

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**  
**3.12.7.a. EDUCATION GUIDELINE**  
**Reeducation of Candidates Who Fail to be Licensed within Four (4) Years of Graduation**

**Revised: 1/11/2013**

Rule 217 sets forth the requirements for licensure as a nurse in the State of Texas.

Rule 217.2(c) related to Licensure by Examination for Graduates of Nursing Education Programs Within the United States, its Territories or Possessions requires that "An applicant for initial licensure by examination shall pass the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN within four years of completion of requirements for graduation."

Rule 217.2 (d) related to Licensure by Examination for Graduates of Nursing Education Programs Within the United States, its Territories or Possessions requires that "An applicant who has not passed the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN within four years from the date of completion of requirements for graduation must complete a board approved nursing education program in order to take or retake the examination."

Rule 217.4(c) related to Requirements for Initial Licensure by Examination for Nurses Who Graduate from Nursing Education Programs Outside of the United States' Jurisdictions requires that "An applicant who has not passed the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN within four years of the date of eligibility must complete an appropriate nursing education program in order to be eligible to take or retake the examination."

Rule 217.1(26) related to Definitions defines "Nursing program--The equivalent of all non-nursing and nursing courses in the program of study within an approved/accredited program."

A candidate who exceeds the four (4) year time limit must complete a nursing education program before that individual is eligible to take or retake the NCLEX-PN® or NCLEX-RN® examination in the State of Texas. A nursing education program with full approval may agree to provide individuals the option of completing a nursing program which meets these individuals' needs.

**PROCESS:**

Nursing administrators and faculty of a nursing education program deciding to offer this option should consider and establish:

1. criteria for admission;
2. criteria for designation of the status of the individual as a student within the educational institution/nursing program, i.e., special student, non-degree seeking student, degree-seeking candidate;
3. assessment strategies to determine students' needs for non-nursing courses, which may include existing policies for acceptance of courses taken at other institutions (transfer or articulation agreements), limitations on age for required courses, credit-by-examination procedures, or nationally recognized placement tests;
4. assessment strategies to determine students' needs for nursing courses, which may include challenge tests, nationally recognized assessment tests, or existing strategies to determine advance placement;
5. methods for addressing individuals' needs, which may include enrollment in all or selected non-nursing or nursing courses, individual learning contracts, or supervised independent study; and
6. strategies for evaluation of students' achievement.

The criteria for successful completion of a nursing education program should demonstrate that the individual has knowledge, skills, and clinical behaviors/judgment that are comparable to those required of other students who complete the requirements of the nursing education program.

When the individual has completed the nursing education program:

1. Director of the nursing program completes the portion of the Application for Initial Licensure in Texas that serves as the affidavit that the applicant completed the nursing education program.
2. Applicant completes the Application for Initial Licensure in Texas, submits it to the Board with the appropriate fee, and registers for the NCLEX-PN® or NCLEX-RN® examination.
3. A Graduate Vocational Nurse (GVN) or a Graduate Nurse (GN) Permit may be issued to individuals who complete all requirements of an applicable nursing education program.
4. NCLEX-PN® or NCLEX-RN® examination scores of individuals who complete all requirements of a nursing education program are used to calculate the examination year pass rate of that nursing education program.

**Important: Please be aware that references to Rule 217 are not all inclusive.**