plan, date of project
- Contributing to a published nursing-related article, manuscript, paper, book, or book chapter – e.g. citation of publication, copy of publication with name of licensee and publication date
- Teaching a course for college credit – e.g. date of course, written attestation of program director, credits and dates of course, college catalog
- Teaching a course for continuing education credit e.g. name of licensee, title of presentation, agenda, brochure or flyer advertising course, date, name of CE provider with number of CEU hours provided
- Hours of continuing learning activities or courses – e.g. name of licensee, title of activity, roster/proof of attendance, date, hours, and name of provider
- One hundred hours of practice in nursing – e.g. name of licensee, documentation of work or volunteer hours, dates validated by employer/recipient agency, tax or employment records



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Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. I'm only working part-time. I complete an online CE and go to all of the required meetings and in-services at work. Will I be able to renew my license?
- A. Yes – Within 2 years you should be able to show compliance with our rules by working part-time, doing online CE and attending work required meetings and classes.
- Q. I am taking a Yoga class – can that count for CE?
- A. No, taking an exercise class will not count toward your license renewal continued competence requirements. Teaching the class for patients would count.
- Q. I teach CPR – can I use that when I renew my license?
- A. Yes – that will count toward your renewal requirements for continued competency
- Q. I'm retired but I want to keep my license – how can I do that if I'm not working?
- A. Volunteering in healthcare, Parish nursing, respite care, keeping up with journals and healthcare publications, and serving on Boards or committees are just a few ways to maintain licensure even if you are not working for compensation. Or, consider a Nurse Emeritus license.
- Q. I work for a law firm and do chart reviews for litigation cases. Will I be able to renew my nursing license?
- A. If you use your nursing judgement and knowledge or your job description requires a nurse, you can use it as partial completion of your continued competency requirements.
- Q. I am not working right now – I have three kids at home. What can I do to maintain licensure?
- A. If you want to maintain licensure you can volunteer at health-related or community service functions, do online CE, take a class, read nursing journals.....
- Q. I work for the Department of Health and Welfare – I survey nursing homes. Will that be okay for continued competence?
- A. Does the job description require or prefer a nurse? Does your nursing education enhance your work? As partial completion of the requirements, this will work.
- Q. Do I have to do an activity from each section in the continued competency rules?
- A. No, you must do two activities and they can come from any one or more sections.