

American Nurses Association©
STATE LEGISLATION WHICH AFFECTS NURSING PRACTICE
1999 Chart

State	Entry Requirements	Master's Degree Requirements	Professional Certification Requirements
Alabama	Post-basic education with current professional certification	No	Yes
Alaska	Post-basic education with current professional certification	No	Yes
Arizona	Post-basic education as approved by board or current certification in specialty designated by board	No	Yes
Arkansas	Two routes of entry, masters and certification or state certification as a NP which did not require masters or professional certification	Yes – with different level of practice than that of nonmasters prepared Nurse Practitioners	Yes
California	Three routes of entry: Successful completion of a program approved by BON; national or state organization certification per section 1484 and study in areas of deficiency and/or clinical experience and verification by NP or MD of clinical competence in deliver of primary care.	No	Yes – state and national professional certifications are accepted.
Colorado	Completion of accredited NP program and/or certification by nationally recognized accrediting agency for NP. A graduate degree will be required after June 30, 2008. Masters degree required for CNS.	Yes – for NP after June 30, 2008 Yes for CNS	Yes
Connecticut	Post basic specialized education and national certification.	No	Yes
Delaware	One year post basic education program and national certification. If no exam is available APNs must be masters prepared.	Yes - when no certification examination is available.	Yes
District of Columbia	Post basic program and national certification	No	Yes

Florida	Masters prepared with a concentration in the respective APN nursing specialty. National certification to be used if applicable. In absence of appropriate certification, the BON may establish commensurate requirement.	Yes	Yes, if applicable.
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Georgia	Post-basic education and national certification.	No	Yes
Hawaii	Masters in nursing or current certification for specialized and advanced nursing practice from a national certifying body recognized by the Board of Nursing.	Yes - as of 1994	Yes
Idaho	Initial national professional certification and graduation from a certified NP program, recognized by the state.	No	Yes
Illinois	National certification and post-basic formal education in specialty area. As of July 1, 2001 or 12 months after adoption of rules to have graduate degree appropriate for national certification in a clinical advanced practice nursing specialty.	Yes-as of July 2001 or date stated in regulations.	Yes
Indiana	Two routes to entry -- graduate program or certificate program and national certification.	No	Yes
Iowa	Two routes to entry -- graduation from a program leading to masters degree in nursing clinical specialty area or formal advanced practice educational program with clinical experience and professional certification, required through administrative rules.	Yes, one route to entry.	Yes, one route to entry.
Kansas	Four routes of entry recognized in state. Completion of a formal, post-basic education approved by the board; completion of a formal post-basic educational program and clinical experience. National certification with standard applied by board of equal or greater than corresponding standards of BON. After 1994, NP candidates must hold BSN. After 1994, CNS must hold MSN or higher.	Yes- masters required for CNS.	Yes, one route to entry.
Kentucky	post-basic educational program and national certification.	No	Yes

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Louisiana	Masters educational preparation with a concentration in the respective advanced practice nursing specialty. National certification to be used, if applicable. In absence of appropriate certification, the board may establish "commensurate requirements".	Yes- as of 1995.	Yes
Maine	National certification and formal NP educational program with 24-month supervisory requirements for new NPs.	Neonatal NP year 2000 Others 2006	Yes
Maryland	National certification and post graduate program for NPs. Masters or higher required for CNS.	Yes – masters required only for CNS.	Yes
Massachusetts	Two routes of entry – graduate degree in advanced nursing practice or a certificate from an approved year-long program in advanced nursing practice and certification from a BON-approved certifying organization.	Yes – masters education one route to entry.	Yes
Michigan	Formal advanced practice program for NPs and national certification, 2 years of practice in specialty area of nursing. After 1991, all RNs must have BSN, complete formal advanced practice program for NPs and professional certification.	No	Yes
Minnesota	National certification and program requiring one academic year of full-time study. BON relies on the requirements associated with professional certification.	No	Yes
Mississippi	Two routes to entry -- Graduate of BS or higher program and program of study and clinical experience following graduation from basic nursing program or graduate education and national certification.	Yes- one route to entry.	Yes
Missouri	Professional certification used for initial licensure (need to check rules for educational requirements)		

Montana	Post basic nursing education and national certification for pre-1995 candidates or those licensed prior to 1995. Masters requirement and professional certification after 1995.	Yes- after 1995.	Yes
Nebraska	Masters or greater educational requirement and professional certification. ARNPs without a master/doctorate degree and at least 2,000 hours of physician supervised practice must have protocols. ARNPs licensed after July 19, 1996 must have a masters/doctorate degree to practice except for women's health and neonatal specialties.	Yes as of July 19, 1996.	Yes
Nevada	Completion of one year post basic program with classroom and clinical experience. Professional certification and evidence of continuous practice for 3 of the 5 years prior to licensure, to include practice of at least 400 hours per year. Applicants who graduated from an APN program after July 1, 1992 must be nationally certified or hold a BSN, or sign an agreement with the BON to make consistent progress toward the degree. A master's degree will be required after 2005.	Yes - masters required after 2005.	Yes
New Hampshire	Completion of approved NP educational program; current national certification; and 30 contact hours of continuing education in specialty area within 2 years prior to application (60 contact hours for those licensed prior to 1984, when certification was not required).	No	Yes
New Jersey	A masters degree in nursing, three (3) credit hours of graduate level pharmacology education, and professional certification are required. Family Planning NPs have until May 2, 2002 before a masters degree is required.	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	CNP must have completed a graduate education program for education and preparation (after January 2001 this must be masters' level or higher for initial licensure) CNS must be master's prepared and certify by a national certifying nursing organization.	Yes--as of 2001 for NPs and 1997 for CNS.	Yes – for CNS (need to check requirements for NPs).

New York	Three routes of entry– complete educational preparation as approved by the BON or current certification by a national certifying body or alternative criteria established by the Commission on Education regulations.	No	Yes– as one route to entry.
North Carolina	Formal NP education and instruction in procedures and practices Nps are expected to perform.	Yes, as of 1/1/2000	Yes, as of 1/1/2000
North Dakota	Need to check the current requirements. After January 2001, an APRN applicant for initial licensure must have a masters' degree with a nursing focus. APRNs must maintain national certification.	Yes– as of January 2001	Yes
Ohio	Starting in 2001, all new nurse practitioners, nurse midwives and nurse anesthetists must have a masters degree in nursing or a related field and hold applicable national certification. CNS now have to have masters degrees. Other AP categories must have certification from a national certifying organization.	Yes -as of 2001 for NP, NMW, and NA. Masters requirement presently exists for CNS	Yes
Oklahoma	APNs must complete formal program of study approved by BON and be nationally certified by appropriate certifying body approved by the BON.	Yes - for CNS	Yes
Oregon	Masters required for certification as NP. Working on legislation for CNS recognition.	Yes– for nurse practitioners	Need to check on professional certification requirements.
Pennsylvania	Formal program of study and national certification. (Check)	No	Yes
Rhode Island	Approved educational program for NPs and national certification.	No	Yes
South Carolina	Masters degree in national certification.	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	Prescribed educational program with references to standard curriculum in regulations as approved by the BON and professional certification.	No	Yes
Tennessee	Certification of fitness requires masters of nursing in clinical specialty area and preparation in specialized practitioners skills. National certification is also required..	Yes	Yes

Texas	(need to check the requirements)		
Utah	APRNs not licensed as of July, 1992 must be nationally certified to obtain licensure as APRN. Those licensed prior to 1992 did not need certification. Passage of professional certification examination must be within 2 years of completion of APN education.	No	Yes
Vermont	Formal educational program completion and national certification. The BON will endorse CNS if they are nationally certified and if their formal education program has been approved by the BON.	No	Yes
Virginia	Post-basic education and professional certification.	No	Yes
Washington	Post-prior education was the requirement prior to 1995. After 1995, a concentration of APN courses to culminate in a graduate degree and initial professional certification.	Yes- After 1998.	Yes
West Virginia	Post - basic education and professional certification. Masters required after January, 1999.	Yes - after January, 1999	Yes
Wisconsin	Need certification for prescriptive authority, not recognition as APN. Eligible APNs must have national certification and after July 1, 1998, must hold a master's degree in nursing or a related health field.	Yes – after July 1998 for prescriptive authority.	Yes - for prescriptive authority.
Wyoming	Two routes of entry– advanced education or national certification.	No	Yes -one route of entry is national certification.

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Created 1/27/99

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