ALL OUT OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OFFERING NURSING PROGRAMS IN ALABAMA

Nursing Programs offered by those out-of-state institutions that are not part of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) are required to comply with Alabama law. Those who fail to register with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) and the Division of Licensure of the Alabama Community College System are not authorized to offer nursing programs or send students to Alabama for clinical activities. Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) requirements are listed below:

SARA institutions are not required to register with ACHE but must meet the ABN requirements.

Nursing: Pre-licensure
Any program offering a pre-licensure track (LPN, RN) in Alabama shall meet all requirements of Alabama law for pre-licensure programs as specified in Code of Alabama (1975) § 34-21-21, § 34-21-22, § 34-21-5, and ABN Administrative Code sections §610-X-3-.02, §610-X-3-.03, §610-X- 3-.06, §610-X-3-.08, and §610-X-3-.09. Attending programs that have met requirements as specified in the Code of Alabama (1975) and ABN Administrative Code sections allows eligibility to sit for the national licensure examination required by the Alabama Board of Nursing to enter practice as a licensed practical or registered nurse upon successful passage of the NCLEX®.

Nursing: Post-licensure
Any program offering advanced practice nursing degrees (CRNP, CRNA, CNS, CNM) to Alabama residents shall meet all requirements of Alabama law for advanced practice programs. Distance education programs offering advanced practice degrees, certifications, courses, preceptorial or clinical experiences must adhere to the Code of Alabama (1975) and ABN Administrative Code sections §610-X-3-.08 and §610-X-3-.09. Advanced practice applicants for approval in Alabama are required to meet Alabama requirements for national certification, graduation from a specific program type for advanced practice approval, and completion of the appropriate application. State approval of a program to offer Alabama licensed nurses opportunities for advanced degrees does not indicate eligibility for approval as an advanced practice nurse in Alabama. **www.abn.alabama.gov**

INFORMATION
Programmatic review: Alabama Commission on Higher Education, https://www.ache.edu/

Non-Resident Institutional Review

Under provisions of **Ala. Code** §16-5-10 (14) (1975), the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) has jurisdiction over non-resident institutions, defined as postsecondary institutions or corporations offering educational programs in Alabama with main campuses or headquarters located outside the state.

Alabama is the only state within the United States where jurisdiction over private school licensure and programmatic review and approval of non-resident programs of higher education, and postsecondary instruction, is divided between two (2) state agencies, the Alabama Community College System and ACHE.

To facilitate these dual agency assignments of responsibility, a Memorandum of Agreement between the Alabama Community College System and ACHE provided for the integration of programmatic review of non-resident institutions with the licensure process.

In addition, both ACHE and the Alabama Community College System serve as clearinghouses for information about private/proprietary institutions that offer their programs to Alabama residents.

Licensure: Alabama Community College System: https://www.accs.edu/

Approval Process

In Alabama, approval to offer courses of instruction in residence, online, by mail, or otherwise involves a 2-step process with 2 separate agencies, 1) Alabama Community College System (ACCS), and 2) Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). To apply with ACCS for a Private School License, please refer to the Guidelines for Policy to Obtain a Private School License as well as the online application. Required documents can be uploaded to the online application.

OUT OF STATE PROGRAMS CONDUCTING CLINICAL IN ALABAMA

ABN Administrative Code, §610-X-3-.09 Out of State Programs Conducting Clinical in Alabama

(1) The nursing program shall be a postsecondary education institution that is accredited by a national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education by January 1, 2022.

(2) The governing institution offering the nursing program shall be a postsecondary educational institution that is accredited by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

(3) The nursing education program shall have full approval (local, state, federal, and regulatory board) in the state where located.

(4) Any student who is enrolled in an out of state nursing education program that requires the student to possess an RN license as a condition of enrollment and who is participating in clinical learning experiences in Alabama shall have a valid registered nurse license issued by Alabama, or multistate license issued by a party state, as defined in Chapter 4 of these rules.

(5) A prelicensure program or advanced practice program based outside the state of Alabama that plans to provide students with clinical learning experiences in Alabama shall submit to the Board a minimum of fifteen (15) days in advance of the expected clinical learning experience: (Note: A 48-hour notice is unacceptable as approvals cannot be reviewed within that timeframe).

(a) A letter of intent identifying the governing institution, the type of nursing education program, and the status of approval from accrediting bodies and state of origin. The letter shall include:

1. Name of student, including license number if the student is licensed in Alabama (where applicable).
2. Name and license number of the clinical supervisor. Clinical supervision shall meet the qualifications set forth in this chapter.
3. Name and location of the clinical facility and statement from the Director of Nursing/Chief Nursing Officer of the clinical facility regarding the availability of clinical learning experiences for in-state and out of state nursing students.
4. Learning outcomes expected of the student.
5. Name and license number of the nursing faculty responsible for the evaluation and oversight of the student's clinical learning experience.

(6) Effective January 1, 2023, those out of state nursing programs conducting clinical experiences in Alabama for a prelicensure program or advanced practice program shall submit an annual Out of State Program fee of $500.00 in January of each calendar year, or upon submission of the program's letter of intent for that calendar year.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-21-2(2). History: New Rule: Published November 30, 2020; effective January 14, 2021. Amended: Published May 31, 2022; effective July 15, 2022. Amended: Published January 31, 2023; effective May 15, 2023.