

AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION©
STATES WHICH REQUIRE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR RN LICENSURE
2013

State	Requires CE to renew RN license	Number of CE hours to renew RN license	Number of CE hours required for re-entry	CE hours required for HIV/ AIDS
Alabama	Yes	24 contact hours for active license	24 hours/2 years ¹	No
Alaska	Yes	30 hours	30 hours	No
Arizona	No	None	60 hrs / 5 yrs re-entry course	No
Arkansas	Yes	15 hrs every 2 yr renewal	20 hours within the past two yrs plus refresher course	No
California	Yes	30 hours within 2 years	30 hrs within past 2 years; after 8 yrs of lapsed status, NCLEX is required	Yes ²
Colorado	No	None	No	No
Connecticut	No	None	Board discretion for lapsed license	No
Delaware	Yes	30 contact hours biennially	30 hrs for RNs / 15 hrs for APRNs if less than 2yrs, greater than 1 yr	No
District of Columbia	Yes	24 contact hrs in an area relevant to the area of practice within the past 2 yrs	12 hours / year	No
Florida	Yes	24 contact hours within 2 years ³	1 hour per month if inactive	2 hours HIV/AIDS once, 1 hr of which must be completed prior to first renewal
Georgia	No	None	No	No

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Guam	No	None	40 hours didactic and 160 hours of clinical	No
Hawaii	No	None	No	No
Idaho	No	None	Varies: incremental as determined by the Board of Nursing (BON)	No
Illinois	Yes	20 hours for every 2 yr renewal cycle	If a nurse who lets his/her license lapse or places it on “inactive status” for 5 years or more will need to do one of the following to become re-licensed in the state of Illinois: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ prove they have been working in another jurisdiction, ➤ provide proof of serving in the military ➤ has retaken and passed NCLEX 	No
Indiana	No	None	BON discretion	No
Iowa	Yes	36 hours every 3 years ⁴	12 hours year prior to re-entry	No
Kansas	Yes	30 hours every 2 years	60 hrs didactic / 180 hours clinical	
Kentucky	Yes	14 hours every year; exempt for the first renewal year	15 hours/year	Two contact hours ⁵ every 10 years

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Louisiana	Yes	Full-time - 5 contact hrs Part-time - 10 contact hrs Unemployed/inactive - 15 contact hours	60 hrs within past 4 yrs or refresher program or retake the NCLEX	No
Maine	No	None	No	No
Maryland	No	None	Hours of practice/work in a given time (1,000hrs/5yrs); Other: completion of Board approved refresher course; completion of 1 semester full time nursing study/5 yrs	No
Massachusetts	Yes	15 hours every 2 years	15 hours/2 years immediately preceding license reactivation	No
Michigan	Yes	25 hours every 2 years, 1 hr of which must be pain management	25 hours / 2 years	No ⁶
Minnesota	Yes	24 contact hours per 24 month renewal period	1 hour for every month out of practice with a maximum of 150 hours	2 contact hours per 24 months
Mississippi	Yes ⁷	20 contact hours within 2 years with conditions	20 hours / 2 year prior to application for reinstatement or BON approved reorientation program or 3 semester hours of nursing credit (after 5 yrs out of practice)	No
Missouri	No	None	No	No
Montana	Yes	24 contact hours each two year renewal period	No ⁸	No
Nebraska	Yes	20 hours within 2 years + 500 hours of nursing	20 hours in last 2 years + 500 hours practice in last 5 years or BON	No

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		practice within 5 years	approved review course	
Nevada	Yes	30 contact hours within years; 20 may be home study 4 hr bioterrorism course – one time only	Refresher program after 5 years	No
New Hampshire	Yes	30 contact hours every 2 years	30 hrs/2yrs; 400 hrs active practice w/in 4 yrs prior to application re-entry program required if unemployed less than 400hrs/4yrs	No
New Jersey	Yes	30 hrs/2 yrs	Refer to BON requirement	No
New Mexico	Yes	30 hrs every 24 months 50 hrs/2yrs or national certification for CNPs and CNSs	Meet 30 hr requirement in re-entry activity; after 5 yrs take the NCLEX, take a refresher course, or complete preceptorship. ⁹	No
New York	No	None	No	Complete every 4 years an approved infection control course (approved by State Education Department)
North Carolina	Yes	30 hrs/2 yrs, one of 7 options	After 5 yrs of inactivity, 240 hr refresher course.	No

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North Dakota	Yes	12 contact hrs every 2 years	Refresher course if out of practice 4 yrs or more	No
Ohio	Yes	24 hrs in every 2 yr period; additional hrs for APRNs	24 hrs in preceding 2 years	No
Oklahoma	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. employment in a position that requires LPN/RN/APRN of at least 520 hours 2. 24 hours of CE 3. specialty certification 4. 6 academic credit hours in course work related to nursing at the current level or above. 	<p>If inactive 2yrs or more, must present evidence of one or more of the following within the last 2yrs of applying: official transcript of refresher course; successfully complete the NCELX; completion of 7 academic credit hrs in nursing: class & clinical; verification of at least 520 hrs worked during preceding 2yrs</p> <p>board approved refresher course</p>	No
Oregon	No	None Only one –time pain management course	Formal program required if RN has not practiced 960 hrs in past 5 yrs	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	30 hrs of BON approved	Unknown at the time of the update;	No

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		coursework biennially	regulations not yet promulgated	
Rhode Island	Yes	10 hrs/2 yrs	10 hrs/2 yrs	No
South Carolina	Yes	Renewal of an active license biennially requires documented evidence of at least one of the following requirements during the licensure period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ completion of 30 contact hours from a continuing education provider recognized by the board; ➤ maintenance of certification or re-certification by a national certifying body recognized by the board; ➤ completion of an academic program of study in nursing or a related field recognized by 	60 hrs theory, 80 hrs clinical, if RN has not practiced 960 hrs in past 5 yrs	No
South Carolina continued				

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		<p>the board; or ➤ Verification of competency and the number of hours practiced as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the board.</p>		
South Dakota	No	None	140 hours in any 12 month period over the preceding six years or 480 hours within the previous six years or a refresher course	No
Tennessee	No	None	No	No
Texas	Yes	20 contact hrs last 2 yrs preceding reactivation of application. Refresher course required if inactive 4 or more yrs. The nurse who needs to complete a refresher course or extensive orientation must apply for a one-time 6-month temporary permit and must complete	20 hrs/2yrs refresher course or supervised employment if inactive more than 4 yrs. Refresher course includes both theory and clinical.	No

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		the didactic and clinical within this time period.		
Utah	Yes	30 hrs/2yrs + practice	30 hrs up to 3 years	No
Vermont	No	None	120 hrs theory and clinical re-entry course after 5 yrs. 120 hrs refresher course if out of practice 5 or more yrs	No
Virginia	Yes	<p>In order to renew an active nursing license, a licensee shall complete at least one of the following learning activities or courses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current specialty certification by a national certifying organization, as defined in 18VAC90-20-10; 2. Completion of a minimum of three credit hours of post-licensure academic education relevant to nursing practice, offered by a regionally accredited college or university; 3. A board-approved refresher course in 	15 hrs after 2yrs	No

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		nursing; 4. Completion of nursing-related, evidence-based practice project or research study; 5. Completion of publication as the author or co-author during a renewal cycle; 6. Teaching or developing a nursing-related course resulting in no less than three semester hours of college credit, a 15-week course, or specialty certification; 7. Teaching or developing nursing-related continuing education courses for up to 30 contact hours; 8. Fifteen contact hours of workshops, seminars, conferences, or courses relevant to the practice of nursing and 640 hours of active practice as a nurse; or		

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		9. Thirty contact hours of workshops, seminars, conferences, or courses relevant to the practice of nursing.		
Virgin Islands	Yes	15 contact hrs every 2 yrs	After 5 yrs, approved refresher course of 90 hrs of theory / 70 hrs clinical	No
Washington	No	None	160 clinical hrs and 80 hrs of theory if inactive 3 yrs	Yes ¹⁰
West Virginia	Yes	12 hours every 12 months	12 hrs/1yr	No
Wisconsin	No	None	After 5 yrs, refresher course required	No
Wyoming	Yes	20 hrs every 2 yrs	Refresher course may be required	No

(End Notes on pages 9 and 10)

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End Notes

1. In Alabama, if an individual is licensed by endorsement or has requested reinstatement or reactivation, contact hours are prorated after initial requirements for reentry are met. Specialty practitioners include: Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA). To be approved to practice as a specialty practitioner, all continuing education requirements for certification must be met. Also, continuing education requirements must be met for licensure. The specialty practitioner may apply continuing education contact hours earned for certification toward license renewal provided the contact hours are earned in the earning period defined in the regulations. (Also see accompanying booklet titled "C.E. Questions and Answers for Licensees and Providers of Continuing Education").
2. In California, the California Business and Prof. Code @32 (1996) established the legislative requirements for an omnibus board to determine appropriate continuing education on AIDs related to assessment and treatment for licensed health care professions. Subsequently, the board has delegated this responsibility to the respective health care boards.
3. One contact hour for each 24 month renewal cycle, 2 hrs of which must include prevention of medical errors; 2 hrs of domestic violence is required every third renewal. 1 college credit is equivalent to 10 contact hours.
4. In Iowa, it is also mandated that a person who regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats dependent adults or children in Iowa, must accurately document compliance with mandatory training requirements on abuse identification and reporting. The course must have been completed within the last 5 years, and be a course that is approved by the Iowa Department of Public Health Abuse Education Review Panel. The training must also be two hours in length. A list of approved courses is available at www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/abuse_ed_review.asp.
5. The AIDS continuing education is mandated under KRS 214.615 and is required for all health professionals. Must be approved course by Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services.
6. The Michigan hours for AIDs continuing education come under the heading of infection control.
7. Mississippi requires continued education if the nurse has not practiced within the past 5 years.
8. If unlicensed anywhere for 3 yrs, must retest.
9. Preceptorship includes 75 hours of didactic and 75 hours of clinical course work. NM does not require CE for endorsees.

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10. In Washington to receive initial license there must be documentation of a minimum of 7 hours of HIV/AIDS education to include etiology, epidemiology; testing and treatment; legal and ethical issues to include confidentiality; and psychosocial issues to include special population considerations.

Please note all specific CE requirements have not been described. For specific information, visit the specific State Board for Nursing website.

©Initial data compiled through 2003 provided by Winifred Y. Carson, ANA Nurse Practice Counsel
Last update 11/17/2011