

## SISKIND'S HEALTH CARE IMMIGRATION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2001

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SSHD serves immigration clients throughout the world from its offices in the US, Canada and the People's Republic of China . To schedule a telephone or in-person consultation with the firm, go to <http://www.visalaw.com/intake.html>. Writers: Greg Siskind, Karen Weinstock and Simon Bieber.

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### Openers

Dear Readers:

We're pleased to present to you the December 2001 issue of the Visalaw.com Health Care Immigration News. This month, we have a number of stories on important developments in health care immigration as well as analytical articles providing background on visa processing for health care workers. On the news front, we report on the coming of premium processing for I-140 cases and the abrupt halt to USDA waiver processing for J-1 physicians. On the analytical front, we discuss H-1B visas for physical therapists and help physicians and medical researchers understand the differences between various types of waivers. We also include a new chart that surveys all 50 states' licensing requirements for foreign physical therapists.

I also remind readers that I welcome you to contact me if you or your organization is seeking representation in a health care related immigration matter. Our firm works extensively in this practice area and we have assisted thousands of physicians, nurses, therapists and other types of health care workers. Just e-mail me at [gsiskind@visalaw.com](mailto:gsiskind@visalaw.com) or call me at 800-748-3819. We normally charge for consultations (as described at [www.visalaw.com/intake.html](http://www.visalaw.com/intake.html)), but for health care related matters, we deviate from that policy. We will not charge for consultations in such matters if the conversation is less than 15 minutes. Our normal fees would apply after that.

Kind regards,

Greg Siskind

## **Premium processing for I-140s Begins in May**

**The INS has announced that it will extend its premium process program to I-140 employment-based immigrant visa petitions beginning in May 2002. The premium processing program is currently available for most non-immigrant visa petitions. Under the program, the INS guarantees that within 15 days it will either issue an approval notice, a notice of intent to deny, a request for evidence or a notice of investigation for fraud or misrepresentation. If the INS fails to process within the 15 day timetable, it will refund the \$1000 and continue processing the petition under the Premium Processing Service.**

**Aside from speedy processing, Premium Processing applicants are able to use a dedicated phone number to communicate with the INS regarding premium cases and there is a dedicated e-mail address where applicants can check on the status of cases and ask other questions.**

**The premium processing program began last June and the INS can claim that the program has been successful. Customers who have used the program report that the INS has been successful in turning cases around quickly. And fears that the premium program would lead to backtracking in processing times for normally filed cases have generally not proven true. Furthermore, the dedicated phone and email service has proven to be one of the most popular features of the program.**

**Premium processing for I-140 cases will be welcomed particularly since over the years processing times have stretched to more than a year for these cases. Right now, for example, the INS Texas Service Center is only handling cases filed in January 2001. One of the groups that will most benefit from the new program is the foreign nurse community.**

**Most foreign nurses have few, if any, non-immigrant visa options available and must usually wait at least a year to two years to complete the green card application process. The premium processing program could bring the wait down to as little as six months.**

**STATE 20 CHART – DECEMBER**

State and Contact Information	Number of State 20 Programs Available	New Rules Regarding State 20 Programs	National Interest Waiver (NIW) Information
Alabama Charles Lail (334) 206-5396	20 as of Dec 10/01	**only when all other programs are full or exhausted will Alabama grant a State 20 waiver** allow geriatrics 95% of state's health need are met <a href="http://www.alapubhealth.org/opcrh">www.alapubhealth.org/opcrh</a> email: <a href="mailto:clail@adph.state.al.us">clail@adph.state.al.us</a>	
Alaska Patricia Carr (907) 465-3091	18 as of Dec 10/01	* state 20 programs are a recent development in Alaska * not enough sites sponsor programs * no new law since July 2000 <a href="http://www.chems.alaska.gov/Primary_Care_J1.htm">http://www.chems.alaska.gov/Primary_Care_J1.htm</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:pat_carr@health.state.ak.us">pat_carr@health.state.ak.us</a>	* do sponsor NIW but there have been no changes in the law
Arizona (602) 542-1219 Belinda Ehlert	13 applications under review as of Nov. 23/2001 Application period ended until Jan 1.	<a href="http://www.hs.state.az.us/hsd/visa_waiver.htm">www.hs.state.az.us/hsd/visa_waiver.htm</a> Email: <a href="mailto:behlert@hs.state.az.us">behlert@hs.state.az.us</a> fax 602-542-2011 Will accept doctors with specialty or sub-specialty training if they are willing to work in primary care.	No limit on the # of NIW but nothing in writing.
Arkansas	NA	NA	
California	NA	<a href="http://www.ruralhealth.ca.gov/ruraljob/jobsj1.htm">www.ruralhealth.ca.gov/ruraljob/jobsj1.htm</a>	
Colorado Bronwyn Shaffer (303) 692-2348	18 as of Dec 10/01	<a href="http://www.cchn.org">www.cchn.org</a> (303) 758-3448 fax Email: <a href="mailto:Bronwyn.Shaffer@state.co.us">Bronwyn.Shaffer@state.co.us</a>	
Connecticut Steve Carragher (860) 509-	21 applications have been	Email: <a href="mailto:stephen.carragher@po.state.ct.us">stephen.carragher@po.state.ct.us</a>  Fax: (860) 509-8457	Contact dept. (860) 509-7658

7590	received as of Nov 7/01		
Delaware Mario Nelson (302) 739-4735	7 as of December 13/2001	Accepts specialty and sub-specialty physicians Email: <a href="mailto:mnelson@state.de.us">mnelson@state.de.us</a> The seven J-1 positions left will be filled by critical speciality needs, or emergent site requirement	-a letter from the employer and physician -a letter showing how the need for physicians will be met - nothing in writing
Florida Karen Lundberg (850) 487-2044	8 as of Nov 19/01	No changes but any updates will be posted on website- <a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/recruit">www.doh.state.fl.us/recruit</a> Email: <a href="mailto:Karen_Lundberg@doh.state.fl.us">Karen_Lundberg@doh.state.fl.us</a> Additional 20 applications	Information is being faxed to 1-800-684-1267
Georgia Monique Rigard (404) 657-6620	10 as of Oct 29/01	Email: <a href="mailto:mrigard@dch.state.ga.us">mrigard@dch.state.ga.us</a>	
Hawaii William H. Dendle, III (808) 586-4442	NA	<a href="http://www.state.hi.us/health/">www.state.hi.us/health/</a>  1250 Punchbowl Street, Room 340 Honolulu, HI 96813	
Idaho	NA	NA	
Illinois Mary Ring (217) 782-1624	0 as of Nov 1/01	No changes in the law <a href="http://www.idph.state.il.us">www.idph.state.il.us</a>	State does sponsor NIW No changes
Indiana Ray Guest (317) 233-7846	No longer accepting applications	- will be changing to an application for process next year	*require CV *letter of need
Idaho	NA	NA	
Iowa Karl Kulcyk (515) 281-	20	10 urban, 10 rural	- only to those physicians

7223			sponsored by Iowa for a J-1 waiver
Kansas Jane Faubion (913) 296-1200	NA	NA Email: uskannjq@ibmmail.com	
Kentucky Robert Calhoun (502) 564-8966	0 as Nov 5/01		Will write letters of support
Louisiana Paula Kramer (225) 342-4702	6 as of Nov 5/01	priority to J-1 applicants who do their residency in Louisiana email: <a href="mailto:pkramer@dhh.state.la.us">pkramer@dhh.state.la.us</a> plan on accepting 2 or 3 specialties each year	No program as of yet
Maine Sophie Glidden (207) 624-5424	20 as of Nov 1/01	No new laws No website Strictly Primary Care Do allow moonlighting, a doctor with specialty or subspecialty training can receive a J visa if he/she is willing to work in primary care	Nothing to report
Maryland Antionette Coward (410) 767-5695	18 as of Nov 14/01	No changes but all updates will be on website at <a href="http://www.mdpublichealth.org">www.mdpublichealth.org</a>	Regulations are in the process of being written down. Once they are they will be posted on website.
Massachusetts Catharine Sibble (617) 624-6043	10 as of Dec 13/01	Contact: <a href="mailto:catharine.sibble@state.ma.us">catharine.sibble@state.ma.us</a>  To request a J waiver: Email: <a href="mailto:j1@state.ma.us">j1@state.ma.us</a> Many more than 10 applications received. The chances of receiving one of the final 10 still not approved	

		in MA is very small	
Michigan Michelle Lovaas (517) 432- 1066	Closed in September	<a href="http://www.mimom.org/page.cfm/41/">www.mimom.org/page.cfm/41/</a>	Nothing in writing
Minnesota Lawrence Colaizy (651) 282- 3851	20	<a href="http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/j1main.htm">http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/j1main.htm</a> - email: <a href="mailto:lawrence.col aizy@health.state.mn.us">lawrence.col aizy@health.state.mn.us</a>  accept 4 specialist applications prior to the last quarter of the federal fiscal year (July 1). In the last quarter we will accept any qualified application in the order received. A discussion paper regarding the change to include specialists is available. We are trying to avoid making the distinction between specilaties and subspecialties.  discourage moonlighting but believe it is ultimately a contract issue between the physician and employer. All work must be in a designated shortage area.	
Mississippi Perelia Taylor (601) 576- 7216	15 as of December 10, 2001	E-mail: <a href="mailto:ptaylor@msdh.state.ms.us">ptaylor@msdh.state.ms.us</a>  currently developing changes to the program for implementation October 1, 2001. Four specialists per year  <a href="http://msdh.state.ms.us">http://msdh.state.ms.us</a>	
Missouri Harold Kirby (573) 751- 6219	20		
Montana	NA	-understaffed	

Marge Levine (406) 444-4748		- looking at the possibility of sponsoring those who the USDA will not	
Nebraska Tom Rauner (402) 471-0148	20	Email: <a href="mailto:trauner@hhs.state.ne.us">trauner@hhs.state.ne.us</a>	Contact Tom Rauner to apply
Nevada Jim LaRue (775) 687-1871	20	<a href="http://www.state.nv.us/healthprimary/j1visa.htm">www.state.nv.us/healthprimary/j1visa.htm</a> or <a href="http://www.state.nv.us/health/primary/Conrad%202020%20Process%20and%20Criteria%202000.htm">www.state.nv.us/health/primary/Conrad%202020%20Process%20and%20Criteria%202000.htm</a> email: <a href="mailto:jarue@govmail.state.nv.us">jarue@govmail.state.nv.us</a> <a href="http://health2k.state.nv.us/primary/JP-1%20Visa.doc">http://health2k.state.nv.us/primary/JP-1%20Visa.doc</a>	
New Hampshire Brian Ayars (603) 271-4547	20		- hasn't even heard of them
New Jersey Brenda Evans (609) 292-1495	15 as of Dec 10/01	<a href="http://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/j1waiv.htm">www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/j1waiv.htm</a> email: Brenda.Evans@doh.state.nj.us	Do not sponsor them.
New Mexico Kim Kinsey (505) 841-5871	20	Procedural changes. Fall of 2000 Subspecialty and specialty physicians now included <a href="http://www.nmhr.org">www.nmhr.org</a>	NIW are extremely rare in N.M. Only a few in years past, mostly by universities for special research.
New York Steve Swanson (518) 473-7019	20	<a href="http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/dpprd/01infbul.htm">www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/dpprd/01infbul.htm</a> or <a href="http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/dpprd/j-1b.htm">www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/dpprd/j-1b.htm</a> or <a href="http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/dpprd/j-1a.htm">www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/dpprd/j-1a.htm</a>	

North Carolina Tom Tucker (919) 733-2040	12 as of Nov 13/01	<a href="http://www.ncruralhealth.org/j1.html">www.ncruralhealth.org/j1.html</a> email: <a href="mailto:tomtucker@mindspring.com">tomtucker@mindspring.com</a>	
North Dakota Mary Amanson (701) 777-2344	19 as of December 12/2001	No new changes Email: <a href="mailto:mamundsn@medicine.nodak.edu">mamundsn@medicine.nodak.edu</a> <a href="http://www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/rural/j1.html">http://www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/rural/j1.html</a>	Contact Gary Garland at (701) 328-4839
Ohio Phil Styner (614) 644-8508	18 as of October 22, 2001	Email: <a href="mailto:psyter@gw.odh.state.oh.us">psyter@gw.odh.state.oh.us</a> No new changes	Contact Phil Styner to apply
Oklahoma Carrie Thompson (405) 271-8427	NA	Email: <a href="mailto:CariT@health.state.ok.us">CariT@health.state.ok.us</a> - the Oklahoma Conrad 20 Program ended on September 28, 2001 - Carrie Thompson will continue to be the contact person for physicians seeking waivers through USDA	Do not sponsor NIW at this time.
Oregon	NA	NA	
Pennsylvania Connie Hanna (717) 772-5298	17 as of Dec 12/01	will be changing the deadlines in the future but are not able to give any more information at this time <a href="http://www.health.state.pa.us">www.health.state.pa.us</a> or <a href="http://www.health.state.pa.us/practice/Forms/Waivinfo.htm">www.health.state.pa.us/practice/Forms/Waivinfo.htm</a> or <a href="http://www.health.state.pa.us/pdf/practice/forms/state20waiver.pdf">http://www.health.state.pa.us/pdf/practice/forms/state20waiver.pdf</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:channa@health.state.pa.us">channa@health.state.pa.us</a>	-have nothing in writing regarding NIW - have written 5 letters of support in the past year
Rhode Island Jackie Landry (401) 222-2231	0	<a href="http://www.healthir.org">www.healthir.org</a>	
South Carolina Mark Jordan (803) 898-0766	20	<a href="mailto:jordanma@columb61.dhec.state.sc.us">jordanma@columb61.dhec.state.sc.us</a>	

South Dakota Amy Petersen (605) 773-3361	20 as of Dec 10/01. Received 2 applications.	<a href="http://www.state.sd.us/doh/rural">www.state.sd.us/doh/rural</a> <a href="mailto:amy.petersen@state.sd.us">amy.petersen@state.sd.us</a> or <a href="mailto:sandra.durick@state.sd.us">sandra.durick@state.sd.us</a>	
Tennessee Patrick Lipford (615) 741-0418	14 as of December 10/01	<a href="http://170.142.76.180/rural/j1visa0.html">http://170.142.76.180/rural/j1visa0.html</a> no new laws  Michael Gregory's Email: mgregory@mail.state.tn.us	Contact Patrick Lipford or Michael Gregory at (615)741-0418 - do not provide NIW unless physician has completed his/her obligation in Tennessee
Texas (512) 479-8801	NA	<a href="http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/coph/chprj1.htm">www.tdh.state.tx.us/coph/chprj1.htm</a> No program	
Utah Erin Olsen 801-538-6214	18 as of Nov. 13/01	<a href="http://www.ethnichealthutah.org">www.ethnichealthutah.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:elolsen@doh.state.ut.us">elolsen@doh.state.ut.us</a> <a href="http://www.primarycareutah.org">www.primarycareutah.org</a> Specialty and Subspecialty doctors are allowed.	
Vermont Craig Stevens (802) 863-7513	19 as Dec 10/01	<a href="mailto:csteven@vdh.state.vt.us">csteven@vdh.state.vt.us</a>	
Virginia Bunny Caro (804) 786-1313		<a href="http://www.vdh.state.va.us/primcare/index.html">http://www.vdh.state.va.us/primcare/index.html</a>	
Washington Jennisha Johnson (206) 705-	3 Specialist Spaces, 15 Primary	<a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/ocrh/R&amp;R/j1.htm">www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/ocrh/R&amp;R/j1.htm</a> 15 Primary Care (1 pending) 5 Specialty (2 pending)	

6765	Care as of Dec 10/2001	j1waivers@ars.usda.gov	
West Virginia Jim Criniti (888) 442-3456 (304) 558-4385	13 as of Dec 10/01	<a href="http://www.wvdhhr.org/bph/recruit/j1-visa.htm">www.wvdhhr.org/bph/recruit/j1-visa.htm</a> email: jimcriniti@wvdhhr.org Changes as of January Now allowing MUAs , used to be limited to IPSA Also are now accepting specialty and subspecialty applications on a case by case basis <a href="http://www.wvrecruitment.org">www.wvrecruitment.org</a>	Typically, West Virginia asks doctors or their lawyers to present case to Lynda Etkins
Wisconsin Anne Dopp (608) 265-3610	Closed for the year	Email: <a href="mailto:doppaw@dhfs.state.wi.us">doppaw@dhfs.state.wi.us</a> <a href="http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/partners.htm">www.dhfs.state.wi.us/partners.htm</a>	
Wyoming (800) 456-9386	NA	NA	

Websites of interest for potential J-1 Visa Waiver applicants include:

U.S. State Department J-1 Visa Site: <http://travel.state.gov/jvw.html>

HRSA HPSA searchable database:

<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/databases/newhpsa/newhpsa.cfm>

HRSA MUA/MUP searchable database:

<http://www.bphc.hrsa.dhhs.gov/databases/mua/search.cfm>

## **H-1B Approvals for Nurses Increase Dramatically But Questions Remain**

**Siskind, Susser, Haas & Devine has learned through contacts at the State Department that the number of H-1B visas for health care workers, and nurses in particular, have increased substantially in recent months. While exact numbers have not been confirmed, we believe the number is greater than 2,000 cases.**

**Why nurses are now being approved is a question that is not easily answered. The INS in recent years has argued successfully in recent years that most nurses are not eligible for H-1B visas because most nursing positions do not meet the definition of a "specialty occupation." Generally speaking, to qualify as a specialty occupation, a position should require a bachelors degree. While most foreign nurses do, in fact, possess bachelors degrees, the facilities where they are placed do not. Registered Nurses in the US can receive a license after obtaining a two year degree. While hospitals and other health care employers would often prefer to hire nurses with bachelors degrees, the persistent nursing shortage has forced many to hire lesser qualified nurses rather than having no nurses at all.**

**Our State Department contact reports that H-1B approvals are coming out of all four INS Service Centers. We have not been able to get detailed information from the State Department on the nature of the positions being approved, but we have received reports from many in the field indicating that the cases being approved are for advanced level nurses. These may be nurses in supervisory or managerial positions or in positions requiring a more specialized set of skills.**

**We have also learned through our research that a number of these approvals may actually be several nurse recruiting firms around the US are possibly filing H-1B petitions under false pretenses. According to our sources, some firms are submitting H-1B petitions falsely claiming lower level nurses are working in advanced positions. In some cases, false statements about the wage being paid are made on the ETA-9035 Labor Condition Application.**

**The questionable cases seem to follow a similar pattern. "Middle men" - typically recruiters placing nurses at hospitals rather than nurse contractors - approach hospitals with an offer to get them nurses within six months with no payment due until the nurses arrive. The recruiter files an H-1B petition as an agent using a power of attorney granted to the recruiter by the hospital. The petitions are for advanced practice nurses or administrators and list salaries consistent with the job title. In fact, the underlying position is for a staff nurse. And instead of paying the nurse the**

**salary represented on the Labor Condition Application, the nurse is paid what is typically paid to other floor nurses.**

**The cases are generally filed directly by the recruiters instead of through an immigration lawyer. One immigration lawyer interviewed for this story learned about this practice when he was asked by a hospital client why he could not get H-1B visas for the hospital's nurses while a particular recruiter could. When the attorney conducted an audit of the hospital's H-1B paperwork, he discovered that the hospital faced a potential backpay liability of \$300,000 plus considerable monetary penalties and a bar on using filing H-1B visas for a year. What should worry human resource managers most is that there are criminal penalties associated with H-1B visa fraud that can result in real jail time.**

**The problem may be solved if Congress passes legislation to bring back in a new form the old H-1A visa. The I-140 premium processing program should also alleviate much of the pressure to file questionable H-1B cases when it comes on line next spring (see the story above).**

## **USDA Freezes J-1 Physician Waivers in Wake of September 11th Attacks**

**Siskind, Susser, Haas & Devine has learned that the US Department of Agriculture has not issued any J-1 home residency waivers for physicians since the September 11th attacks in the United States. While cases are being accepted and processed, final approvals are not being issued. No official explanation has been offered for the suspension of approvals.**

**There appears to be no evidence that any physician who has received a waiver has been connected with terrorism. Furthermore, as visa processing at the INS and State Department has not been interrupted, it appears that the USDA has gone farther than any other agency in the United States in imposing a blanket moratorium on processing applications for immigrants.**

**The moratorium on issuing waivers is having major implications. Physicians are falling out of status because they are unable to change visas or, in the alternative, they are having to move their families overseas while they wait. And rural communities that depend on the services of foreign physicians are being forced to make due with less than adequate medical care. The USDA has not indicated when the moratorium will be lifted.**

## NURSE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS BY STATE

State	By Endorsement	By exam	CGFNS Certificate required?	NCLEX	SS#	Other
<p><b>Alabama</b></p> <p>Alabama Board of Nursing 770 Washington Avenue RSA Plaza, Ste 250 Montgomery, AL 36130-3900</p> <p>Phone: (334) 242-4060 FAX: (334) 242-4360</p> <p>Contact Person: N. Genell Lee, MSN, JD, RN, Executive Officer</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.abn.state.al.us/">http://www.abn.state.al.us/</a></p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<p>Provide proof of completion of secondary school or its equivalent.</p> <p>Be a graduate of a nursing education program approved by the proper authorities in the country where the program is located.</p> <p>Meet the requirements for nursing program content employed as criteria for approval in Alabama at the time of the applicant's graduation or make up any educational deficiencies</p>
<p><b>Alaska</b></p> <p>Alaska Board of Nursing Dept. of Comm. &amp; Econ. Development Div. of Occupational Licensing 3601 C Street, Suite 722 Anchorage, AK 99503</p> <p>Phone: (907) 269-8161 FAX: (907) 269-8196</p> <p>Contact Person: Dorothy Fulton, MA, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.dced.state.ak.us/cc/pnur.htm">http://www.dced.state.ak.us/cc/pnur.htm</a></p>	Yes* <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No* <sup>2</sup>	<p>Graduate of foreign nursing schools accepted.</p> <p>*1 Canadians accepted only if graduated before July 1992 with score of 400 on all parts of exam. If graduated after 7/92 must pass NCLEX</p> <p>*2 If taking NCLEX without SSN must fill out an exemption form</p>
<p><b>Arizona</b></p> <p>Arizona State Board of Nursing 1651 E. Morten Avenue, Suite 210 Phoenix, AZ 85020</p> <p>Phone: (602) 331-8111 FAX: (602) 906-9365</p> <p>Contact Person: Joey Ridenour, MN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.azboardofnursing.org/">http://www.azboardofnursing.org/</a></p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, if qualifying by exam (not required for endorsement)		<p>Compact State</p> <p>AZ recognizes some foreign licenses</p>
<p><b>Arkansas</b></p> <p>Arkansas State Board of Nursing University Tower Building 1123 S. University, Suite 800</p>	Yes* <sup>3</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No* <sup>4</sup>	<p>Compact State</p> <p>Graduated from a nursing program in which the curriculum is "substantially similar" to Arkansas nursing programs;</p>

<p>Little Rock, AR 72204-1619  Phone: (501) 686-2700  FAX: (501) 686-2714</p> <p>Contact Person: Faith Fields,  MSN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.state.ar.us/nurse">http://www.state.ar.us/nurse</a></p>			speaking countries			<p>*3 Foreign educated nurses licensed in another jurisdiction who can validate that their foreign nursing education program was "substantially similar" to Arkansas nursing programs via an official transcript from their nursing education program and who have passed NCLEX, provided they are otherwise qualified ; certain Canadian Registered Nurses licensed by NLN State Board Test Pool Examination</p> <p>*4 Must fill Special application for all nurses without SSN</p> <p>A foreign license may be recognized in AR  TOEFL is required</p>
<p>California</p> <p>California Board of Registered Nursing  400 R St., Ste. 4030  Sacramento, CA 95814-6239</p> <p>Phone: (916) 322-3350  FAX: (916) 327-4402</p> <p>Contact Person: Ruth Ann Terry, MPH, RN, Executive Officer</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.rn.ca.gov/">http://www.rn.ca.gov/</a></p>	Yes	Canada only If CNATS written prior to 1980	No	Yes	If CNATS written after 1980	<p>Compact State</p> <p>Educational documents must be translated and certified by an official translator; education must meet California standards or deficiencies made up; a foreign MD is not adequate</p> <p>TOEFL is required</p>
<p>Colorado</p> <p>Colorado Board of Nursing  1560 Broadway, Suite 880  Denver, CO 80202</p> <p>Phone: (303) 894-2430  FAX: (303) 894-2821</p> <p>Contact Person: Patricia Uris, PhD, RN, Program Administrator</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing/">http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing/</a></p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Except for Canadians applying by endorsement	<p>Canadian nurses – if not applying by endorsement from another state must have CGFNS first</p> <p>Nurse will have to apply for a SSN</p>
<p>Connecticut</p> <p>Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing  Dept. of Public Health  410 Capitol Avenue, MS# 13PHO  P.O. Box 340308  Hartford, CT 06134-0328</p> <p>Phone: (860) 509-7624  FAX: (860) 509-7553</p> <p>Contact Person: Jan Wojick , Board Liaison</p>	Yes	Yes	Passage of CGFNS exam for foreign educated nurses.	Yes		<p>*5 Canadian licensed nurses may be exempt from educational requirements or NCLEX and admitted if passed the CRNE (Canadian Registered Nurse Exam in English or French +TOEFL</p> <p>Canadian nurses exempt from CGFNS if licensed in another U.S. state</p>

<b>Board Liaison</b> <b>Web Site:</b> <a href="http://www.state.ct.us/dph/">http://www.state.ct.us/dph/</a>	License may be accepted <sup>*5</sup>					
<b>Delaware</b>  Delaware Board of Nursing 861 Silver Lake Blvd Cannon Building, Suite 203 Dover, DE 19904  Phone: (302) 739-4522 FAX: (302) 739-2711  Contact Person: Iva Boardman, MSN, RN, Executive Director	Yes			Yes <sup>*6</sup>		*6 Not required if Canadian graduated before Aug. 1981 or graduated between Aug. 1981-Aug. 1995 and received 400+ score on exam.
<b>District of Columbia</b>  District of Columbia Board of Nursing Department of Health 825 N. Capitol Street, N.E., 2nd Floor Room 2224 Washington, DC 20002  Phone: (202) 442-4778 FAX: (202) 442-9431  Contact Person: Bonnie Rampersaud, Acting Program Manager for Program Licensing	Yes <sup>*7</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes		*7 For Canadians graduated before 1970. after 1970 – CGFNS & NCLEX required
<b>Florida</b>  Florida Board of Nursing 4080 Woodcock Drive, Suite 202 Jacksonville, FL 32207  Phone: (904) 858-6940 FAX: (904) 858-6964  Contact Person: Ruth R. Stiehl, PhD., MN, MA, BS, RN, Executive Director  <b>Web Site:</b> <a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mna/">http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mna/</a>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>*8</sup>	Yes <sup>*9</sup>	*8 Canadians without NCLEX accepted unless the score is "pass or fail". If not a numeric score on exam, must take the NCLEX or a course by course evaluation by CGFNS  *9 Required for NCLEX
<b>Georgia</b>  Georgia State Board of Licensed Practical Nurses 237 Coliseum Drive Macon, GA 31217-3858  Phone: (478) 207-1300 FAX: (478) 207-1633  Contact Person: Jacqueline Hightower, JD, Executive Director			Yes <sup>*10</sup>	Yes	Not required for NCLEX	Foreign education equivalent to Georgia; Documentation of 3 months or 500 hours of experience abroad.  *10 If not schooled in English. If schooled in English a course by course evaluation may be required  Foreign license may be recognized  TOEFL is required

<p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.sos.state.ga.us/ed-lpn/">http://www.sos.state.ga.us/ed-lpn/</a></p>						
<p>Hawaii</p> <p>Hawaii Board of Nursing  Professional &amp; Vocational  Licensing Division  P.O. Box 3469  Honolulu, HI 96801</p> <p>Phone: (808) 586-3000  FAX: (808) 586-2689</p> <p>Contact Person: Kathleen  Yokouchi , Executive Officer</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.state.hi.us/dcca/p/areas_nurse.html">http://www.state.hi.us/dcca/p/areas_nurse.html</a></p>	No		Yes	Yes	No SSN needed for NCLEX	<p>Must meet minimum education requirements of Hawaii;</p> <p>Must have CGFNS before NCLEX</p> <p>Must have An educational evaluation</p>
<p>Idaho</p> <p>Idaho Board of Nursing  280 N. 8th Street, Suite 210  P.O. Box 83720  Boise, ID 83720</p> <p>Phone: (208) 334-3110  FAX: (208) 334-3262</p> <p>Contact Person: Sandra  Evans, MA,Ed., RN, Executive  Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.state.id.us/ibn/ibnhome.htm">http://www.state.id.us/ibn/ibnhome.htm</a></p>	Yes* <sup>11</sup>	Yes		Yes		<p>Compact State</p> <p>*11 Must have equivalent credentials</p> <p>*12 Similar to U.S. state endorsement  Plus credentialing and language requirements</p> <p>*13 Test approved by the board for nursing knowledge and English proficiency</p> <p>Canadian nurses can be admitted with NCLEX</p>
<p>Illinois</p> <p>Illinois Department of Professional Regulation  James R. Thompson Center  100 West Randolph, Suite 9-300  Chicago, IL 60601</p> <p>Phone: (312) 814-2715  FAX: (312) 814-3145</p> <p>Contact Person: Deborah  Taylor, RN, Ed.D Nursing Act  Assistant Coordinator</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.dpr.state.il.us/">http://www.dpr.state.il.us/</a></p>	Yes	Yes	No CGFNS certificate required OR* <sup>14</sup>	Yes* <sup>15</sup>		<p>Pending Compact State  All documents in a foreign language  Must be accompanied by original notarized  Translation of a person other than the applicant.</p> <p>*14 (1) A letter of explanation of denial by CGFNS and (2) nursing School Transcripts + diploma (3) middle school records (4) high school records (5) proof of foreign licensure</p> <p>*15 For temporary license:passing the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation Exam if no CGFNS certificate</p>
<p>Indiana</p> <p>Indiana State Board of Nursing  Health Professions Bureau  402 W. Washington Street,  Room W041  Indianapolis, IN 46204</p>	Yes* <sup>16</sup>	Yes	Yes  Except certain Canadians (NCLEX required)	Yes		*16 Copy of state license and (1) nursing school transcripts specifying theory and clinical experience (2) copy of high school diploma or transcripts

<p>Phone: (317) 232-2960 FAX: (317) 233-4236</p> <p>Contact Person: Kristen Burch , Dir. of Nursing of IN BON</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.state.in.us/hpb/boards/isbn/">http://www.state.in.us/hpb/boards/isbn/</a></p>						
<p>Iowa</p> <p>Iowa Board of Nursing RiverPoint Business Park 400 S.W. 8th Street, Suite B Des Moines, IA 50309-4685</p> <p>Phone: (515) 281-3255 FAX: (515) 281-4825</p> <p>Contact Person: Lorinda Inman, MSN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.state.ia.us/government/nursing/">http://www.state.ia.us/government/nursing/</a></p>	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>*17</sup>	Yes		*17 CGFNS Required if not licensed in another U.S. state
<p>Kansas</p> <p>Kansas State Board of Nursing Landon State Office Building 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 551-S Topeka, KS 66612</p> <p>Phone: (785) 296-4929 FAX: (785) 296-3929</p> <p>Contact Person: Mary Blubaugh, MSN, RN, Executive Administrator</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.ksbn.org">http://www.ksbn.org</a></p>	Yes <sup>*18</sup>	Yes	Yes Must have for all foreign nurses	Yes		*18 From Jurisdiction using State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE) or the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX)
<p>Kentucky</p> <p>Kentucky Board of Nursing 312 Whittington Parkway, Suite 300 Louisville, KY 40222</p> <p>Phone: (502) 329-7000 FAX: (502) 329-7011</p> <p>Contact Person: Sharon Weisenbeck, MS, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.kbn.state.ky.us/">http://www.kbn.state.ky.us/</a></p>	Yes <sup>*19</sup>	Yes	Yes <sup>*20</sup>	Yes <sup>*21</sup>	No SSN required for NCLEX	*19 From Jurisdiction using State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE) or the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX)  *20 Nurses schooled in English must have a course by course evaluation by CGFNS or the exam  *21 Not required of Canadians graduated before 1981 with minimum score of 400
<p>Louisiana</p> <p>Louisiana State Board of</p>	Yes <sup>*22</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>*23</sup>		*22 (1) have a current U.S. license (2) Have written (no more than NCLEX and achieved a minimum

<p><b>Nursing</b> 3510 N. Causeway Boulevard, Suite 501 Metairie, LA 70003</p> <p>Phone: (504) 838-5332 FAX: (504) 838-5349</p> <p>Contact Person: Barbara Morvant, MN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.lsbn.state.la.us/">http://www.lsbn.state.la.us/</a></p>						<p>score of 350 or a score of "PASS" within 3 years of graduation from an approved program (3) Have worked as an LPN/LVN for a minimum of six (full-time) months during the four years immediately preceding application (only applies to nurses who have been out of school for at least 4 years)</p> <p>*23 Canadians without NCLEX accepted with a score above 400 and exam taken in English. RNs with pass or fail score must take NCLEX.</p>
<p><b>Maine</b></p> <p>Maine State Board of Nursing 158 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333</p> <p>Phone: (207) 287-1133 FAX: (207) 287-1149</p> <p>Contact Person: Myra Broadway, JD, MS, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.state.me.us/nursingbd/">http://www.state.me.us/nursingbd/</a></p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>*24</sup>	Yes <sup>*25</sup>	<p>*24 Canadians without NCLEX accepted if exam written in English and have a course by course evaluation from CGFNS</p> <p>*25 Must have SSN for NCLEX</p>
<p><b>Maryland</b></p> <p>Maryland Board of Nursing 4140 Patterson Avenue Baltimore, MD 21215</p> <p>Phone: (410) 585-1900 FAX: (410) 358-3530</p> <p>Contact Person: Donna Dorsey, MS, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.mbon.org">http://www.mbon.org</a></p>	Yes		May be required <sup>*26</sup>	Yes <sup>*27</sup>	<sup>*28</sup>	<p>Compact State</p> <p>*26 Course by course evaluation from CGFNS for foreign nurses required. CGFNS exam may be required after board evaluates credentials.</p> <p>*27 Not required from Canadians graduated before 1981 and Canadian exam was in English.</p> <p>*28 No SSN required for NCLEX</p>
<p><b>Massachusetts</b></p> <p>Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing Commonwealth of Massachusetts 239 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114</p> <p>Phone: (617) 727-9961 FAX: (617) 727-1630</p> <p>Contact Person: Theresa Bonanno, MSN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.state.ma.us/regboards/rn/">http://www.state.ma.us/regboards/rn/</a></p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<p>Compact State</p> <p>Must also have a passing score At CGFNS English exam portion Need also proof of moral character U.S. SSN And payment of licensure and NCLEX fees</p> <p>TOEFL is required</p>

<p><b>Michigan</b></p> <p>Michigan CIS/Office of Health Services Ottawa Towers North 611 W. Ottawa, 4th Floor Lansing, MI 48933</p> <p>Phone: (517) 373-9102 FAX: (517) 373-2179</p> <p>Contact Person: Diane Lewis, Policy Manager for Licensing Division</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.cis.state.mi.us/bher/genover.htm">http://www.cis.state.mi.us/bher/genover.htm</a></p>	No	Yes	Yes  Required for all	Yes		
<p><b>Minnesota</b></p> <p>Minnesota Board of Nursing 2829 University Avenue SE Suite 500 Minneapolis, MN 55414</p> <p>Phone: (612) 617-2270 FAX: (612) 617-2190</p> <p>Contact Person: Shirley Brekken, MS, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.nursingboard.state.mn.us/">http://www.nursingboard.state.mn.us/</a></p>	Yes <sup>*29</sup>	Yes	Yes <sup>*30</sup>	Yes		<p>*29 NCLEX passing score; Verification of licensure; and confirmation of nursing employment required</p> <p>*30 Except certain Canadian schools</p>
<p><b>Mississippi</b></p> <p>Mississippi Board of Nursing 1935 Lakeland Drive, Suite B Jackson, MS 39216-5014</p> <p>Phone: (601) 987-4188 FAX: (601) 364-2352</p> <p>Contact Person: Marcia Rachel, PhD, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.msbn.state.ms.us/">http://www.msbn.state.ms.us/</a></p>	Yes			Yes		Canadians may be accepted with NCLEX (CGFNS not required)
<p><b>Missouri</b></p> <p>Missouri State Board of Nursing 3605 Missouri Blvd. P.O. Box 656 Jefferson City, MO 65102- 0656</p> <p>Phone: (573) 751-0681 FAX: (573) 751-0075</p> <p>Contact Person: Lori Scheidt, BS, Acting Executive Director</p>	Yes <sup>*31</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>*32</sup>	Yes <sup>*33</sup>	<p>Compact State</p> <p>*31 Must include nursing school transcripts if educated outside the U.S. Or if licensed at Connecticut, Illinois or Wisconsin</p> <p>*32 Canadians accepted without NCLEX if exam taken in English (CGFNS not required)</p> <p>*33 Not required for NCLEX but required to obtain license</p>

<p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.ecodev.state.montana.gov/pr/nursing/">http://www.ecodev.state.montana.gov/pr/nursing/</a></p>						foreign licenses not recognized
<p>Montana</p> <p>Montana State Board of Nursing  301 South Park  Helena, MT 59620-0513</p> <p>Phone: (406) 444-2071  FAX: (406) 841-2343</p> <p>Contact Person: Barbara Swehla, MN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.discoveringmontana.com/dli/bsd/license/bsd_boards/nur_board/board_page.htm">http://www.discoveringmontana.com/dli/bsd/license/bsd_boards/nur_board/board_page.htm</a></p>	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>*34</sup>	Yes or another board approved exam		<p>Candidates for licensure as practical nurses will be required to show evidence of having successfully completed an English proficiency examination before admission to the Montana licensing examination</p> <p>*34 Except certain Canadian school graduates who have also passed CNATS in the English language</p> <p>TOEFL is required</p>
<p>Nebraska</p> <p>Nebraska Health and Human Services System  Dept. of Regulation &amp; Licensure, Nursing Section  301 Centennial Mall South  Lincoln, NE 68509-4986</p> <p>Phone: (402) 471-4376  FAX: (402) 471-3577</p> <p>Contact Person: Charlene Kelly, PhD, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/cnns.htm">http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/cnns.htm</a></p>	Yes <sup>*35</sup>	Yes	Yes Except certain Canadians	Yes		<p>*35 Verification of other State license plus NCLEX plus transcripts from nursing school</p> <p>TOEFL is required</p>
<p>Nevada</p> <p>Nevada State Board of Nursing  License Certification and Education  4330 S. Valley View  Suite 106  Las Vegas, NV 89502</p> <p>Phone: (702) 486-5800  FAX: (702) 486-5803</p> <p>Contact Person: Don Rennie  Associate Executive Director for Licensure &amp; Certification</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.nursingboard.state.nv.us">http://www.nursingboard.state.nv.us</a></p>	Yes SBTPE or NCLEX + transcripts	Yes	Yes <sup>*36</sup>	Yes Must have CGFNS before NCLEX	Yes	<p>Foreign educated nurses  Must obtain a copy of transcripts From: nursing school  Or CGFNS  Or another state board of nursing  Or verification from original Licensure agency</p> <p>*36  CGFNS not required if official language of native country is English</p>
<p>New Hampshire</p> <p>New Hampshire Board of</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>*37</sup>	Yes	<p>Certain Canadian nurses are exempt from CGFNS. Have to obtain certain scores in Canadian</p>

<p>Nursing P.O. Box 3898 78 Regional Drive, BLDG B Concord, NH 03302</p> <p>Phone: (603) 271-2323 FAX: (603) 271-6605</p> <p>Contact Person: Cynthia Gray, MBA, BS, RN, CPN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.state.nh.us/nursing/">http://www.state.nh.us/nursing/</a></p>						<p>exam. If examined after August 1, 1995 will have to take the NCLEX</p> <p>*37 Not required from Canadians writing CNATS before 1 Aug 1995 and in English</p> <p>Not required if exam passing score of 400 or higher and in English.</p> <p>Must have SSN and CGFNS before NCLEX</p>
<p>New Jersey</p> <p>New Jersey Board of Nursing P.O. Box 45010 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor Newark, NJ 07101</p> <p>Phone: (973) 504-6586 FAX: (973) 648-3481</p> <p>Contact Person: Patricia Lynch Polansky, MS, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/medical.htm">http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/medical.htm</a></p>	Yes	Yes	Yes  Except certain Canadians	Yes <sup>*38</sup>	Yes	<p>Visa required for license</p> <p>*38 Canadians accepted if graduated before 9/25/1980 without NCLEX.</p>
<p>New Mexico</p> <p>New Mexico Board of Nursing 4206 Louisiana Boulevard, NE, Suite A Albuquerque, NM 87109</p> <p>Phone: (505) 841-8340 FAX: (505) 841-8347</p> <p>Contact Person: Debra Brady, PhD, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.state.nm.us/client/nursing">http://www.state.nm.us/client/nursing</a></p>	Yes <sup>*39</sup>	Yes	<sup>*40</sup> only course by course evaluation	Yes <sup>*41</sup>	Yes	<p>*39 (a) received initial licensure by passing NCLEX within the past five (5) years, or (b) have been engaged in nursing a minimum of 1,000 hours within the past five (5) years OR pass a board approved refreshed course</p> <p>*40 Required evaluation of nursing education credentials sent to the NM board of nursing directly from a board-recognized educational credentialing agency OR CGFNS</p> <p>*41 Not required of Canadians writing CNATS after 1970 in English</p>
<p>New York</p> <p>New York State Board of Nursing Education Bldg. 89 Washington Avenue 2nd Floor West Wing Albany, NY 12234</p> <p>Phone: (518) 474-3817 Ext. 120 FAX: (518) 474-3706</p> <p>Contact Person: Barbara Zittel, PhD, RN, Executive Secretary</p>	Yes, with exam results	Yes	<sup>*42</sup>	Yes		<p>*42 Credentials evaluation; certification required for limited permit only</p> <p>not required from certain Canadians</p>

<p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.nysed.gov/prof/nurse.htm">http://www.nysed.gov/prof/nurse.htm</a></p>						
<p>North Carolina</p> <p>North Carolina Board of Nursing  3724 National Drive, Suite 201  Raleigh, NC 27612</p> <p>Phone: (919) 782-3211  FAX: (919) 781-9461</p> <p>Contact Person: Polly Johnson, MSN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.ncbon.com/">http://www.ncbon.com/</a></p>	Yes	Yes	Yes Except certain Canadians	Yes <sup>*43</sup>		<p>Compact State</p> <p>*43 Canadians without NCLEX accepted. Credentialing exam must be in English.</p> <p>TOEFL is required</p>
<p>North Dakota</p> <p>North Dakota Board of Nursing  919 South 7th Street, Suite 504  Bismark, ND 58504</p> <p>Phone: (701) 328-9777  FAX: (701) 328-9785</p> <p>Contact Person: Constance Kalanek, PhD, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.ndbon.org/">http://www.ndbon.org/</a></p>	Yes <sup>*44</sup>	Yes <sup>*45</sup> *	Yes <sup>*46</sup> Unless schooled in English Must have transcripts evaluation	Yes CNATS accepted 1983-1993		<p>*44 IF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* entered nursing program prior to January 1, 1987</li> <li>* completed an associate degree in practical nursing</li> <li>* completed a baccalaureate degree in registered nursing</li> </ul> <p>*45 NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* State Board Test Pool Examination (S.B.T.P.E.)</li> <li>* English version of the CNATS (Canadian examination) from 1979 through 1993</li> </ul> <p>*46 Not required for graduates of English speaking Canadian schools</p> <p>If the nurse entered a nursing program after January 1, 1987 and do not have an associate degree in practical nursing or a baccalaureate degree in registered nursing, you are eligible to apply for the Transitional License to practice in North Dakota</p>
<p>Ohio</p> <p>Ohio Board of Nursing  17 South High Street, Suite 400  Columbus, OH 43215-3413</p> <p>Phone: (614) 466-3947  FAX: (614) 466-0388</p> <p>Contact Person: Janice Lanier, RN, JD, Interim Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.state.oh.us/nur/">http://www.state.oh.us/nur/</a></p>	Yes	Yes	No - Credentials evaluation only + visascreen verification	Yes		<p>Compact State</p> <p>There is a proposed rule to eliminate TSE requirement for nurses educated in English from February 2002.</p> <p>TSE must be taken if graduated outside the U.S.</p>
<p>Oklahoma</p>			Yes	Yes		

<p>Oklahoma Board of Nursing 2915 N. Classen Boulevard, Suite 524 Oklahoma City, OK 73106</p> <p>Phone: (405) 962-1800 FAX: (405) 962-1821</p> <p>Contact Person: Kimberly Glazier, M.Ed., RN, Executive Director</p>			<p>Except certain Canadians</p>			
<p>Oregon</p> <p>Oregon State Board of Nursing 800 NE Oregon Street, Box 25 Suite 465 Portland, OR 97232</p> <p>Phone: (503) 731-4745 FAX: (503) 731-4755</p> <p>Contact Person: Joan Bouchard, MN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.osbn.state.or.us/">http://www.osbn.state.or.us/</a></p>	Yes	Yes	No <sup>*47</sup>	Yes		<p>*47 Must have credentials evaluated and prove proficiency in English</p> <p>If educated outside the U.S. Must have credentials evaluated And document English proficiency by: (1) submit evidence that nursing education and clinical experience was in English or (2) document practicing in the U.S. for 960 hours in the past 2 years or (3) score of 560 for written exam or 220 for computer exam of TOEFL or (4) original CGFFNS certificate</p>
<p>Pennsylvania</p> <p>Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing</p> <p>124 Pine Street Harrisburg, PA 17101</p> <p>Phone: (717) 783-7142 FAX: (717) 783-0822</p> <p>Contact Person: Miriam Limo, MS, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.dos.state.pa.us/boa/nurbd/mainpage.htm">http://www.dos.state.pa.us/boa/nurbd/mainpage.htm</a></p>	Yes <sup>*48</sup>	Yes	<p>Yes</p> <p>Except certain Canadians</p>	Yes <sup>*49</sup>	Yes	<p>*48 With other state NCLEX based license</p> <p>*49 Canadians accepted without NCLEX</p> <p>J-1 doesn't need license</p>
<p>Rhode Island</p> <p>Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education 105 Cannon Building Three Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908</p> <p>Phone: (401) 222-5700 FAX: (401) 222-3352</p> <p>Contact Person: Charles Alexandre, MSN, RN, Executive Officer</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.healthri.org/hsr/professions/nurses.htm">http://www.healthri.org/hsr/professions/nurses.htm</a></p>			Yes	Yes		

<p>South Carolina</p> <p>South Carolina State Board of Nursing 110 Centerview Drive Suite 202 Columbia, SC 29210</p> <p>Phone: (803) 896-4550 FAX: (803) 896-4525</p> <p>Contact Person: Martha Bursinger, RN, MSN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing">http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing</a></p>			Yes <sup>*50</sup>	Yes		<p>*50 For credentials evaluation, CGFNS exam may be also required according to credentials</p> <p>Foreign license may be recognized</p>
<p>South Dakota</p> <p>South Dakota Board of Nursing 4300 South Louise Ave., Suite C-1 Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3124</p> <p>Phone: (605) 362-2760 FAX: (605) 362-2768</p> <p>Contact Person: Diana Vander Woude, MS, RN, Executive Secretary</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://www.state.sd.us/dcr/nursing/">http://www.state.sd.us/dcr/nursing/</a></p>	Yes with NCLEX	Yes	Yes Except certain Canadians	Yes	No	Compact State
<p>Tennessee</p> <p>Tennessee State Board of Nursing 426 Fifth Avenue North 1st Floor - Cordell Hull Building Nashville, TN 37247</p> <p>Phone: (615) 532-5166 FAX: (615) 741-7899</p> <p>Contact Person: Elizabeth Lund, MSN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site: <a href="http://170.142.76.180/bmf-bin/BMFproflist.pl">http://170.142.76.180/bmf-bin/BMFproflist.pl</a></p>	Yes	Yes		Yes		Canadians may be admitted only with NCLEX
<p>Texas</p> <p>Texas Board of Nurse Examiners 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460 Austin, TX 78701</p> <p>Phone: (512) 305-7400 FAX: (512) 305-7401</p> <p>Contact Person: Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes Must take CGFNS if not licensed in the U.S.	Yes		<p>Compact State</p> <p>If licensed in other U.S. state CGFNS is not required</p>

<p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.bne.state.tx.us/">http://www.bne.state.tx.us/</a></p>						
<p>Utah</p> <p>Utah State Board of Nursing  Heber M. Wells Bldg., 4th Floor  160 East 300 South  Salt Lake City, UT 84111</p> <p>Phone: (801) 530-6628  FAX: (801) 530-6511</p> <p>Contact Person: Laura Poe,  MS, RN, Executive Administrator</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.commerce.state.ut.us/">http://www.commerce.state.ut.us/</a></p>			<p>Must take only credentials evaluation</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>CGFNS credentials evaluation will determine if nurse will have to obtain CGFNS certificate prior to NCLEX</p>
<p>Vermont</p> <p>Vermont State Board of Nursing  109 State Street  Montpelier, VT 05609-1106</p> <p>Phone: (802) 828-2396  FAX: (802) 828-2484</p> <p>Contact Person: Anita Ristau,  MS, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://vtprofessionals.org/nurses/">http://vtprofessionals.org/nurses/</a></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>If not licensed in U.S.</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>If licensed in another U.S. state can be admitted without CGFNS</p> <p>Foreign license may be recognized</p>
<p>Virginia</p> <p>Virginia Board of Nursing  6606 W. Broad Street, 4th Floor  Richmond, VA 23230</p> <p>Phone: (804) 662-9909  FAX: (804) 662-9512</p> <p>Contact Person: Nancy Durrett, MSN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.dhp.state.va.us/">http://www.dhp.state.va.us/</a></p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>*51</p>	<p>*51 Social Security Number or DMV number</p>
<p>Washington</p> <p>Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission  Department of Health  1300 Quince Street SE  Olympia, WA 98504-7864</p> <p>Phone: (360) 236-4740  FAX: (360) 236-4738</p> <p>Contact Person: Paula Meyer, MSN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/nursi">http://www.doh.wa.gov/nursi</a></p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>Yes<sup>*52</sup></p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>*52 Or 4000 hours of licensed practice in one state</p> <p>Foreign license may be recognized</p>

<a href="#">g/</a>						
<p><b>West Virginia</b></p> <p><b>West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses</b>  101 Dee Drive  Charleston, WV 25311</p> <p>Phone: (304) 558-3596  FAX: (304) 558-3666</p> <p>Contact Person: Laura Rhodes, MSN, RN, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.state.wv.us/nurses/rn/">http://www.state.wv.us/nurses/rn/</a></p>	Yes		Yes	Yes	No	
<p><b>Wisconsin</b></p> <p><b>Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing</b>  1400 E. Washington Avenue  P.O. Box 8935  Madison, WI 53708</p> <p>Phone: (608) 266-0145  FAX: (608) 261-7083</p> <p>Contact Person: Kimberly Nania, Director, Bureau of Health Service Professions</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://www.drl.state.wi.us/">http://www.drl.state.wi.us/</a></p>	Yes		Yes <sup>*53</sup>	Yes <sup>*54</sup>	Yes	<p><b>*53 Only credentials evaluation required if schooled in English. If nurse not schooled in English exam required also</b></p> <p><b>*54 Canadian or foreign nurses without NCLEX accepted if they have current active license in another state.</b></p>
<p><b>Wyoming</b></p> <p><b>Wyoming State Board of Nursing</b>  2020 Carey Avenue, Suite 110  Cheyenne, WY 82002</p> <p>Phone: (307) 777-7601  FAX: (307) 777-3519</p> <p>Contact Person: Cheryl Lynn Koski, MS, RN, CS, Executive Director</p> <p>Web Site:  <a href="http://nursing.state.wy.us/">http://nursing.state.wy.us/</a></p>	Yes with CGFNS certificate	Yes	Yes and passage of NCLEX	Yes	Yes	

## **INS Adopts Contradictory Policies Regarding Social Security Numbers; Nurse Petitions Adversely Affected**

The INS' Headquarters and the INS California Service Center have each recently enunciated sharply contradictory policies regarding Social Security Numbers that will have a substantial impact on the ability of health care professionals, nurses in particular, to receive visas.

The INS Headquarters memo dealt with problems in obtaining an H-1B visa when the beneficiary cannot obtain a necessary state license because they do not have a social security number. Many states require that the applicant for a state professional license have a valid social security number. However, the Social Security Administration will not issue numbers to people not in the US. This has meant that some H-1B petitions are denied because the beneficiary does not have a license.

To avoid further problems of this sort, the memo instructs adjudicators to approve petitions that are not accompanied by the license of a period of one year, assuming that the only reason the beneficiary does not have the license is the lack of a social security number. The petition should include evidence that this is the case such as a letter from the licensing board documenting that the lack of a social security number is the only item holding up approval of the license. When the petition for an extension is filed, the INS is to ensure that the necessary license has been obtained. This policy affects all professions.

The California Service Center, however, has recently imposed a policy that will have precisely the opposite in the case of I-140 employment-based immigrant visa petitions filed on behalf of nurses. Under INS regulations, nurses can pursue immigrant visas if they have passed the CGFNS exam or have a full and unrestricted state nursing license. Certain states like California permit licensing based on passing the state's licensing exam rather than the CGFNS exam. However, the license will not be issued until the applicant obtains a social security number.

The CSC has reversed its longstanding policy of approving the I-140 on the basis of the letter from the licensing board indicating that the only hold up for the issuance of the license is the social security number. It now is denying these applications and has not offered an explanation for why it

**has a policy contradicting Headquarters except to say that it is not clear why a person who is unable to obtain a license because they lack a social security number can not obtain a CGFNS certificate.**

## PHARMACIST LICENSING REQUIREMENTS BY STATE

State	By Endorsement/ reciprocity?	FPGEC certificate Required or considered?	NAPLEX  And/or  MPJE?	Other exam?	Total number of hours required	Other
<p>Alabama</p> <p>Alabama State Board of Pharmacy Jerry Moore, Executive Director 1 Perimeter Park South, Suite 425 South, Birmingham, AL 35243 205/967-0130 <a href="http://www.albop.com">www.albop.com</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Except FL &amp; CA</p> <p>With states that reciprocate with AL</p>	<p>AL does not recognize FPGEC</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>BOTH</p>		<p>1500 hrs</p> <p>min. 400 of actual pharmacy practice in retail setting</p> <p>beginning 4<sup>th</sup> year of school</p>	<p>Age 19+</p> <p>Graduate of an accredited pharmacy school</p> <p>+interview by board</p>
<p>Alaska</p> <p>Alaska Board of Pharmacy Debora Stovern, Licensing Examiner P.O. Box 110806, Juneau, AK 99811-0806 907/465-2589 <a href="http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/p/ha.htm">www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/p/ha.htm</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>NAPLEX passing score set by NABP + MPJE</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Must have FPGEC certification</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>BOTH</p>		<p>1500 internship hours</p> <p>max. 600 hrs in school</p>	<p>OK to have 1500 hours of licensed pharmacy practice instead of internship</p>
<p>Arizona</p> <p>Arizona State Board of Pharmacy Llyn A. Lloyd, Executive Director 4425 W. Olive Avenue, Suite 140, Glendale, AZ 85302 623/463-2727 <a href="http://www.pharmacy.state.az.us">www.pharmacy.state.az.us</a></p>	<p>YES with NAPLEX or NABP</p> <p>With jurisdiction that has reciprocity with AZ + 400 hrs. of practicing pharmacy + AZPLEX</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>considers FPGEC certification</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Only NAPLEX required min. 75 (AZPLEX instead of MPJE)</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>AZPLEX</p> <p>Jurisprudence examination</p> <p>Min. 75%</p>	<p>1500</p> <p>max. 600 hrs in school</p>	
<p>Arkansas</p> <p>Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy Charles S. Campbell, Executive Director 101 E. Capitol, Suite 218, Little Rock, AR 72201 501/682-0190 <a href="http://www.state.ar.us/asbp">www.state.ar.us/asbp</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Through NABP</p> <p>Except for FL and CA</p>	<p>Considers FPGEC certification</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>BOTH required</p> <p>Min. 75 on NAPLEX</p> <p>And min. 75% on</p>		<p>2000 for license</p> <p>max. 1500 through school</p> <p>min. 500 hrs in pharmacy</p>	<p>Age 21+</p>

			75% on MPJE		practice	
<p>California</p> <p>California State Board of Pharmacy Patricia F. Harris, Executive Officer 400 R Street, Suite 4070, Sacramento, CA 95814 916/445-5014 <a href="http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/">www.pharmacy.ca.gov/</a></p>	<p>YES – see “other”</p> <p>CPLE California pharmacist licensure examination also required</p>	<p>Considers FPGE C certification</p>		<p>FPGEE</p> <p>And</p> <p>TSE</p> <p>(50 min. score)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>CPLE</p>	<p>1500 for license</p> <p>1000 required to take the exam</p> <p>min. 900 hours in pharmacy practice</p>	<p>Age 18+; 150 semester units earned in college; Passing the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination (FPGEE); internship experience of 1,500 hours OR, licensure verification from other state's pharmacy board and employment verification of a minimum of one year work experience</p>
<p>Colorado</p> <p>Colorado State Board of Pharmacy Susan L. Warren, Program Administrator 1560 Broadway, Suite 1310, Denver, CO 80202 303/894-7750 <a href="http://www.dora.state.co.us/pharmacy">www.dora.state.co.us/pharmacy</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>through NABP</p> <p>minimum score 75 +MPJE exam + licensed 1 year in another state</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>must have FPGE C certificate before exam or intern license</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>BOTH</p>		<p>1800</p> <p>(1400 max. during school)</p>	<p>graduated from an approved School of Pharmacy</p>
<p>Connecticut</p> <p>Connecticut Commission of Pharmacy Michelle Sylvestre, Board Administrator State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Room 147, Hartford, CT 06106 860/713-6070 fax 860/713-7242 E-mail: <a href="mailto:michelle.sylvestre@po.state.ct.us">michelle.sylvestre@po.state.ct.us</a> <a href="http://www.ctdrugcontrol.com/rxcommission.htm">www.ctdrugcontrol.com/rxcommission.htm</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Through NABP</p>	<p>Considers FPGE C certification</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>BOTH</p> <p>Passing score required in both</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>2 addl. Con. State exams: CT Contemporary Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacy Mathematics</p>		<p>Age 18+</p>
<p>Delaware</p> <p>Delaware State Board of Pharmacy David W. Dryden, Executive Secretary</p>		<p>Considers FPGE C certification</p>	<p>YES</p>			

P.O. Box 637, Dover, DE 19901 302/739-4798						
DC  District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy Toylanda Brown, Contact Representative 825 N. Capitol Street, N.E., Room 2224, Washington, DC 20002 202/442-9200, fax 202/442- 9431		Considers FPGEC certification	YES			Age 18+
Florida  Florida Board of Pharmacy John D. Taylor, Executive Director 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C04, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3254 850/245-4292 <a href="http://www9.myflorida.com/mqa/pharmacy/2001ph_home.html">www9.myflorida.com/mqa/pharmacy/2001ph_home.html</a>	YES  With passing score of NABP exam; practicing 2 out of last 5 years in pharmacy in another state or completed post-graduate training or clinical competency exam + MPJE	Considers FPGEC certification	YES  BOTH	YES  Must have MPJE done in FL	1500 hrs approved internship programs: University of FL, FL A&M Un., Nova South- eastern & Mercer Un.	Age 18+  Graduates with a PHARM. D. Degree from ANY STATE after Jan 1, 2001 will count towards the internship requirements  Must receive internship hours from other state college, board of pharmacy or employer  OR 1 year of work experience
Georgia  Georgia State Board of Pharmacy Anita O. Martin, Executive Director 237 Coliseum Drive Macon, GA 31217-3858 478/207-1686 <a href="http://www.sos.state.ga.us/ebd-pharmacy">www.sos.state.ga.us/ebd-pharmacy</a>	YES  Except CA & FL  The applicant must submit an application to the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy to take the Georgia Practical and the Jurisprudence examinations	Considers FPGEC certification  Must have at least taken the FPEE (Foreign Pharmacy Equivalency Examination)	YES  BOTH  required	YES  GA Practical exam (60% min. or 75% average)  FPEE	1500 hrs  1450 to sit for exam  up to 1000 hrs under Doctor of Pharmacy program;  up to 480 hrs under the B.S. Pharmacy program	Age 18+
Hawaii  Hawaii State Board of Pharmacy Lee Ann Teshima, Executive Officer P.O. Box 3469, Honolulu, HI 96801 808/596-2604	YES  Through NABP	Must have FPGEC certification  Min. 75 on FPGEE	YES  BOTH  Min. 75		1500 of practice as a registered pharmacist within 5 years prior to application	Age 18+

<p>808/586-2694  <a href="http://www.state.hi.us/dcca/pvl/">www.state.hi.us/dcca/pvl/</a></p>	<p>Except CA &amp; FL</p> <p>If licensed before May 12, 1986 min. score 70; after min. score 75 (NABPLEX OR NAPLEX) plus MPJE min 75</p>	<p>FPGEE</p> <p>Min. 550/paper 213/computer on TOEFL</p> <p>Min. 50 on TSE</p>	<p>score on each</p> <p>MPJE must be taken in HI even if taken before in another jurisdiction</p>		<p>after 1<sup>st</sup> year in college</p>	
<p>Idaho  Idaho Board of Pharmacy  Richard "Mick" Markuson,  Executive Director  PO Box 83720, Boise, ID  83720-0067  208/334-2356  <a href="http://www.state.id.us/bop">www.state.id.us/bop</a></p>		<p>Considers  FPGEC certification</p>				
<p>Illinois   Illinois Department of Professional Regulation – State Board of Pharmacy  Sandra Dunn, Pharmacy Coordinator  320 W. Washington Street,  Third Floor,  Springfield, IL 62786  217/785-8159  <a href="http://www.dpr.state.il.us/">www.dpr.state.il.us/</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Through the NABP</p> <p>With states that have similar requirements to IL</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Must have FPGEC certification</p> <p>Min. 550 on TOEFL</p> <p>Min. 50 on TSE</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>BOTH are required (FDLE may substitute NAPLEX)</p>		<p>400 internship hours that are included in 5 year program</p>	<p>5 year pharmacy education in an approved program; if less than 5 years must review curriculum and take completion courses; employment since graduation</p> <p>Age 21+</p> <p>All foreign educated pharmacists must have a course of clinical instruction by a board approved pharmacist</p>
<p>Indiana   Indiana Board of Pharmacy  Mark Bina, Director  402 W. Washington Street,  Room 041,  Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739  317/234-2067  <a href="http://www.in.gov/hpb/boards/isbp/">http://www.in.gov/hpb/boards/isbp/</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Through NABP</p> <p>Must take Indiana MPJE</p> <p>Can only reciprocate from original state of</p>	<p>Must have FPGEC certification before IN board exams</p> <p>Min. 50 on TSE + 1500 hours as intern</p> <p>Certain Canadian schools exempt</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>BOTH are required</p> <p>Score 75+</p>		<p>Included in approved school program</p>	<p>Age 18+</p> <p>If did not study at an approved school by ACPE or CCPA (Canadian Council on Pharmacy Accreditation) or board approved practical experience program must complete 1,500 supervised hours as an intern</p>

	licensure					
Iowa	YES	Must have FPGEC certification	YES		1,500 hrs	Graduation from a recognized school of pharmacy or PFGEC certification
Iowa Board of Pharmacy Examiners Lloyd K. Jessen, Executive Secretary/Director 400 S.W. Eighth Street, Ste. E Des Moines, IA 50309-4688 515/281-5944 <a href="http://www.state.ia.us/ibpe">www.state.ia.us/ibpe</a>	Through NABP with most states	+NAPLEX +MPJE	Both are required		hours may be obtained in another state	
	Must take the IA MPJE within 12 months					
Kansas	YES	Must have FPGEC certification	YES		1,500 hours	Age 18+
Kansas State Board of Pharmacy Susan Linn, Executive Director Landon State Office Building, 900 Jackson, Room 513, Topeka, KS 66612 785/296-4056 <a href="http://www.ink.org/public/pharmacy">http://www.ink.org/public/pharmacy</a>	Through NABP	Note that KS requires higher scores on TOEFL and TSE than PFGEC:	Both required		hours may be transferred from another state	If the state transferring the license requires one year of licensure prior to transferring to that state, Kansas requires the same time period before consideration of licensure (such as Nebraska)
	Must take the KS MPJE	Min. 470 on paper TOEFL, min. 230 on computerized TOEFL				Foreign applicants with a graduate or second-level degree or diploma from a post- secondary institution in the United States or another English- speaking country may be exempted from the TOEFL
		Min. 55 on TSE				
Kentucky		Considers FPGEC certification	YES		1,500 hours	Age 18+
Kentucky Board of Pharmacy Michael A. Moné, Executive Director 23 Millcreek Park Frankfort, KY 40601-9230 <a href="http://www.state.ky.us/boards/pharmacy/">http://www.state.ky.us/boards/pharmacy/</a>			Both required			
Louisiana	YES	Must have FPGEC certification	YES		1,500 hrs	Age 21+
Louisiana Board of Pharmacy Malcolm J. Broussard, Executive Director 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 8E, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-2537 225/925-6496 <a href="http://www.labp.com">www.labp.com</a>	Must take LA jurisprudence exam and be interviewed by the board		Both required		some hours may be earned in school, depending on the specific degree	Louisiana has an odd requirement that the applicant be a U.S. citizen or a resident alien appropriately petitioning for U.S. naturalization.
Maine	YES	Must have FPGEC certification	YES		1500 hours of internship	Age 21+

<p>Maine Board of Pharmacy Geraldine "Jeri" Betts, Board Administrator 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333 207/624-8603 or Direct Line: 207/624-8620 Fax: 207/624-8637 PFR/OLR web page: <a href="http://www.state.me.us/pfr/">http://www.state.me.us/pfr/</a></p>	<p>Must take ME jurisprudence exam</p>		<p>Both required</p>		<p>max. 500 hours prior to the beginning of the first professional year and 1000 hours thereafter</p>	<p>All foreign graduates must pass the Proficiency in English as a Foreign Language exam administered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy with a score of 700+</p> <p>750 out of the required 1,500 hours of internship requirements must be obtained within the United States</p>
<p>Maryland</p> <p>Maryland Board of Pharmacy LaVerne George Nasea, Executive Director 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215-2299 410/764-4755 <a href="http://www.dhmv.state.md.us/pharmacyboard/">http://www.dhmv.state.md.us/pharmacyboard/</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Except CA &amp; FL</p> <p>+ at least 520 hours of pharmacy experience after graduation + English oral exam</p>	<p>Must have FPGE certification</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Both required</p> <p>Min. 75 in both exams</p>	<p>All applicants must pass an exam of <u>oral</u> English competency</p>	<p>1,560 hours</p> <p>of employment or volunteer work at any pharmacy</p> <p>OR</p> <p>1,200 if graduated from specific schools</p>	<p>Age 18+</p> <p>Graduate from school approved by the Maryland Board of Pharmacy (The Board) or accredited by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education; and have completed a Professional Experience Program (PEP).</p> <p>Graduates from pharmacy schools in NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV with structured professional experience programs (PEP), are only required to have a total of 1,200 hours.</p> <p>The Board may accept a PEP conducted or supervised by a school or college of pharmacy.</p>
<p>Massachusetts</p> <p>Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy Charles R. Young, Executive Director 239 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02113 617/727-9953 <a href="http://www.state.ma.us/reg/board">www.state.ma.us/reg/board</a></p>		<p>Must have FPGE certification</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Both required</p>		<p>1,500 hours</p>	<p>Age 18+</p>

<a href="#">ph</a>						
<p>Michigan</p> <p>Michigan Board of Pharmacy Cathy Seyka, Licensing Manager 611 W. Ottawa, First Floor, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909-8170 517/373-9102 <a href="http://www.cis.state.mi.us">http://www.cis.state.mi.us</a></p>		<p>Considers FPGEC certification</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Both required</p>			<p>Age 18+</p>
<p>Minnesota</p> <p>Minnesota Board of Pharmacy David E. Holmstrom, Executive Director 2829 University Avenue S.E., Suite 530, Minneapolis, MN 55414-3251 612/617-2201 <a href="http://www.phcybrd.state.mn.us">http://www.phcybrd.state.mn.us</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Must take reciprocity exam of federal &amp; state law - MPJE</p>	<p>Must have FPGEC certification</p> <p>Except certain Canadian schools</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Both required</p>		<p>1,500</p> <p>after third year of school</p>	<p>Age 18+</p> <p>Minn. Accepts certain Canadian schools without FPGEC</p>
<p>Mississippi</p> <p>Mississippi State Board of Pharmacy William L. "Buck" Stevens, Executive Director P.O. Box 24507, Jackson, MS 39225-4507 601/354-6750 <a href="http://www.mbp.state.ms.us">www.mbp.state.ms.us</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Through NABP + MS MPJE + interview</p>	<p>Must have FPGEC certification</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Both required</p>		<p>1,600 hours</p>	
<p>Missouri</p> <p>Missouri Board of Pharmacy Kevin E. Kinkade, Executive Director P.O. Box 625, Jefferson City, MO 65102 573/751-0091 <a href="http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pharmacy">www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pharmacy</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Through NABP. Must take MO MPJE</p>	<p>Recognizes FPGEC certification</p>				<p>Age 21+</p> <p>graduation from an accredited high school or its equivalent, have had one year practical experience under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist; graduation from a school or of pharmacy approved by the board.</p> <p>Any person registered or licensed in a foreign country may be licensed in MO upon presenting satisfactory evidence of qualifications equal</p>

						to MO requirements  + completion of equivalency + practical examination
<b>Montana</b>  Montana Board of Pharmacy Rebecca Deschamps, RPh, Executive Director P.O. Box 200513 111 N. Jackson Helena, MT 59620-0513 406/841-2356 fax: 406/841- 2343 <a href="http://www.com.state.mt.us/license/POL/pol_boards/pha_board/board_page.htm">http://www.com.state.mt.us/  license/POL/pol_boards/pha  board/board_page.htm</a>			<b>YES</b>  Both required @ 75% or higher		1,500 internship hours	
<b>Nebraska</b>  Nebraska Board of Pharmacy Becky Wisell, Executive Secretary P.O. Box 94986, Lincoln, NE 68509 402/471-2115 <a href="http://www.hhs.state.ne.us">www.hhs.state.ne.us</a>		Considers FPGEC certification				Age 21+
<b>Nevada</b>  Nevada State Board of Pharmacy Keith W. Macdonald, Executive Secretary 555 Double Eagle Court, Ste. 1100 Reno, NV 89511-8991 775/850-1440 <a href="http://www.state.nv.us/pharmacy">http://www.state.nv.us/phar  acy</a>		Considers FPGEC certification				
<b>New Hampshire</b>  New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy Paul G. Boisseau, Executive Secretary 57 Regional Drive, Concord, NH 03301-8518 603/271-2350	<b>YES</b>  With states that have similar requirements	Must have FPGEC certification	<b>YES</b>  Both required		1,500 hour or 1 year internship	Age 18+

<a href="http://www.state.nh.us/pharmacy/">www.state.nh.us/pharmacy/</a>						
<p><b>New Jersey</b></p> <p>New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy Lois Johnson, Executive Director P.O. Box 45013, Newark, NJ 07101 973/504-6450 <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/lps/cabrief/pharm.htm">http://www.state.nj.us/lps/cabrief/pharm.htm</a></p>		Considers FPGEC certification				
<p><b>New Mexico</b></p> <p>New Mexico Board of Pharmacy Jerry Montoya, Chief Inspector/Director 1650 University Boulevard N.E., Suite 400B, Albuquerque, NM 87102 505/841-9102 <a href="http://www.state.nm.us/pharmacy">www.state.nm.us/pharmacy</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>NM reciprocates with states that reciprocate with NM</p> <p>+ MPJE exam</p> <p>may be required completion of up to 750 internship hours</p>	Must have FPGEC certification	<p>YES</p> <p>Both required</p> <p>Min 75 in NAPLEX</p> <p>Min. 75% in MPJE</p>		1500 hours if in the Bachelor of Science program, or 2150 hours if in the Doctor of Pharmacy	
<p><b>New York</b></p> <p>New York Board of Pharmacy Lawrence H. Mokhiber, Executive Secretary 89 Washington Ave. Second Floor West Albany, NY 12234-1000 518/474-3817 ext.130 Fax: 518/473-6995 <a href="http://www.nysed.gov/prof/pharm.htm">www.nysed.gov/prof/pharm.htm</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Must complete 12 months x 40 hours/week of licensed practice in another jurisdiction + take the MPJE</p>	Requires FPGEC certification	<p>YES</p> <p>Both required</p> <p>First NAPLEX.</p> <p>MPJE only after internship.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>CAS</p> <p>Exam: Compounding and Dispensing</p>	6 months full time internship for U.S. students after passing NAPLEX	<p>Age 21+</p> <p>Part I – NAPLEX test. Part II - MPJE only after experience &amp; education are verified</p> <p>Part III – CAS – a NY exam for Compounding and Dispensing drugs</p> <p>If program is not credited, must complete NAPLEX exam first and 12 months internship, and then apply for MPJE &amp; CAS</p>
<p><b>North Carolina</b></p> <p>North Carolina Board of Pharmacy David R. Work, Executive Director</p>		Considers FPGEC certification				

P.O. Box 459, Carrboro, NC 27510-0459 919/942-4454 <a href="http://www.ncbop.org">www.ncbop.org</a>						
North Dakota  North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy Howard C. Anderson, Jr., Executive Director P.O. Box 1354, Bismarck, ND 58502-1354 701/328-9535		Considers FPGEC certification				Age 18+
Ohio  Ohio State Board of Pharmacy William T. Winsley, Executive Director 77 S. High Street, Room 1702 Columbus, OH 43215-6126 614/466-4143 <a href="http://www.state.oh.us/pharmacy/">www.state.oh.us/pharmacy/</a>	YES  Except CA & FL Through NABP with states that have equivalent credentials to OH  Must take MPJE in OH + interview  NABPLEX/NAP LEX taken after 1980	Must have FPGEC certification	YES  Both are required		1,500 hours of internship	Age 18+  Hours of internship earned in another state may be recognized if other state has criteria equivalent to Ohio  Foreign graduates may be accredited intern hours only after completion of FPGEC in OH or any other US state
Oklahoma  Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy Bryan H. Potter, Executive Director 4545 Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 112 Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3488 405/521-3815 <a href="http://www.state.ok.us/~pharmacy">www.state.ok.us/~pharmacy</a>		Must have FPGEC certification	YES	Oklahoma jurisprudence exam		Foreign pharmacists must complete 500 hours of training as an intern in OK within 6 months of licensure (must apply for an intern license and complete internship after FPGEC but before pharmacist licensure exam)
Oregon  Oregon State Board of Pharmacy Gary A. Schnabel, Executive Director 800 N.E. Oregon Street, #9, State Office Building, Room 425 Portland, OR 97232	YES  Except CA & FL  Must have one year pharmacy practice OR	Must have FPGEC certification	YES  Both required		2,000 hours of internship  after first professional year (third academic year)	Age 18+  Hours of internship or practice outside the U.S. do not qualify. Only internship hours obtained AFTER receipt of FPGEC certification qualify.

503/731-4032 <a href="http://www.pharmacy.state.or.us">www.pharmacy.state.or.us</a>	meet Oregon internship requirements within one year prior to reciprocity					
Pennsylvania  Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy Melanie Zimmerman, Executive Secretary 124 Pine Street, P.O. Box 2649 Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649 717/783-7156 <a href="http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/habd/mainpage.htm">www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/habd/mainpage.htm</a>		Considers FPGEC certification	YES  Both required		1,500 hours  up to 750 hours in school	Age 21+
Rhode Island  Rhode Island Board of Pharmacy Catherine A. Cordy, Chief 3 Capitol Hill, Room 205, Providence, RI 02908 401/222-2837		Considers FPGEC certification				Age 18+
South Carolina  South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation - Board of Pharmacy Cheryl A. Ruff, Administrator P.O. Box 11927 Columbia, SC 29211-1927 803/896-4700 <a href="http://www.llr.state.sc.us">http://www.llr.state.sc.us</a>	YES  Though NABP  + SC MPJE	Must have FPGEC certification	YES  Both required		1,500 hours practical training	Internship hours not required before taking the NAPLEX exam, but required for licensure  Foreign pharmacist must complete hours after FPGEC  Max. 500 hours for BS degree and 1,000 hours for PharmD degree. while in school  Min. 500 hours of retail experience
South Dakota  South Dakota State Board of Pharmacy Dennis M. Jones, Executive Secretary 4305 S. Louise Avenue, Suite 104 Sioux Falls, SD 57106 605/362-2737 Fax: 605/362-2738	YES  Through NABP  + SD Practical Jurisprudence	Considers FPGEC certification	YES  SD Practical Jurisprudence exam instead of MPJE	SD Practical Jurisprudence exam	1,500 hours  min. 880 hours in practical pharmacy experience	Age 18+

<a href="http://www.state.sd.us/dcr/pharmacy">www.state.sd.us/dcr/pharmacy</a>	Jurisprudence exam					
<p>Tennessee</p> <p>Tennessee Board of Pharmacy Kendall M. Lynch, Director Second Floor, Davy Crockett Tower, 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243 615/741-2718 <a href="http://www.state.tn.us/commerce/harmacy">www.state.tn.us/commerce/harmacy</a></p>		Considers FPGEC certification				Age 21+
<p>Texas</p> <p>Texas State Board of Pharmacy Gay Dodson, Executive Director/Secretary 333 Guadalupe, Tower 3, Suite 600, Box 21, Austin, TX 78701-3942 512/305-8000 <a href="http://www.tsbp.state.tx.us">www.tsbp.state.tx.us</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>+ TX MPJE</p>	Must have FPGEC certification	<p>NAPLEX</p> <p>MPJE or</p> <p>Texas Pharmacy Jurisprudence exam</p>		1,500 hours	<p>Age 18+</p> <p>FPGEC before internship</p>
<p>Utah</p> <p>Utah Board of Pharmacy A. Gary Bowen, Bureau Director 160 E. 300 South P.O. Box 146741, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6741 801/530-6767 <a href="http://www.commerce.state.ut.us/dopl/dopl1.htm">http://www.commerce.state.ut.us/dopl/dopl1.htm</a></p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Through NABP</p> <p>+ UT MPJE</p>	Must have FPGEC certification	<p>YES</p> <p>Both required</p>		<p>1,500 hours</p> <p>max. 900 hours in college accredited program</p>	Internship hours may be obtained in another state
<p>Vermont</p> <p>Vermont Board of Pharmacy Carla Preston, Staff Secretary 26 Terrace Street, Drawer 09, Montpelier, VT 05609-1106 802/828-2875 <a href="http://www.vtprofessionals.org/pt">www.vtprofessionals.org/pt</a></p>		Considers FPGEC certification				Age 18+

<a href="#">armacists</a>						
<p>Virginia</p> <p>Virginia Board of Pharmacy Elizabeth Scott Russell, Executive Director 6606 W. Broad Street, Suite 400, Richmond, VA 23230-1717 804/662-9911 <a href="http://www.dhp.state.va.us/pharmacy/default.htm">http://www.dhp.state.va.us/pharmacy/default.htm</a></p>		Must have FPGEC certification	YES  Both required		1,500 hours  min. 300 hours in practical pharmacy experience outside school	Age 18+  Will accept hours earned in another jurisdiction
<p>Washington</p> <p>Washington State Board of Pharmacy Donald H. Williams, Executive Director P.O. Box 47863, Olympia, WA 98504-7863 360/236-4825 <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/pharmacy/">www.doh.wa.gov/pharmacy/</a></p>	YES  Through NABP	Must have FPGEC certification  Except certain Canadian schools	YES  Both required	7 hours of AIDS educatio n	1,500 internship hours	Age 18+  Graduates of certain Canadian schools, graduated since January 1994, are not required to take FPGEE exam or get FPGEC certification. Only requirements: TOEFL min. 213, TSE min. 50
<p>West Virginia</p> <p>West Virginia Board of Pharmacy William T. Douglass, Jr., Executive Director 232 Capitol Street, Charleston, WV 25301 304/558-0558</p>		Considers FPGEC certification				Age 18+
<p>Wisconsin</p> <p>Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board Patrick D. Braatz, Director 1400 E. Washington, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708 608/266-2812 <a href="http://www.state.wi.us/agencies/c">www.state.wi.us/agencies/c</a></p>	YES  Except CA & FL  Through NABP	Must have FPGEC certification	YES  Both required	PEB patient consulta tion exams	1,500 hours	WI will grant practice more than one year in another state for internship or reciprocity purposes, including CA & FL
<p>Wyoming</p>			YES		2,000 hours	Must list in form all other states where licensed

<p>Wyoming State Board of Pharmacy James T. Carder, Executive Director 1720 S. Poplar Street, Suite 4, Casper, WY 82601 307/234-0294 <a href="http://pharmacyboard.state.wy.us">http://pharmacyboard.state.wy.us</a></p>			<p>Both required</p> <p>Min. 75 score on both</p>			
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## Physical Therapists Immigration – The Rules of the Road

Like other health care workers, the rules for physical therapists wishing to work or immigrate to the U.S. are far from simple. Most physical therapists will find the H-1B visa the most appropriate category for a non-immigrant visa. Physical therapists may also obtain an immigrant visa (green card) in an expedited way, called “Schedule A labor certification” (to be discussed in a later issue).

The difficulty in getting an H-1B typically comes with the licensing requirements that the states impose on foreign physical therapists. To qualify for an H-1B visa, the physical therapist needs to show that he or she is licensed or that the only hold up on getting the license is the lack of a visa. Each state has authority to license physical therapists and other professionals in accordance with laws and rules enacted in that state. It is important to note that all U.S. states require licensure of physical therapists. Any physical therapist practicing in a state must have a valid, unencumbered license in that state, although many states will grant a temporary license.

Almost all states have the following two major requirements that are necessary to obtain a license as a physical therapist:

- 1) Graduation from a PT Program or school accredited by that state board (usually called state board of Physical Therapy). Most state boards require that a Physical Therapist be a graduate of a PT Program or school that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). CAPTE is a part of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Some foreign schools are accredited by CAPTE including thirteen Canadian schools, one French school, two schools from the U.K. and three schools from the Netherlands. The list of accredited foreign schools may be found at:  
[https://www.apta.org/Education/accreditation/Dir\\_Acc\\_PT\\_ED\\_Pr og/PT\\_Accred\\_TSE/schools\\_foreign](https://www.apta.org/Education/accreditation/Dir_Acc_PT_ED_Pr og/PT_Accred_TSE/schools_foreign)
- 2) Passage of the National Physical Therapist Exam (NPTE) exam. The NPTE is administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). The NPTE score may be transferred from one state to another, usually by the FSBPT exam results transfer system. If the physical therapist is licensed in another jurisdiction, license verification is usually done by that state board. Different states have different endorsement/reciprocity requirements, but usually do not require a person to take the NPTE again and accept prior NPTE results. A minority of the

**states require passage of an additional jurisprudence exam (Michigan, New Mexico, Texas, Washington).**

**The above requirements apply to ALL applicants, and there are additional requirements that are imposed on foreign graduates.**

### **Special Requirements for Foreign Physical Therapists**

**Foreign school graduates (except those from CAPTE approved schools) or physical therapists with foreign degrees or licenses must meet all the general state board of pharmacy rules mentioned above. They also have additional requirements that they have to meet before they are eligible to receive a license from a U.S. state.**

**In most states, any person that graduated from a foreign school must obtain a credentials evaluation from a credentialing organization approved by that state board. Credentials evaluation usually consists of a course-by-course analysis of the applicant's physical therapy education to ensure it is equivalent to that of an approved US school (usually a Bachelor's Degree).**

**Most state boards recognize some or all of the following credentialing organizations: Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT); International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. (ICD or ICDEL); International Credentialing Associates, Inc. (ICA); International Education Research Foundation (IERF); International Education Consultants (IEC).**

**In addition, some states require a minimum of academic semester hours in professional education as well as general education. Again, the requirements differ from state to state.**

**Another requirement that some states impose on foreign graduates is passage of an English competency test – usually the TOEFL, the TSE, the TWE or a combination of these exams. The TOEFL is the Test of English as a Foreign Language. The TSE is the Test of Spoken English. The TWE is the Test of Written English. For some states, the TOEFL will suffice, for others all three exams must be taken. Some states do not impose an English requirement at all. For the states that require English competency tests for foreign graduates, a passing score in these exams is usually enough, but a minority of the states require a higher score than passing.**

**In most cases, obtaining a satisfactory credentials evaluation, passing the NPTE examination and demonstrating English competency will be enough to qualify for a license. However, a few states impose additional requirements to obtain a license. States such as California, Louisiana, North Dakota, South Carolina and Virginia require a minimum number of hours or a number of months of board approved clinical practice from all**

foreign graduates. Therefore, it may be better for a foreign graduate to apply for a license in another state first and then relocate to these states through endorsement (discussed below).

### Endorsement/Reciprocity

Most U.S. state accept some form of endorsement or reciprocity or license transfer from another state. The requirements here also differ from state to state. Most states accept previous NPTE results through the FSBPT score transfer system, and therefore the requirement to take a licensing exam may be waived if the applicant passed it before for another state.

Some states require that the other state have similar licensing requirements before endorsing a license from that state. Other states require reciprocity with states that reciprocate back with that state. However, since most states require school graduation and passage of the NPTE (and credentials evaluation for foreign graduates), endorsement for physical therapists is easier than for certain other healthcare professionals.

These rules may be important for eventual immigration by a foreign pharmacist to a state that normally does not allow for the licensing of foreign-trained pharmacists. The pharmacist would immigrate to one state and then would move to another state.

### H-1B Visa

As we mentioned before, the most suitable visa for foreign physical therapists who wish to practice in the U.S. is typically the H-1B visa. The H-1B visa allows workers in specialty occupations – areas that normally require a bachelor’s degree – to work in the US for up to a total of six years.

One of the advantages of the H-1B visa is that it is a “dual intent” visa. This means that a visa will not be denied simply because a person has intentions to become a permanent resident – that is, a green card application can be pending and it will not hurt one’s chances of getting the H-1B visa.

The main disadvantage of the H-1B visa is the annual cap. By statute, there is an annual limit of 65,000 visas. The cap was temporarily been raised to 195,000 per year, but after 2003 it will drop back down to 65,000. If congress chooses not to extend the cap increase, extended waiting periods – perhaps six months or longer – to obtain an H-1B could result (as has happened several times in the past). Today, the H-1B visa can be obtained in just 15 days using a new premium processing program that will cost an extra \$1,000 in filing fees.

The first step in obtaining an H-1B visa is to document that the employer is paying the prevailing wage for the position. The prevailing wage is the average salary paid to similarly employed workers in the same geographic area of employment. This can be done through a government agency or another published or private wage source. The second stage is to file a Labor Condition Application (LCA) with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The LCA is a form on which the employer attests to compliance with a number of wage and working condition requirements. Once approved, an LCA is valid for three years.

The prevailing wage may be a disadvantage because it forces the employer to pay a certain salary to the worker and it may limit the number of job opportunities available. In addition, the employer is also subject to the Labor Department's regulations and is required to keep certain documents for public inspection.

After the LCA is approved, the employer must submit the I-129 petition for an H-1B visa to the appropriate INS service center. In order to do that, the employer must show that it has a legitimate need for a specialty occupation worker. This is easy to prove, for example, when a law firm seeks an attorney or when a pharmacy seeks a pharmacist. For other companies, it is not as easy, especially if they are new or financially unstable.

The employer will also have to prove that the employee is qualified for the job. This is usually done by providing educational background and work experience evidence, showing that the worker has the equivalent to a U.S. degree. In the case of physical therapists, the employer needs to show that the foreign degree is equivalent to a BS degree in Physical Therapy. This can be done by obtaining credentials evaluation. It is best to obtain the credentials evaluation by one of the approved organizations of the state board where the applicant wishes to work in, so that this portion is not done twice.

In addition, because physical therapists need to obtain a license in the state in which they practice, the employer will have to show that the physical therapist is licensed in that state. In some cases the PT cannot obtain the license from the state before he/she becomes a U.S. resident or obtains a work visa. In such cases, the employer can apply for a visa for that PT, and show that he/she is qualified to be licensed under the requirements of that state board of physical therapy, and but for the visa, he/she would be approved. In these circumstances, the INS will likely approve the H-1B classification for a shorter period of time and the license will need to be presented at the time of the extension application.

Once approved, the H-1B is valid for 3 years (except, as noted above, when a license is not obtained prior to the visa issuance), and may be extended

for an additional 3 years. The H-1B visa is employer specific. That means that a person cannot change employers without filing a new H-1B petition for the new employer. In the past, such a person could not work until his/her new application was approved by the INS. In the past that usually meant a few months. Today, there are new portability rules that allow that person already in the U.S. in lawful status to work for a new employer after the new H-1B petition is filed, without having to obtain a new visa stamp at a U.S. consulate before starting to work.

In our next issue, we will discuss immigrant visa requirements.

## LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS BY STATE

**Note for credentials evaluation organizations: Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT); International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. (ICD or ICDEL); International Credentialing Associates, Inc. (ICA); International Education Research Foundation (IERF); International Education Consultants (IEC).**

State	By Endorsement/ reciprocity?	Credentials Evaluation Required?	National Physical Therapists (PT) Exam - NPTE	Other exam?	Other
<b>Alabama</b>  Alabama Board of Physical Therapy 100 N. Union Street Suite 627 Montgomery, AL 361305040 Tel. 334-242-4064 Fax. 334-240-3288 Email. <a href="mailto:kbrown@pt.state.al.us">kbrown@pt.state.al.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.pt.state.al.us">http://www.pt.state.al.us</a>	<b>Yes</b>  Passing score of 600 Character references School transcripts and verification of license		<b>Yes</b>		
<b>Alaska</b>  State PT & OT Board Div of Occup. Licensing 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9th FL PO Box 110806 Juneau, AK 99811 Tel. 907-485-2580 Fax. 907-465-2974 Email. <a href="mailto:Steve_Snyder@dced.state.ak.us">Steve_Snyder@dced.state.ak.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pph.htm">www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pph.htm</a>	<b>Yes</b>  Passing score in PT Exam; Verification of license in other state; Professional reference from supervisor/teacher etc. 300 hours of PT practice/employment in recent 24 months  supervised practice of 6 months minimum or internship program if a foreign graduate	<b>Must have Credentials evaluation from FCCPT OR ICD</b>  If using different credentialing company, board will evaluate on case by case basis	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>  TOEFL And Test of Written English and Test of Spoken English administered by the ETS (Educational Testing Services)	<b>Official transcripts required from school of physical therapy sent directly to the board</b>  Temporary license available

<p>Arizona</p> <p>Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy 1400 West Washington Suite 230 Phoenix, AZ 85007 Tel. (602) 542-3095 Fax. (602) 542-3093 Email. <a href="mailto:heidi.herbst-paakkonen@ptboard.state.az.us">heidi.herbst-paakkonen@ptboard.state.az.us</a></p>	<p>N/A</p>				
<p>Arkansas</p> <p>Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy 9 Shackelford Plaza Suite 3 Little Rock, AR 72211 Tel. 501-228-7100 Fax. 501-228-0294 Email. <a href="mailto:arptboard@aol.com">arptboard@aol.com</a></p>	<p>N/A</p>				
<p>California</p> <p>PT Board of California 1418 Howe Ave Suite 16 Sacramento, CA 95825 Tel. (916) 263-2550 Fax. (916) 263-2560</p> <p>Email. <a href="mailto:Steve.Hartzell@dca.ca.gov">Steve.Hartzell@dca.ca.gov</a> Website: <a href="http://www.ptb.ca.gov">http://www.ptb.ca.gov</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>FSBPT Score transfer + certificate of good standing from state board where licensed</p>	<p>Must have credentials evaluation from FCCPT</p> <p>OR ICA OR IERF OR IEC ICD</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>CLE</p> <p>California Law Exam</p>	<p>All foreign graduates must complete 9 months of board approved clinical service</p> <p>This may be waived if practiced 9+ months in another US state</p>
<p>Colorado</p> <p>Division of Registrations 1560 Broadway Suite 1545 Denver, CO 80202 Tel. (303) 894-2465 Fax. (303) 894-7885 Email. <a href="mailto:robert.longway@dora.state.co.us">robert.longway@dora.state.co.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.dora.state.co.us/Physical-Therapy">www.dora.state.co.us/Physical-Therapy</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>If applicant has taken NPTE within last 2 years with score of 600+</p> <p>OR</p> <p>If applicant has practiced PT at least 2 out of last 5 years in another US state</p>	<p>FCCPT</p> <p>OR</p> <p>International Consultants of Delaware (ICD)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>International Credentialing Associates (ICA)</p> <p>If not CAPTE accredited school</p>	<p>Yes</p>		

<p>Connecticut</p> <p>Connecticut Department of Public Health 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12APP Hartford, CT 061340308 Tel. (860) 509-7590 Fax. (860) 509-8457 Email. <a href="mailto:jennifer.filippone@po.state.ct.us">jennifer.filippone@po.state.ct.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.state.ct.us/dph/">http://www.state.ct.us/dph/</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Passing the NPTE Exam: If taken between Feb. 1991-Feb. 1996, passing score is 1.5 standard deviation below the national mean. If exam taken before Feb. 1991, passing score is 1.5 standard deviation below the national mean for each of the three parts</p>	<p>Credentials evaluation by a credentials evaluation service approved by the department</p> <p>ICA</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Certification by the American Registry of Physical Therapists (ARPT)</p>		<p>Some Canadian schools may be recognized</p> <p>Foreign schooled applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Therapy The PT program must provide at least 120 semester hours of college level instruction, at least 60 semester hours of professional (PT) education and at least 50 semester hours of general education</p>
<p>Delaware</p> <p>Division of Professional Regulation 861 Silver Lake Blvd. Suite 203 Cannon Building Dover, DE 19904-2467 Tel. (302) 744-4506 Fax. 302-739-2711 Email. <a href="mailto:smiccio@state.de.us">smiccio@state.de.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.state.de.us/research/profreg/physical.htm">http://www.state.de.us/research/profreg/physical.htm</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Through FSBPT</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Taken NPTE with passing score 1.5 standard deviation below the national norm Physical Therapists taken the examination prior to 1990</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>FCCPT or ICD or International Educational Research Foundation, Inc.</p> <p>Or</p>	<p>Yes</p>		
<p>DC</p> <p>DC Board of Physical Therapy Department of Health 825 N. Capital Street, NE, Rm 2224 Washington, DC 20002 Tel. 202-442-4764 Fax. 202-442-9431 Email. <a href="mailto:maulid.miskell@dc.gov">maulid.miskell@dc.gov</a></p>	<p>N/A</p>				

<p><b>Florida</b></p> <p>Department of Health, MQA, Board of Physical Therapy Practice 4052 Bald Cypress Way Bin #C05 Tallahassee, FL 323993255 Tel. (850) 245-4373 ext 3474 Fax. (850) 414-6860 Email. <a href="mailto:Tiffany_Kemp@doh.state.fl.us">Tiffany Kemp@doh.state.fl.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/hysical/2001pt_home.html">http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/hysical/2001pt_home.html</a></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Graduation from an APTA/CAPTE accredited program</p>	<p>Verification of any foreign license</p> <p>Credentials Evaluation of all foreign education- must have the equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Therapy or an Associates Degree in Physical Therapy Assisting as awarded in the United States</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>		<p><b>Must be 18 years old</b></p> <p>All applicants must complete a three hour AIDS/HIV education course</p>
<p><b>Georgia</b></p> <p>Georgia Board of Physical Therapy 237 Coliseum Drive Macon, GA 31217 Tel. (912) 207-1620 Fax. (912) 207-1633 Email. <a href="mailto:jahighto@sos.state.ga.us">jahighto@sos.state.ga.us</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.sos.state.ga.us/ebd-pt">www.sos.state.ga.us/ebd-pt</a></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Through FSBPT</p> <p>Either NPTE score transfer or practice of PT in the 2 years immediately preceding the endorsement application</p>	<p>Transcripts evaluation from: IERF OR FCCPT OR ICA OR IEC</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>All graduates of non CAPTE accredited programs or non-English program must receive a passing score on 3 language proficiency exams: TSE, TOEFL &amp; TWE</p>	<p>School transcripts are required (original transcripts only)</p>
<p><b>Hawaii</b></p> <p>Dept of Commerce &amp; Consumer Affairs P.O. Box 3469 Honolulu, HI 96801 Tel. (808) 586-2694 Fax. (808) 586-2689 Email. <a href="mailto:phys_therapy@dcca.state.hi.us">phys_therapy@dcca.state.hi.us</a></p>			<p><b>Yes</b></p>		
<p><b>Idaho</b></p> <p>ID State Board of Medicine PO Box 83720 280 N. 8th Street Suite 202 Boise, ID 837200058 Tel. 208-327-7000 Fax. 208-334-2801 <a href="http://www.bom.state.id.us">www.bom.state.id.us</a></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Recommendations Verifications Good Moral Character</p>	<p>FCCPT ICD ICA IERF If school is not CAPTE accredited</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>Written proof of license in native country</p>

<p>Illinois</p> <p>Department of Professional Regulation Attn: Testing Unit 320 W. Washington, 3rd Floor Springfield, IL 62786 Tel. (217) 782-5028 Fax. (217) 782-7645 Website: <a href="http://www.dpr.state.il.us/WHO/PT.asp">http://www.dpr.state.il.us/WHO/PT.asp</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>With states that have same requirements as Illinois</p>	<p>Credentials evaluation by FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL and TSE required unless PT education was in English or if licensed in another US state and practicing 3 years or more</p>	<p>Foreign graduates must have official transcripts with course description</p>
<p>Indiana</p> <p>Indiana Physical Therapy Committee 402 W. Washington St, Room 041 Indianapolis, IN 46204 Tel. 317-234-2051 Fax. 317-233-4236 Email. <a href="mailto:hpb6@hpb.state.in.us">hpb6@hpb.state.in.us</a></p>	<p>No</p> <p>2 Photos Transcripts</p>	<p>FCCPT ICD ICA</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Minimum score of 75 Converted</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>Iowa</p> <p>Board of Physical &amp; Occupational Therapy Examiners Iowa Department of Public Health 321 East 12th St. 5th Floor Des Moines, IA 503190075 Tel. (515) 281-4413 Fax. (515) 281-3121 Email. <a href="mailto:jmanning@idph.state.iowa.us">jmanning@idph.state.iowa.us</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>With exam results transfer</p>	<p>Credentials evaluation FCCPT OR IERF OR ICD OR ICA</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>For all foreign graduates TOEFL</p>	<p>Official statement of any license from another state of another country, if licensed there</p> <p>For foreign graduates: Min. 60 semester points in general education Min. 60 in professional education</p>
<p>Kansas</p> <p>KS State Board of Healing Arts PT Examining Committee 235 S. Topeka Blvd Topeka, KS 66603 Tel. 785-296-7413 Fax. 785-296-0852 Email. <a href="mailto:cabbott@ink.org">cabbott@ink.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.ink.org/public/boha">www.ink.org/public/boha</a></p>	<p>All endorsement candidates must meet Kansas requirements + proof of license in another state</p>	<p>Credentials evaluation from FCCPT OR IERF OR ICD OR ICA</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>If not schooled in English must pass TOEFL + TSE</p>	<p>All applicants must complete disciplinary part of application</p> <p>Foreign graduates must be reviewed by the PT examining committee after credentials evaluation to ensure eligibility</p>
<p>Kentucky</p> <p>Kentucky State Board of PT 9110 Leesgate Road, # 6 Louisville, KY 402225159 Tel. 502-327-8497 Fax. 502-423-0934 Email. <a href="mailto:Becky.Hughes@mail.state.ky.us">Becky.Hughes@mail.state.ky.us</a> Website: <a href="http://kbpt.state.ky.us">http://kbpt.state.ky.us</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>With NPTE score</p>	<p>Must have credentials evaluation from ICA Or ICD Or FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TSE min. 50 May be waived if natural language is English</p>	<p>All applicants must take a 4 hour AIDS course</p> <p>All foreign graduates must complete minimum of 3 months (max. 6 months) of board approved supervised physical therapy practice</p>

<p>Louisiana</p> <p>LA State Board of PT Examiners 714 E. Kaliste Saloom Rd. Suite D2 Lafayette, LA 70508-3834 Tel. 337-262-1043 Fax. 337-262-1054 Email. <a href="mailto:lsbpte@iamerica.net">lsbpte@iamerica.net</a> Website: <a href="http://www.laptboard.org">www.laptboard.org</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>With original PT diploma, original license</p>	<p>Must apply for FCCPT to obtain Type I Comprehensive Certificate</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>Foreign educated graduates must be supervised by a LA licensed PT for 6 months (minimum 1000 hours of patient care).</p> <p>If not a US Citizen must submit original passport during interview</p>
<p>Maine</p> <p>Board of Examiners in PT 35 State House Station Augusta, ME 04330 Tel. 207-624-8600 Fax. 207-624-8637 Email. <a href="mailto:Linda.D.Duffy@state.me.us">Linda.D.Duffy@state.me.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.state.me.us/pfr/led/ledhoe2.htm">www.state.me.us/pfr/led/ledhoe2.htm</a></p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>Applicants trained in another country must demonstrate proficiency in written and spoken English</p>	<p>If the applicant has been trained in another country, present satisfactory evidence that the applicant has graduated from a school of physical therapy approved or accredited in the country where the school is located and have educational credentials equivalent to those of the United States trained physical therapist/physical therapist assistant</p>
<p>Maryland</p> <p>Board of Physical Therapy Examiners 4201 Patterson Avenue, #318 Baltimore, MD 21215-2299 Tel. 410-764-4752 Fax. 410-358-1183 Email. <a href="mailto:TYMINSKI@erols.com">TYMINSKI@erols.com</a> Website: <a href="http://dhmh.state.md.us/bphte/">http://dhmh.state.md.us/bphte/</a></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Foreign graduates must have educational credentials considered by a Board approved credential evaluation agency to be comparable to a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Therapy</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>Foreign graduates will also be required to complete a specified period of supervised clinical experience or provide satisfactory evidence of same if licensed in another state.</p>
<p>Massachusetts</p> <p>Board of Allied Health Professionals Division of Registration 239 Causeway Street, Suite 500 Boston, MA 02114 Tel. (617) 727-3033 Fax. (617) 727-2669 Email. <a href="mailto:elizabeth.j.lindberg@state.ma.us">elizabeth.j.lindberg@state.ma.us</a></p>	<p>N/A</p>				
<p>Michigan</p> <p>P.O. Box 30670 Lansing, MI 48909 Tel. (517) 335-0918 Fax. (517) 373-2179 Email. <a href="mailto:melanie.b.brim@cis.state.mi.us">melanie.b.brim@cis.state.mi.us</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Transcripts Michigan Jurisprudence Exam License Verification</p>	<p>ICD IERF</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Michigan Jurisprudence Exam for all</p> <p>TOEFL TSE</p>	

<p>Minnesota</p> <p>MN Board of Physical Therapy 2829 University Avenue, SE, #315 Minneapolis, MN 55414-3222 Tel. 612-627-5406 Fax. 612-617-5403 Email. <a href="mailto:stephanie.lunning@state.mn.us">stephanie.lunning@state.mn.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.physicaltherapy.state.mn.us">www.physicaltherapy.state.mn.us</a></p>	<p>Yes With verification of education, employment and NPTE score transfer</p>	<p>Required FCCPT Type I certificate</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL Min. 550</p>	<p>All applicants must provide MN board of professional references and verification of employment for past 5 years.</p> <p>All foreign educated PTs must go through 6 months of board approved supervised training (this requirement may be waived if they have practical experience from another state).</p>
<p>Mississippi</p> <p>Mississippi State Dept of Health Div of Licensure &amp; Regulations Professional Licensure Rm 160 570 East Woodrow Wilson Blvd Jackson, MS 39216 Tel. (601) 576-7262 Fax. (601) 576-7267 Email. <a href="mailto:fsimkins@msdh.state.ms.us">fsimkins@msdh.state.ms.us</a></p>	<p>Yes With verification of license (original copy sent by that board) + NPTE results + education</p>	<p>Credentialing evaluation from ICA</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Foreign graduates TOEFL + TSE</p>	
<p>Missouri</p> <p>Advisory Comm for Prof PTs &amp; PTAs PO Box 4 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Tel. 573-751-0098 Fax. 573-751-3166 Email. <a href="mailto:tsteinma@mail.state.mo.us">tsteinma@mail.state.mo.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pr/healtharts/phyther.htm">www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pr/healtharts/phyther.htm</a></p>	<p>Yes Currently need a BA but will need a Master's beginning Jan 2002</p>	<p>FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL 560 TSE 50</p>	
<p>Montana</p> <p>Board of Physical Therapy Examiners 301 South Park, 4th Floor PO Box 200513 Helena, MT 59620-0513 Tel. 406-841-2387 Fax. 406-841-2305 Email. <a href="mailto:compolptp@state.mt.us">compolptp@state.mt.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.discoveringmontana.com/dli/bsd/license/bsd_board_ptp_board/board_page.htm">http://www.discoveringmontana.com/dli/bsd/license/bsd_board_ptp_board/board_page.htm</a></p>	<p>Yes Proof of licensure from ALL states Education verification + Montana jurisprudence exam</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>All candidates must take Montana jurisprudence exam</p>	

<p>Nebraska</p> <p>Board of Physical Therapy 301 Centennial Mall P.O. Box 94986 Lincoln, NE 68509 Tel. 402-471-0547 Fax. 402-471-3577 Email. <a href="mailto:dhansmeyer@fsbpt.org">dhansmeyer@fsbpt.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/crl/s/rcsindex.htm">http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/crl/s/rcsindex.htm</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Proof of graduation + transcript + NPTE score (600+) + Good standing of license</p>	<p>Credentials evaluation by ICD OR ICA OR IERF OR FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>For all foreign graduates TOEFL + TWE + TSE May be waived if school sends a letter that education was in English</p>	<p>There are minimum hours in general education and professional education that are required from foreign graduates</p>
<p>Nevada</p> <p>NV State Bd of Physical Therapy Examiners 3150 W. Sahara Ave. Suite B-13 Las Vegas, NV 89102 Tel. 702-876-5535 Fax. 702-876-2097 Email. <a href="mailto:atresca@govmail.state.nv.us">atresca@govmail.state.nv.us</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Fingerprints 4 Letters of Reference Transcripts Verification of License APTA approved school</p>	<p>FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL TSE</p>	<p>Foreign Educated Physical Therapists must have a Physical Therapy license in his/her native country.</p>
<p>New Hampshire</p> <p>PT Governing Board of NH Office of Allied Health Prof. 2 Industrial Park Drive Concord, NH 03301 Tel. 603-271-8390 Fax. 603-271-6702 Email. <a href="mailto:vsoucy@nhsa.state.nh">vsoucy@nhsa.state.nh</a></p>	<p>No</p> <p>BA from APTA Approved School Two Letters of Reference and State Clearance School transcripts and verification of license</p>	<p>FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL Minimum of 560 TSE Minimum of 50 TWE Minimum of 4.5</p>	
<p>New Jersey</p> <p>NJ State Board of PT P.O. Box 45014 Newark, NJ 07101 Tel. 973-504-6455 Fax. 973-648-3536 Email. <a href="mailto:gartlands@smtp.lps.state.nj.us">gartlands@smtp.lps.state.nj.us</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>School transcripts and verification of license</p>	<p>ICD ICA FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL</p>	
<p>New Mexico</p> <p>NM Physical Therapy Board 2055 S Pacheco Suite 400 Santa Fe, NM 87505 Tel. 505-476-7085 Fax. 505-476-7086 Email. <a href="mailto:jj.walker@state.nm.us">jj.walker@state.nm.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.rld.state.nm.us/b&amp;c/ptb/index.htm">http://www.rld.state.nm.us/b&amp;c/ptb/index.htm</a></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Credentials evaluation for all foreign graduates</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Jurisprudence examination (passing score of 80%)</p>	<p>All foreign educated applicants must have a letter from applicant's most recent employer verifying employment; must provide a copy of license from country of education Education minimum of 42 hours of general education and minimum of 69 hours of professional education</p>

<p>New York</p> <p>State Board for PT 89 Washington Avenue Education Building, East Mezzanine Albany, NY 12234 Tel. (518) 474-3817 x 180 Fax. (518) 474-6375 Email. <a href="mailto:PTBD@mail.nysed.gov">PTBD@mail.nysed.gov</a> <a href="http://www.op.nysed.gov/pt.htm">http://www.op.nysed.gov/pt.htm</a></p>	<p><u>No</u></p> <p>APTA</p>	<p>Yes FCCPT CGFNS</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>If educated outside the US, it is necessary for the applicant to have completed a program satisfactory to the Department of not less than four years of postsecondary study which includes the professional study of physical therapy that is equivalent to a certificate program in physical therapy registered by the Department and which culminates in a degree or diploma accepted as preparation in physical therapy by the civil authorities of the country in which the studies were completed.</p>
<p>North Carolina</p> <p>North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy 18 W. Colony Place, #140 Durham, NC 27705 Tel. 919-490-6393 Fax. 919-490-5106 Email. <a href="mailto:bfmassey@mindspring.com">bfmassey@mindspring.com</a> Website: <a href="http://ncptboard.org">ncptboard.org</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>If licensure state requirement are substantially equivalent to NC. Exam before July 1, 1993 score 1.5 standard deviation below the national average. Thereafter, score of 600 required</p>	<p>Must have credentials evaluated by FCCPT OR ICD OR ICA OR IEFR</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes Must prove English proficiency. TSE min. 50 TWE Min. 45 TOEFL minimum 560</p>	<p>Two character references</p>
<p>North Dakota</p> <p>ND State Examination Committee for PT Box 69 Grafton, ND 58237 Tel. (701) 352-0125 Fax. (701) 352-3093 Email. <a href="mailto:ndsecpt@uslink.net">ndsecpt@uslink.net</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Master's Degree</p>	<p>FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL TSE TWE</p>	<p>Foreign Educated Physical Therapists must complete 6 months of direct supervision before being left to practice independently.</p>
<p>Ohio</p> <p>Ohio State Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy 77 S. High Street 16th Floor Columbus, OH 432156108 Tel. (614) 466-3774 Fax. (614) 995-0816 Email. <a href="mailto:Carl.Williams@otptat.state.oh.us">Carl.Williams@otptat.state.oh.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.state.oh.us/pyt">www.state.oh.us/pyt</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>4 Year CAPTE Approved Program 18 Years Old</p>	<p>FCCPT ICA</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL minimum score of 560 TSE minimum score of 50 TWE minimum score of 4.5</p>	<p>Foreign educated applicants need a verification for home country that no disciplinary action is pending against applicant.</p>

<p>Oklahoma</p> <p>Bd of Med Lic &amp; Sup PT Advisory Committee 5104 North Francis, Suite C Oklahoma City, OK 73118 Tel. 405-848-6841 Fax. 405-848-8240 Email. <a href="mailto:kplant@osbmls.state.ok.us">kplant@osbmls.state.ok.us</a> Website: <a href="http://osbmls.state.ok.us">osbmls.state.ok.us</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>All licenses must be verified Score transferred directly from FSBPT</p>	<p>Credentials evaluation by: ICA or ICD or FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Foreign graduates TOEFL + TSE + TWE</p>	<p>All foreign graduates must have training in Oklahoma: Minimum of 800 hours or 120 days of clinical training under a board approved program</p> <p>If applicant has 1 year PT clinical experience the training may be waived by board</p>
<p>Oregon</p> <p>OR PT Licensing Board 800 NE Oregon St., Suite 407 Portland, OR 97232 Tel. 503-731-4047 Fax. 503-731-4207 Email. <a href="mailto:patti.gustafson@state.or.us">patti.gustafson@state.or.us</a></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes, FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL TSE minimum score of 50 TWE minimum score of 40</p>	
<p>Pennsylvania</p> <p>PA State Board of PT P.O. Box 2649 Harrisburg, PA 17105 Tel. 717-783-7134 Fax. 717-787-7769 Email. <a href="mailto:physical@pados.dos.state.pa.us">physical@pados.dos.state.pa.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.dos.state.pa.us">www.dos.state.pa.us</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>If score was 600+ on NPTE (or 75+ in past exams) Through FSBPT or letters of good standing from state board</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Must have credentials evaluated</p>	<p>Yes</p>		
<p>Rhode Island</p> <p>Rhode Island PT Board Division of Prof Regulation 3 Capitol Hill, Rm 104 Providence, RI 029085097 Tel. (401) 222-2827 Fax. (401) 222-1272 Email. <a href="mailto:donnad@doh.state.ri.us">donnad@doh.state.ri.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.healthri.org/hsr/prosions/p_therap.htm">http://www.healthri.org/hsr/prosions/p_therap.htm</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>With exam results, verification of license and education</p>	<p>Credentials evaluation</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL</p>	<p>3 letters of reference from all applicants</p> <p>all foreign graduates must submit proof to practice in country where educated</p>
<p>South Carolina</p> <p>Board of PT Examiners 110 Centerview Drive P.O. Box 11329 Columbia, SC 292111329 Tel. 803-896-4655 Fax. 803-896-4719 Email. <a href="mailto:owensb@mail.llr.state.sc.us">owensb@mail.llr.state.sc.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.llr.state.sc.us">www.llr.state.sc.us</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>With NPTE scores</p>	<p>Must have credentials evaluation from FCCPT</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes English proficiency TOEFL min. 560 written or 220 computer TWE min. 4.5 TSE min. 55</p>	<p>All foreign educated PTs must have 1,000 clinical practice hours under a supervision of a board approved PT after passing the exam and before issuance of a permanent license.</p>
<p>South Dakota</p> <p>SD Board of Medical Examiners 1323 S. Minnesota Avenue Sioux Falls, SD 57105 Tel. (605) 334-8343 Fax. (605) 336-0270</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>With NPTE scores</p>	<p>Credentials evaluation by ICA Or ICD Or IERF</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Passing the TOEFL exam within past 2 years</p>	<p>All applicants must have school verification on the SD application forms.</p>

<p>Tennessee</p> <p>Div of Health Related Boards Bd of Occupational &amp; Physical Therapy 426 5th Ave North 1st Floor Nashville, TN 37247101 Tel. 615-532-5136 Fax. 615-532- 5164 Email. <a href="mailto:jphelps@mail.state.tn.us">jphelps@mail.state.tn.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.state.tn.us/health/links.html">www.state.tn.us/health/links.html</a></p>	Yes	All non CAPTE Accredited programs must have credentials evaluated by FCCPT	Yes	Proof of English proficiency Must pass TOEFL, TWE and TSE	
<p>Texas</p> <p>TX Board of PT Examiners 333 Guadalupe Suite 2-510 Austin, TX 78701 Tel. 512/305-6900 Fax. 512/305-6951 Email. <a href="mailto:nhurter@mail.capnet.state.tx.us">nhurter@mail.capnet.state.tx.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.ecptote.state.tx.us">www.ecptote.state.tx.us</a></p>	Yes	Credentials evaluation by a board approved agency: ICA OR ICD OR University of Texas at Austin	Yes	Jurisprudence exam for all  For foreign graduates English proficiency: TOEFL Min. 580 (237 if computerized) TWE min. 5.0 TSE min. 55	
<p>Utah</p> <p>Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing 160 East 300 South SM Box 146741 Salt Lake City, UT 84114 Tel. (801) 530-6632 Fax. (801) 530-6511 Email. <a href="mailto:kmccall@dopl.utah.gov">kmccall@dopl.utah.gov</a></p>	Yes	FCCPT	Yes		Graduation from a CAPTE Accredited program
<p>Vermont</p> <p>Physical Therapy Advisors Office of Prof Regulations 26 Terrace Street Drawer 09 Montpelier, VT 056091106 Tel. 802-828-2390 Fax. 802-828-2465 Email. <a href="mailto:dlafail@sec.state.vt.us">dlafail@sec.state.vt.us</a> Website: <a href="http://www.sec.state.vt.us">www.sec.state.vt.us</a> OR <a href="http://170.222.200.82:8080/G/Website/vtprof/hdocs/p_therapist/soshome.htm">http://170.222.200.82:8080/G/Website/vtprof/hdocs/p_therapist/soshome.htm</a></p>	Yes  By proof of license in another state with substantially same requirements as Vermont	Must have credentials evaluation			
<p>Virginia</p> <p>Board of Physical Therapy Dept of Health Professions 4th Floor 6606 West Broad Street Richmond, VA 23230 Tel. 804-662-9924 Fax. 804-662-9523 Email. <a href="mailto:eyt1@dhp.state.va.us">eyt1@dhp.state.va.us</a></p>	Yes, NPTE Computerized Application Form/Test	FCCPT	Yes	Letter Verifying Proficiency in English by an American University, Employer, etc or TOEFL	If a foreign applicant has not worked as a physical therapist in the US for at least 1 year then the applicant must complete 1000 hours of training before being eligible to sit for the NPTE exam.

<p>Washington</p> <p>WA Board of Physical Therapy 1102 SE Quince Street PO Box 47868 Olympia, WA 985047868 Tel. (360) 236-4874 Fax. (360) 236-4922 Email. <a href="mailto:Carol.Neva@doh.wa.gov">Carol.Neva@doh.wa.gov</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>APTA Course, currently Bachelor's level but changing to Master's by January 2002 NPTE 7 Hours AIDS Training Jurisprudence Exam English Spoken/Written Test</p>	<p>ICA</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL minimum score 560 TSE minimum score 50</p>	<p>Working on policies that would require additional course work to make up for unmet requirements.</p>
<p>West Virginia</p> <p>WV Board of Physical Therapy 153 W. Main Street, Suite 103 Clarksburg, WV 26301 Tel. 304-627-2251 Fax. 304-627-2253 Email. <a href="mailto:wvbopt@mail.wvnet.edu">wvbopt@mail.wvnet.edu</a> Website: <a href="http://www.wvbopt.com">http://www.wvbopt.com</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>License verification from 3 most recent states Score transfer from FSBPT</p>	<p>Must have credentials evaluated by ICA</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes TOEFL min. 550 TSE min. 50 TWE min. 4</p>	<p>Foreign educated applicants must be licensed in the country of their education</p>
<p>Wisconsin</p> <p>WI Dept of Reg &amp; Licensing 1400 E. Washington Ave., Room 178 PO Box 8935 Madison, WI 53708 Tel. 608-266-2112 Fax. 608-261-7083 <a href="http://www.drl.state.wi.us/">http://www.drl.state.wi.us/</a></p>	<p>Yes NPTE</p>	<p>International Consultants of Delaware (ICD) FCCPT ICA IEFR</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL TSE TWE</p>	
<p>Wyoming</p> <p>WY Board of Physical Therapy 2020 Carey Avenue, Suite 201 Cheyenne, WY 82002 Tel. 307-777-3507 Fax. 307-777-3508 Email. <a href="mailto:nbrown1@missc.state.wy.us">nbrown1@missc.state.wy.us</a></p>	<p>Yes Min. score 600</p>	<p>Credentials evaluation by ICA Or ICD Or IERF</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>TOEFL Min. 560 TWE min. 45 TSE min. 50</p>	<p>Foreign trained physical therapists must complete a one year practice of a board approved physical therapy program English proficiency tests may be waived if the native country of origin is English OR if graduated from a PT program conducted in English</p>

### **I-140s to Become Current in Texas Within 90 Days**

**The INS Texas Service Center has confirmed to members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association that it will dramatically improve processing times on I-140 cases within the next 90 days. In its latest processing time report ([www.visalaw.com/texas.html](http://www.visalaw.com/texas.html)), the TSC indicates that as of October it was only handling I-140 petitions filed in January.**

**According to the TSC, it has sent a substantial number of petitions to the Nebraska and Vermont Service Centers for processing. The goal is for I-140 processing times to be down to a targeted 90 day turnaround by March. The TSC has been criticized because I-140 processing times have stretched out to more than twice as long as any other service center. The Vermont Service Center takes about 90 days. California takes from 3 to 5 months. The Nebraska Service Center is the fastest with 60 day turnaround times.**

**I-140 processing is likely to become the least burdensome part of the immigration process in the coming year. Premium processing (see above)**

**will be available and the INS is planning on combining the I-140 and I-485 adjustment status process. The combined I-140 and I-485 processing launch date has yet to be announced, however.**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics: Shortage of Health Care Workers to Grow Significantly**

**The US Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that professional, technical and support jobs in the health care sector are expected to increase by 28% this decade to employ 12.2 million people. 1.6 million jobs will be available to health care practitioners and those in health care-related technical occupations. 561,000 new RN slots will open up.**

**However, as the exodus of nurses from the profession increases, the number of actual openings for nurses this decade is expected to total more than one million. 1.1 million service occupations in the health care sector are also to be added this decade. The complete report is available online at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2001/11/art4full.pdf>.**

## WHICH WAIVER IS WHICH

By Kristi Crawford ([kcrawford@visalaw.com](mailto:kcrawford@visalaw.com))

*Kristi Crawford is a partner in SSHD's North Carolina office.*

Navigating through the complexities of immigration law can be challenging even for the most seasoned practitioners. Often, understanding immigration matters is made more troublesome by the terminology used to describe legal techniques and types of applications. There is probably no better example of this than the seemingly ubiquitous “Waiver”.

When discussing the need for a waiver, it is most important to have a clear understanding of *what you are trying to waive*. This article will discuss the distinctions between three waiver forms that are most common to those in the medical/medical research professions: waiver of the home residency requirement, the National Interest Waiver, and the National Interest Waiver for physicians.

### Waiver of the Home Residency Requirement:

Physicians who entered the United States in J-1 status for the purpose of obtaining graduate medical education (residency training) are subject to the two-year home residency requirement as set forth in the Immigration and Nationality Act Section 212(e)(iii). Thereby, this is also known as the 212(e) waiver.

Those seeking such a waiver are attempting to avoid the requirement that they return to their home country before being eligible for further immigration benefits. Particularly, Section 212(e) prohibits changing status from J-1 to H-1B. Some will simply leave the United States at the conclusion of their residency program and return to their home country; thereby, 212(e) never becomes an issue. After spending the two years in their home country, the requirement disappears and the individual can apply for a visa.

However, for those who desire to remain in the United States without disrupting their careers, a waiver must be sought. The home residency requirement must be dealt with before any further immigration benefits can be obtained. This includes filing a request for changing status from J-1 to H-1B or submitting an adjustment of status application for permanent residence.

For physicians, a waiver of 212(e) can take the following forms:

1. **Hardship waiver-** evidence that compliance would result in exceptional hardship to a U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse or child. This argument cannot take into account hardship suffered by the J-1 physician.
2. **Persecution waiver-** evidence that the alien will be subject to persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion if forced to return to their home country.
3. **Interested Government Agency-** a request from a designated agency where that agency has determined that such a waiver would be in the public interest.
4. **A request from a State Department of Public Health to serve in a designated health professional shortage area.**

The 212(e) waiver process can be a lengthy endeavor. The State Health Department waiver, for example, requires recommendation by the sponsoring agency, the Department of State, and ultimately the I.N.S. Anyone considering such a waiver would be well advised to seek legal representation minimally 10-12 months prior to the expiration of their current J-1 status.

The requirements for these waiver forms will be explained in further depth in upcoming editions of this newsletter.

### The National Interest Waiver

The National Interest Waiver or “NIW” is quite different from the 212(e) waiver in what it seeks to accomplish. The ultimate purpose of filing a NIW is to obtain permanent residence, unlike the 212(e) waiver which does not afford any immigration status *per se*. The objective of the National Interest Waiver is to dispense with the job offer requirement that is typically a part of the employment-based second preference. This category is reserved for members of the profession holding an advanced degree whose work in the United States is deemed to be in the national interest. Seeking the approval of an immigrant petition in national interest has the following benefits:

1. The alien need not be tied to one sponsoring employer; and
2. The recruitment efforts of obtaining a labor certification can be avoided; and
3. The overall processing time for the case can be reduced.

The NIW applicant must show that he/she holds an advanced degree from a U.S. institution or foreign equivalent or a baccalaureate degree and at least five years of progressive experience in their field. As a result, many NIW applicants are Ph.D.’s working in the scientific arena. Though there is no requirement that the applicant be so employed. In fact, at one time,

creativity abounded in this category. Approved applicants ranged from NASA physicists, to bee-keepers, to virologists. The interpretation of the 1998 case *New York State Department of Transportation*, however, seriously narrowed the pool of potentially approvable cases and all but eliminated any hope that a physician engaged in clinical practice could obtain a National Interest Waiver.

This case gave rise to a standard which required that the applicant prove that their work was: 1. In an area of substantial intrinsic merit; 2. Resulting in a benefit that is national in scope and; 3. That the beneficiary would serve the national interest to a substantially greater degree than would an available U.S. worker having the same minimum qualifications.

In denying National Interest Waivers to physicians, the I.N.S. concluded that providers of medical services inherently could not contribute to the public interest on a national basis. The I.N.S. was not moved by arguments that alleviating the dearth of primary care physicians or the placement of a provider in a health-professional shortage area would contribute to the well-being of the nation.

Realizing the unmet need for health care providers, Congress passed the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999. This Act has the effect of restoring the National Interest Waiver for physicians. The traditional NIW category still exists, of course, but it is more likely to be an option for bench scientists, not practitioners.

### National Interest Waiver for Physicians

Just like the NIW explained above, the NIW for physicians has the effect of waiving the requirement of performing a labor certification before filing an immigrant petition for EB-2 classification. To qualify, the physician must submit evidence of the following:

1. A full-time employment contract for the required period or an employment commitment letter from a V.A. facility; and
2. Evidence that the physician will provide full-time clinical medical service in either a facility under the Secretary of the V.A. or a geographic area designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (H.P.S.A.) in a specialty within the scope of such designation; and
3. A letter from a Federal agency or the State Department of Public Health attesting that the physician's work will be in the public interest; and
4. If the physician was once subject to Section 212(e), evidence that a waiver of the home residency requirement has been granted.

**The physician must complete an aggregate of 5 years of service in a H.P.S.A. area to obtain permanent resident status. For physicians already fulfilling a three year contract as part of a 212(e) waiver, an additional two years of service is a good route to obtaining a green card.**

**In October, the I.N.S. released a policy memo indicating that the Service will accept adjustment of status applications once an I-140 and waiver request have been approved. If the physician is fulfilling the terms of a 212(e) waiver this does not relieve their obligation of completing the three years of service in H-1B status. It is beneficial, however, where the applicant's spouse needs work authorization that is not otherwise afforded in H-4 status.**

**The term "waiver" can mean many things, from waivers of ground of inadmissibility to the waivers discussed here. This article is meant to give you an overview of the waivers most common to the medical field. You should consult your immigration attorney to best determine which waiver is necessary in your case.**

**About the Author:**

**Kristi L. Crawford is the managing attorney at SSHD's Raleigh-Durham office. She encourages you to submit topics to be covered in upcoming editions of this newsletter. She can be reached via email at [kcrawford@visalaw.com](mailto:kcrawford@visalaw.com).**

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY DRAWS CRITICISM**

**The Department of Veterans Affairs' policy regarding issuing waivers to foreign physicians working at VA hospitals and facilities has drawn recent criticism from foreign medical graduates and immigration attorneys.**

**Health care is offered to veterans in VA hospitals and other facilities throughout the country. The Department of Veterans Affairs may also act as an interested government agency and recommend waiver of the two-year home residency requirement for physicians when it is clearly in the interest of the Department and its programs. However, the VA guidelines allow VA facility directors to request approval of J-1 waiver application only if loss of the exchange visitor's services would necessitate discontinuance of a program or a major phase of a program, and recruitment efforts have failed to produce a qualified American applicant for the position.**

**Recently, VA waivers have become more difficult to obtain. The VA adopted a policy under which it will not file J-1 waivers for foreign physicians who change to an O-1 nonimmigrant visa. The O-1 visa is available to aliens of extraordinary ability in their field. Physicians commonly seek O-1 status so that they will remain legal to work in the US during the often lengthy J-1 waiver adjudication process.**

**The VA justifies its policy by stating that a physician with an O-1 visa is lawfully allowed to work and therefore a waiver is not necessary. However, critics point out that the O-1 visa is a temporary visa, and the physician will eventually have to deal with the home residency requirement.**

**Rather than putting the future on indefinite hold, O-1 physicians are likely to avoid the VA program. Therefore critics question whether the policy is counter-productive. It may result in needed physicians' slots remaining open or being filled by lesser qualified doctors.**

## HEALTH CARE IMMIGRATION Q & A

*I am a physician employed in the US under an H-1B visa. I want to work part time in another hospital as a trainee. Do I need a H-1B for that job even if it is voluntary and I do not get paid?*

The question of whether working in a volunteer capacity requires a work visa often causes confusion. The rule of thumb to use is not whether you are paid for your work. Instead, the issue is whether you are doing work that someone would normally expect to be paid to do. Serving soup in a food kitchen is fine since that is traditional volunteer work. Simply passing up a paycheck to avoid getting a work visa will not be okay, however. Assuming the position requires an H-1B visa, you'll then need to be paid the prevailing wage.

If a J-1 has acquired O1 visa, subsequently, is it harder to obtain NIW or VA waiver?

No, it is not harder to obtain the NIW or VA waivers.

The O-1 has no bearing on the NIW or VA waiver, since they are different categories. Having extraordinary ability has nothing to do with doing the necessary time. Therefore, it is not harder nor easier.

I'm a MD living outside the US. I'm eligible to take the Clinical Skills Assessment test. I was refused a B-1 visa by the US Embassy because my parents applied for an immigrant petition for me. Is there a way for me to take the test? (my immigrant visa will be adjudicated in 5 years)

Unfortunately, the only way to take this exam is on a B-1. And even if you can get the B-1 visa, getting the J-1 can be tough for the very same reason. I would probably see about taking the USMLE Step 3 and going for the H-1B if possible. Many residency programs will do H-1Bs these days.