

FENS Refresher Course Update

Effective: July 14, 2016

Effective immediately, the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) no longer requires internationally-educated nurses to complete the Foreign Educated Nurses Refresher Course (FENS) as a post-requisite to passing the NCLEX for the Texas BON.

Internationally-educated applicants are eligible for initial licensure in Texas:

- 1) if the individual graduated from an approved foreign nursing education program within the past four years, or
- 2) if the individual graduated from an approved foreign nursing education program MORE than four years ago, BUT HAS PRACTICED NURSING WITHIN THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

If an internationally-educated applicant is not eligible under either of the above two categories, then he/she must re-educate, or obtain initial nurse licensure by exam in another state, then endorse into Texas.

All internationally-educated applicants for Texas nurse licensure must pass the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN within four years of his/her graduation date or date of licensure eligibility.

What does 'date of licensure eligibility' mean?

For purposes of the NCLEX, the date of licensure eligibility means the issuance date of the first Authorization to Test (ATT).

How exactly will this work?

Internationally-educated applicants will still have to fulfill all requirements including:

- Current application;
- Current exam fee;
- A completed CES report through CGFNS, IERF, or ERES;
- A verification of license (VOL) for individuals licensed in another country;
- Proof of English proficiency (if applicable);
- Completion of a criminal background check (CBC);
- Completion of the Texas Nursing Jurisprudence examination (NJE); and
- Registration with Pearson Vue

The only difference is that the applicant will not have the option of completing a FENS refresher if they graduated more than 4 years ago and he/she last practiced nursing more than 4 years ago.

What about individuals who have already passed the NCLEX but currently have a FENS hold in the system?

The BON Information Technology Department has prepared a report listing all active "FENS" holds. Staff members are currently removing all holds for those individuals who have already passed the NCLEX (even if the refresher course had not yet been completed).

What about those individuals who HAVE NOT YET PASSED the NCLEX, but have the FENS hold? Will their hold be removed also?

Yes. If the individual has already been deemed eligible to sit for the NCLEX and/or has an exam date scheduled, this will essentially be their “one shot” to test and pass the NCLEX. IF THEY DO NOT PASS, then he/she will have to meet the new criteria of either having graduated within the past 4 years, or graduated and worked within the past four years described above. **If he/she is retesting**, then he/she must still be within the four years of their ‘date of eligibility’ (i.e. the issuance of the initial ATT).

What about applicants who graduated more than four years ago, have practiced within the last four years, but received their initial ATT over four years ago?

These applicants would either need to re-educate or obtain initial nurse licensure by exam in another state, then endorse into Texas since they are no longer ‘within four years of the date of eligibility’.