

NURSING – WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF NURSING

WAC 246-840-015

Requirement to submit demographic data.

Collecting and supplying demographic data for the nursing profession in Washington state is essential to answering the fundamental questions on supply, demand, and distribution of the nursing workforce.

(1) Applicants and licensees must complete all demographic data elements and attest to the completion of the data elements as part of their licensure requirements for:

(a) Licensed practical nurse (LPN) as defined under WAC [246-840-010](#);

(b) Registered nurse (RN) as defined under WAC [246-840-010](#); or

(c) Advanced practice nurses with an RN multistate license issued by another state. (2) Advanced practice nurses with a Washington RN license do not have to complete additional demographic data. The demographic data is collected on their Washington RN license.

(3) The board shall verify compliance with this section during the continued competency audit process in WAC [246-840-230](#).

WAC 246-840-020

Credentials issued to an LPN, RN, or ARNP in Washington state.

The following credentials are issued to nurses in Washington state.

(1) Licensed practical nurse (LPN) license. A license is issued upon completion of licensure requirements. The license holder may use the title licensed practical nurse and its abbreviation, LPN. The license allows practice as an LPN in the state of Washington.

(2) Registered nurse (RN) license. A license is issued upon completion of licensure requirements. The license holder may use the title registered nurse and its abbreviation, RN. The license allows practice as an RN in the state of Washington.

(a) A student who has graduated from a basic professional nursing course and who is pursuing a baccalaureate degree in nursing, an advanced degree in nursing or an advanced certification in nursing must hold an active Washington RN license before participating in the practice of nursing as required to fulfill the learning objectives in a clinical course.

(3) Advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) license. An ARNP license may be issued to an individual who meets the requirements of the board as contained in WAC [246-840-300](#) through [246-840-367](#). Only persons holding this license have the

right to use the title "advanced registered nurse practitioner" or the abbreviation "ARNP" or any title or abbreviation which indicates that the individual is entitled to practice at an advanced and specialized role as a NP, CNM, CRNA, or CNS. The license is valid only with a current RN license. The ARNP's scope of practice is defined by a national certifying body approved by the board.

RN and LPN LICENSING

WAC 246-840-025

Initial licensure by examination—Board approved Washington state nursing education program.

Registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) applicants applying for initial licensure by examination and educated in a board approved Washington state nursing education program shall:

- (1) Have successfully completed a board approved nursing education program as defined in WAC 246-840-010.
- (2) Successfully pass the board approved licensure examination as provided in WAC [246-840-050](#). Testing may be allowed upon receipt of a certificate of completion from the administrator of the nursing education program. See WAC 246-840-060 regarding requirements for retaking the examination.
- (3) Complete and submit a licensure application with the required fee as defined in WAC [246-840-990](#).
- (4) Have an official transcript sent directly from the applicant's nursing education program to the board. The transcript must include course names and credits accepted from other programs, and identify the other program. Transcripts must be received within ninety days of the applicant's first examination attempt. The transcript must show:
 - (a) The applicant has graduated from a board approved nursing education program; or
 - (b) The applicant has completed the prelicensure portion of an approved graduate-entry registered nursing education program.

WAC 246-840-030

Initial licensure by examination—Out-of-state traditional nursing education program approved by another United States board of nursing or regulatory authority.

Registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) applicants applying for initial licensure by examination and educated in an out-of-state traditional nursing education program approved by another United States (U.S.) board of nursing or regulatory authority shall:

- (1) Have successfully completed a nursing education program in another U.S. state, which is approved by the board of nursing or regulatory authority in that state, and which substantially meets requirements for nursing education approved in Washington state. The board retains authority to evaluate and determine the sufficiency of academic preparation for all applicants.
- (2) Successfully pass the board approved licensure examination as provided in WAC [246-840-050](#). See WAC 246-840-060 regarding retaking the examination.
- (3) Complete and submit a licensure application with the required fee as defined in WAC [246-840-990](#).
- (4) Have an official transcript sent directly from the applicant's nursing education program to the board. The transcript must include course names and credits accepted from other programs, and identify the other program. The transcript must show:
 - (a) The applicant has graduated from an approved nursing program; or
 - (b) The applicant has completed the prelicensure portion of an approved graduate-entry registered nursing program.

NEW WAC 246-840-xxx

Applicants from an approved RN program applying for an LPN license

Licensed practical nurse applicants (LPN) from an approved registered nurse (RN) program shall:

- (1) Complete all course work required of board approved practical nursing education programs as listed in WAC [246-840-539](#). Required courses not included in the registered nurse program may be accepted if the courses were obtained through a board approved program.
- (2) Successfully pass the board approved licensure examination as provided in WAC [246-840-050](#). If the applicant is from a board approved Washington state nursing education program, testing may be allowed upon receipt of a certificate of completion from the nurse administrator of the nursing education program. See WAC 246-840-060 regarding retaking the examination.
- (3) Complete a board approved professional vocational relationship (PVR) course.
- (4) Complete and submit a licensure application with the required fee as defined in WAC [246-840-990](#).
- (5) Have an official transcript sent directly from the applicant's nursing education program to the board. The transcript must include course names and credits accepted from other programs, and identify the other program. The transcript must show:
 - (a) That the applicant has completed all course work required in a board approved practical nurse program as listed in WAC [246-840-539](#).

(6) Have an attestation sent from the nurse administrator of the applicant's nursing education program indicating that the applicant is capable to safely practice within the scope of practice of an LPN.

WAC 246-840-045

Licensure for applicants educated outside the United States

General Requirements

(1) Registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) applicants educated outside the United States (U.S.) and applying licensure in Washington state, shall:

(a) Successfully complete a nursing education program approved in that country. The nursing education program must meet requirements for nursing education approved in Washington state. The board retains authority to evaluate and determine the sufficiency of academic preparation for all applicants.

(i) Any deficiencies in the nursing program (theory and clinical practice in medical, psychiatric, obstetric, surgical and pediatric nursing) may be satisfactorily completed in a board approved nursing education program or program created for internationally educated nurses identified in WAC [246-840-549](#), [246-840-551](#) or [246-840-552](#).

(b) Obtain an evaluation or certificate from a board approved credential evaluation service verifying that the educational program completed by the applicant is equivalent to nursing education in the state of Washington.

(c) Demonstrate English language proficiency if their nursing education program was not taught in English. Applicants must provide evidence that the theory and clinical components of the nursing education program were taught in English. If the applicant's nursing education program was not taught in English, they may demonstrate English proficiency by one of the following:

(i) Provide evidence of passing a board approved English proficiency test with minimum scores established by the board; or

(ii) Provide evidence of earning a diploma, degree, or certificate directly from an educational institution. The education acquired by the applicant must have been taught in English. Applicants applying for initial licensure by exam must have completed this education prior to board approval to take the approved licensing examination described in WAC 246-840-050; or

(iii) Applicants applying for licensure by interstate endorsement have the option to complete 1,000 hours of employment as a licensed nurse in another jurisdiction in which English is the primary language spoken. The one thousand hours of employment must be in the same licensed role as the nurse is applying for licensure in Washington state.

(d) Successfully pass the board approved licensure examination as provided in WAC [246-840-050](#).

(2) Submit the following documents:

(a) A completed licensure application with the required fee as defined in WAC [246-840-990](#).

(b) Official transcript directly from the nursing education program or licensure agency in the country where the applicant was educated and previously licensed. The transcript must:

(A) Be in English or accompanied by an official English translation. If the applicant's original documents (education and licensing) are on file in another state or with an approved credential evaluation agency, the applicant may request that the state board or approved credential evaluation service send copies directly to the board in lieu of the originals.

(B) Include the applicant's date of enrollment, date of graduation and credential conferred.

(C) Describe the course names and credit hours completed.

(D) Document equivalency to the minimum standards in Washington state. Course descriptions or syllabi may be requested to determine equivalency to Washington state standards.

(c) Documentation from a board approved nursing program showing that any deficiency has been satisfactorily completed.

(d) Documentation demonstrating English proficiency or that the requirement is waived as pursuant to subsection (1)(c).

(i) This documentation must come directly from the nursing education program or approved credential evaluation service.

(ii) If applying for licensure by interstate endorsement and providing 1,000 hours of employment as a licensed nurse in another jurisdiction, the documentation must come directly from the employer.

Initial licensure by examination requirements

3. RN and LPN applicants educated outside the U.S. and applying for initial licensure by examination shall:

a. Meet all the requirements of sections (1) and (2) of this rule. See WAC 246-840-060 regarding retaking the examination.

b. Provide verification of passing NCLEX results directly from the licensing jurisdiction outside of the U.S. if the applicant is utilizing the NCLEX in another jurisdiction as a basis for initial licensure.

Licensure by interstate endorsement requirements

4. RN and LPN applicants educated outside the U.S. who are licensed in another U.S. state or territory and are applying for licensure in Washington state by interstate endorsement shall:

a. Meet all the requirements of sections (1) and (2) of this rule;

b. Hold either:

i. A current active nursing license in another U.S. state or territory; or

ii. An inactive or expired license in another U.S. state or territory and successfully complete a board approved refresher course.

A. An applicant whose license was inactive or expired in another state must be issued a limited education authorization by the board to enroll in the clinical portion of the refresher course.

B. The limited education authorization is valid only while working under the direct supervision of a preceptor and is not valid for employment as a nurse.

c. The applicant was originally licensed to practice as a nurse in another U.S. state or territory based upon the passing of the NCLEX in the U.S. or from a licensing jurisdiction outside the U.S.

Multistate Licensure Applicants

5. Applicants applying for a multistate license under the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) must meet all requirements outlined in this chapter and RCW 18.80.020(3)(b).

WAC 246-840-048

Students enrolled in a nontraditional nursing program.

This section applies to a licensed practical nurse (LPN) enrolled in a nontraditional LPN to registered nurse (RN) program, and describes the eligibility requirements for obtaining a Washington state interim permit.

(1) Graduates of a nontraditional nursing program may apply for an interim permit after degree confirmation by the nontraditional program.

(a) An LPN successfully completing a nontraditional nursing program, as defined in WAC 246-840-010, may obtain licensure by endorsement in Washington state after completing one thousand hours of practice under an RN license in another state, without discipline.

(2) An LPN successfully completing a nontraditional nursing program and passing the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Registered Nurse Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN®) may be eligible to receive an interim permit for the purpose of completing one thousand hours of practice experience in the role of an RN.

(a) Only students licensed as an LPN in Washington state and identified by the nontraditional program on July 27, 2017, will be considered eligible to obtain initial licensure from the board under this section.

(3) An LPN successfully completing a nontraditional nursing program as identified in subsection (2)(a) of this section shall:

(a) Submit a completed RN application indicating the need for an interim permit with the required fee, as defined in WAC [246-840-990](#);

(b) Request an official transcript be sent directly to the board from the nontraditional nursing education program confirming a conferred associate degree in nursing;

(c) Successfully pass the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Registered Nurse Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN®) as provided in WAC 246-840-050. See WAC 246-840-060 regarding retaking the examination;

(d) Complete one thousand hours of practice under an interim permit in the role of an RN; and

(e) Provide documented evidence from a board approved supervising licensed RN verifying the interim permit holder successfully completed the one thousand hours of practice in an RN role.

(4) The supervising RN from the acute care, skilled nursing, or transitional care facility:

(a) Shall submit a board approved application;

(b) Must have an active, unencumbered RN license;

(c) Shall attest to not being related to or personal friends of the interim permit holder;

(d) Must have at least three years of experience as an RN;

(e) Must have demonstrated teaching and mentoring skills; and

(f) Must be able to evaluate, with input from others, the practice of the interim permit holder in the role of an RN.

(5) The interim permit expires one year after the submission of the application and is not renewable.

(6) An interim permit holder who does not successfully fulfill the practice requirements, as identified in subsection (3)(c) and (d) of this section, does not meet the requirements for licensure by examination as an RN in the state of Washington.

(7) The holder of the interim permit is subject to disciplinary action under chapter [18.130](#) RCW.

WAC 246-840-050

Licensing examination.

- (1) The current series of the National Council of the State Boards of Nursing Registered Nurse (NCSBN) Registered Nurse or Practical Nurse Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN®) shall be the official examinations for nurse licensure.
- (2) In order to be licensed in this state, all nurse applicants shall take and pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN®).
- (3) Only applicants who complete the education, experience, and application requirements of WAC [246-840-025](#), [246-840-030](#), or [246-840-045](#) will be eligible for the examination.
- (4) The board will notify applicants who have filed the required application documents and met all qualifications of their eligibility to take the examination.
- (5) Applicants must file an examination application directly to the testing service, along with the testing service's required fee.
- (6) The executive director of the board shall negotiate a contract with NCSBN for the use of the NCLEX®.
- (7) The examination shall be administered in accordance with the NCSBN security measures and contract. All appeals of examination procedures and results shall be managed in accordance with policies in the NCSBN contract.

WAC 246-840-060

Results and retaking of examination.

- (1) The board will notify applicants of the examination results.
- (2) Applicants who pass the examination will receive a license to practice as a practical nurse or registered nurse from the board provided all other requirements are met.
- (3) Applicants who fail the examination will receive a letter of notification from the board, including information on retaking the examination. The applicant may retake the examination no sooner than forty-five days following the date of the last exam taken.
- (4) The applicant's examination results will be maintained in his/her application file with the department of health.
- (5) An applicant who fails to pass the examination after four attempts will not be eligible to retest unless the applicant completes an NCLEX prep course.

WAC 246-840-090

Licensure for nurses by interstate endorsement.

Registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) applicants applying for licensure in Washington state by interstate endorsement must meet the following requirements:

(1) The applicant graduated and holds a degree from a nursing program approved by a state board or regulatory authority preparing candidates for licensure as a nurse, which substantially meets requirements for nursing education approved in Washington state at the time of graduation, as determined by the board. Applicants educated outside the U.S., see WAC 246-840-045.

(2) The applicant holds either:

(a) A current active nursing license in another U.S. state or territory; or

(b) An inactive or expired license in another U.S. state or territory and successfully completes a board approved refresher course.

(i) An applicant whose license was inactive or expired in another state shall be issued a limited education authorization by the board to enroll in the clinical portion of the refresher course.

(ii) The limited education authorization is valid only while working under the direct supervision of a preceptor and is not valid for employment as a nurse.

(3) The applicant was originally licensed to practice as a nurse in another U.S. state or territory after passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

(4) Applicants applying for RN licensure and who have graduated from a nontraditional nursing education program, must provide evidence of one thousand hours of employment without discipline as an RN in another U.S. state or territory.

(5) Applicants must submit the following documents:

(a) A completed licensure application with the required fee as defined in WAC [246-840-990](#).

(b) An official transcript sent directly from the applicant's nursing education program to the board if the education cannot be verified from the original board of nursing.

(i) The transcript must contain adequate documentation demonstrating that the applicant graduated from an approved nursing education program or successfully completed the prelicensure portion of an approved graduate-entry registered nursing program.

(ii) The transcripts shall include course names and credits accepted from other programs, and identify the other program.

(iii) An education verification may be requested of the nursing education program and shall include clinical hours in specific content area of direct care and simulation.

(c) Verification of an original registered or practical nurse license from the U.S. state or territory of original licensure. The verification must identify that issuance of the original licensure included passing the NCLEX.

(d) An applicant applying for RN licensure who is a graduate of a nontraditional nursing education program, must provide evidence of one thousand hours of employment without discipline as a registered nurse in another U.S. state or territory.

WAC 246-840-095

Temporary practice permits.

The Washington state board of nursing (board) conducts background checks on applicants to assure safe patient care. Completion of a fingerprint-based national background check may cause a delay in licensing.

(1) The board may issue a temporary practice permit to an applicant who holds an unrestricted, active license in another state which has substantially equivalent licensing standards to those in Washington. The applicant must not be subject to denial of a license or issuance of a conditional or restricted license.

(2) A temporary practice permit serves as a license to practice nursing during the time period specified on the permit.

(3) A temporary practice permit expires when:

(a) A license is granted;

(b) A notice of decision on application is mailed to the applicant, unless the notice of decision on application specifically extends the duration of the temporary practice permit; or

(c) Sixty days after the temporary practice permit is issued, or 180 days for military spouse applicants.

If, at the expiration of the original temporary practice permit, the department of health (department) has not received information from the fingerprint-based national background check, the board may renew the temporary practice permit for an additional 30 days.

(4) To receive a temporary practice permit, the applicant must:

(a) Submit to the board an application and the necessary application fee(s) for the license.

(b) Meet all other requirements and qualifications for the license, except for the results from a fingerprint-based national background check, if required.

(c) Provide to the board verification of holding an unrestricted nursing license from another state that has substantially equivalent licensing standards to those in Washington.

(5) The applicant shall initiate the fingerprint-based national background check process with the department within 30 days of applying to the board, or the permanent license application may be closed as incomplete. The temporary practice permit shall not be extended in accordance with subsection (3)(c) of this section unless the applicant's fingerprints have been received by the department and a fingerprint-based national background check is in process.

WAC 246-840-105

Brief adjudicative proceedings—Denials based on failure to meet education, experience, or examination prerequisites for licensure.

The board adopts RCW [34.05.482](#) and [34.05.485](#) through [34.05.494](#) for adjudicative proceedings requested by applicants, who are denied a license under chapter [18.79](#) RCW or chapter [246-840](#) WAC for failure to meet the education, experience, or examination prerequisites for licensure. The sole issue at the adjudicative proceeding shall be whether the applicant meets the education, experience, and examination prerequisites for the issuance of a license.

WAC 246-840-111

Expired license.

The board utilizes the definition of “expired” license status as defined by the Department of Health in WAC 246-12-020.

- (1) If the license has expired for three years or less, the nurse must meet the requirements in WAC [246-12-020](#) through [246-12-051](#).
- (2) If the license has expired for more than three years and the nurse has been in active practice in another U.S. jurisdiction, the nurse must:
 - (a) Submit verification of active practice from any other U.S. jurisdiction;
 - (b) Meet the requirements in WAC [246-12-020](#) through [246-12-051](#).
- (3) If the license has expired for more than three years and the nurse has not been in active practice in another U.S. jurisdiction, the nurse must:
 - (a) Successfully complete a board approved refresher course. The nurse will be issued a limited educational license to enroll in the refresher course. The limited educational license is valid only while working under the direct supervision of a preceptor and is not valid for employment as a licensed practical or registered nurse;
 - (b) Meet the requirements in WAC [246-12-020](#) through [246-12-051](#).

WAC 246-840-120

Inactive license.

The board utilizes the definition of “inactive” license status as defined by the Department of Health in WAC 246-12-020.

- (1) A nurse may obtain an inactive credential. Refer to the requirements in WAC [246-12-090](#) through [246-12-110](#).
- (2) Nurses with an inactive credential for three years or less who wish to return to active status must meet the requirements in WAC [246-12-090](#) through [246-12-110](#).

(3) Nurses with an inactive credential for more than three years, who have been in active practice in another U.S. jurisdiction, and wish to return to active status must:

(a) Submit verification of active practice from any other U.S. jurisdiction;

(b) Meet the requirements in WAC [246-12-090](#) through [246-12-110](#).

(4) Nurses with an inactive credential for more than three years, who have not been in active practice in another U.S. jurisdiction, and wish to return to active status must:

(a) Successfully complete a board approved refresher course. The nurse will be issued a limited educational license to enroll in the refresher course. The limited educational license is valid only while working under the direct supervision of a preceptor and is not valid for employment as a licensed practical or registered nurse;

(b) Meet the requirements in WAC [246-12-090](#) through [246-12-110](#).

WAC 246-840-125

Retired active license.

The board utilizes the definition of “retired active” license status as defined by the Department of Health in WAC 246-12-020.

(1) A registered or licensed practical nurse may place their credential in "retired active" status by meeting the requirements of this section.

(2) A registered or licensed practical nurse who holds a retired active credential may only practice in intermittent or emergent circumstances.

(a) Intermittent means the registered or licensed practical nurse will practice no more than ninety days a year.

(b) Emergent means the registered or licensed practical nurse will practice only in emergency circumstances such as earthquakes, floods, times of declared war, or other states of emergency.

(3) To obtain a retired active credential a registered or a licensed practical nurse must:

(a) Meet the requirements in WAC [246-12-120](#).

(b) Pay the appropriate fee in WAC [246-840-990](#).

(4) To renew a retired active credential the registered or licensed practical nurse must:

(a) Meet the requirements in WAC [246-12-130](#). The retired active credential fee is in WAC [246-840-990](#).

(b) Have completed eight hours of continuing nursing education within a twelve-month period prior to the renewal of licensure in compliance with WAC [246-840-220](#) (2)(b). Education may include CPR and first aid.

(c) Demonstrate they have practiced at least twenty-four hours within a twelve-month period prior to the renewal of licensure. Practice may be paid or volunteer, but must require nursing knowledge or a nursing license.

(d) Renew their retired active credential every year on their birthday.

(5) To return to active status the registered or licensed practical nurse must meet the requirements in WAC [246-12-140](#). The active renewal fee is in WAC [246-840-990](#).

NEW WAC 246-840-xxx

Multistate Licensure

(1) Applicants applying for a multistate license under the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) must meet all requirements outlined in this chapter and RCW 18.80.020(3)(b).

(2) Individuals that hold a multistate nurse license issued by another state and who are employed by certain employers must complete specific requirements as a condition of employment. These employers include:

(a) Hospitals as described in RCW 70.41.540;

(b) Private Establishments as described in RCW 71.12.740;

(c) Ambulatory Surgical Facilities as described in RCW 70.230.220;

(d) Nursing Homes as described in RCW 18.51.590;

(e) Assisted Living Facilities as described in RCW 18.20.530;

(f) Hospice Care Centers as described in RCW 70.127.300;

(g) Adult Family Homes as described in RCW 70.128.310; or

(h) Nursing Pools as described in RCW 18.52C.070.

(3) As a condition of employment, individuals that hold a multistate nurse license issued by another state and employed by an employer listed in section (2) of this rule, shall:

(a) Complete any demographic data surveys required by the board as described in WAC 246-840-015; and

(b) Complete the one time, six-hour training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management required by RCW 43.70.442(5)(a).

WAC 246-840-200

Continuing competency purpose statement.

Patients, families, and communities expect safe, competent, and compassionate nursing care. WAC 246-840-200 through [246-840-260](#) establish a self-directed continuing competency program which includes participation in active practice and continuing nursing education for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses as a mechanism to help keep patients safe and improve nursing practice.

WAC 246-840-210

Continuing competency definitions.

The definitions in this section apply throughout WAC [246-840-200](#) through [246-840-260](#) unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) **"Active nursing practice"** means engagement in paid, unpaid, or volunteer activity performing acts requiring substantial nursing knowledge, judgment, and skills described under RCW [18.79.040](#), [18.79.050](#), and [18.79.060](#). Active nursing practice may include, but is not limited to, working as an administrator, quality manager, policy officer, public health nurse, parish nurse, home health nurse, educator, consultant, regulator, and investigator or case manager.
- (2) **"Advanced nursing degree"** means education preparation beyond one's initial education for nurse licensure.
- (3) **"Attestation"** means the affirmation by signature of the nurse indicating compliance with the standards and terms of the continuing competency requirements.
- (4) **"Compliance audit"** means a review of documents to determine whether the nurse has fulfilled the requirements in WAC [246-840-220](#) through [246-840-260](#).
- (5) **"Continuing competency"** is the ongoing ability of a nurse to maintain, update and demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills, judgment, and qualifications necessary to practice safely and ethically in a designated role and setting in accordance with the scope of nursing practice. A nurse achieves continuing competency through active practice and continuing nursing education.
- (6) **"Continuing nursing education"** refers to systematic professional learning experiences obtained after initial licensure and designed to augment the knowledge, skills, and judgment of nurses and enrich nurses' contributions to quality health care and the pursuit of professional career goals, related to a nurse's area of professional practice, growth and development.
- (7) **"Nurse"** means a registered nurse and licensed practical nurse.
- (8) **"Review period"** is one full licensing renewal cycle. For purposes of a compliance audit, the review period will be the one year preceding the audit due date.
- (9) **"Technical assistance"** means guidance provided by board staff to help the nurse comply with laws and rules.

WAC 246-840-220

Continuing competency requirements—Active status.

- (1) Upon license renewal a nurse must attest on a form provided by the department of health declaring completion of the required active nursing practice hours and continuing nursing education hours.

- (2) A nurse must complete within a 12-month period prior to the renewal of licensure:
- (a) A minimum of 96 hours of active nursing practice; and
 - (b) A minimum of eight hours of continuing nursing education of which at least two hours must be on health equity training, as specified in WAC [246-840-222](#).
- (3) Nurses must complete a qualified suicide prevention training as follows:
- (a) A registered nurse, except for registered nurses holding an active certified registered nurse anesthetist license, and licensed practical nurses must complete a one-time, six-hour training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management from a qualified suicide prevention training program. The training must be completed by the end of the first full year of licensure.
 - (b) A qualified suicide training program must be on the Department of Health model list, required under RCW [43.70.442](#), to be accepted.
 - (c) The hours spent completing a qualified training program in suicide assessment, treatment, and management under this section counts toward continuing competency requirements in subsection (2)(b) of this section.
- (4) Nurses who are enrolled in, or have completed prerequisite classes for, an advanced nursing education program are exempt from the continuing competency requirements during their current review period.
- (5) Nurses providing telemedicine services shall complete requirements under RCW 43.70.495.

WAC 246-840-222

Continuing competency requirements—Health equity continuing education.

- (1) Nurses must complete a minimum of two hours of health equity continuing education every year upon license renewal.
- (2) The hours spent completing health equity continuing education under this section count toward meeting applicable continuing education requirements for nurse license renewal as described in WAC [246-840-220](#).
- (3) An educational program providing health equity continuing education training must:
- (a) Include implicit bias training to identify strategies to reduce bias during assessment and diagnosis and may include, but is not limited to, at least one of the topics included in RCW [43.70.613](#) (3)(c).
 - (b) Have trainers with demonstrated knowledge and experience related to health equity. Research referenced in the training must be based on current empirical research and known best practices.

(c) Have courses that assess the health care professional's ability to apply health equity concepts into practice in accordance with profession specific rules, which may include, but are not limited to:

(i) An assessment at the end of an in-person or virtual continuing education training to determine knowledge gained during that training; or

(ii) A document provided at the end of an in-person or virtual continuing education training that attests attendance at the training.

(4) This training must be completed by the second full continuing education reporting period after initial licensure.

(5) After the first required reporting period, this training must be completed within a 12-month period prior to license renewal. Additional hours cannot be rolled over to the following year.

WAC 246-840-230

Continuing competency audit process and compliance.

(1) The board may conduct a compliance audit:

(a) Through random selection; and

(b) At the discretion of the board, on nurses under the disciplinary process.

(2) The board will notify a nurse selected for compliance audit at the address on record with the department.

(3) The nurse must submit continuing education in clock hours.

(4) Failure to complete the required hours and provide the required documentation may be considered an aggravating factor per WAC [246-16-890](#) in any disciplinary action for a violation of RCW [18.130.180](#).

WAC 246-840-250

Continuing competency requirements—Reactivation from expired status.

(1) All nurses applying for reactivation must meet the requirements of WAC [246-12-020](#) through [246-12-051](#) and [246-840-111](#).

(2) If a license is expired for more than one year, and the nurse has not held an active nursing license in any U.S. jurisdiction, the nurse must complete ninety-six hours of active nursing practice and eight hours of continuing nursing education within one year of reactivation.

WAC 246-840-260

Continuing competency requirements—Reactivation from inactive status.

(1) All nurses applying for reactivation must meet the requirements of WAC [246-12-090](#) through [246-12-110](#) and [246-840-120](#).

(2) If a license is inactive for more than one year, and the nurse has not held an active nursing license in any U.S. jurisdiction, the nurse must complete ninety-six hours of active nursing practice and eight hours of continuing nursing education within one year of reactivation.