



MAINE NURSING LICENSURE GUIDE FOR FOREIGN-TRAINED PROFESSIONALS

New Mainers Resource Center, Portland Adult Education



MAINE NURSING LICENSURE GUIDE

FOR FOREIGN-TRAINED PROFESSIONALS

Support for this project was provided by the Betterment Fund

Prepared by:
Dani M. Scherer M.Ed.
July 2018

Updated by Vanessa Sylvester M. Ed.
June 2021

New Mainers Resource Center – Who We Are

The New Mainers Resource Center (NMRC) is a program within Portland Adult Education serving area immigrants and refugees. Our offerings are designed to help New Mainers overcome barriers in order to enter the US workforce. These include: career guidance and employment case management, assistance with credential review and licensing requirements, intensive classes focused on job readiness skills, networking groups, workshops and other offerings.

The Purpose of this Guide

One major challenge faced by skilled professionals, such as nurses, is to successfully navigate complex licensing requirements so that they may practice as nurses in Maine. The purpose of this guide is to provide foreign-trained nurses the information they need to understand that process so that they can make informed decisions about their options to work in the healthcare field in Maine.

For additional information or assistance from the New Mainers Resource Center contact:

New Mainers Resource Center, *Maine's Welcome Back Center*, Portland Adult Education 14 Locust St. Portland, Maine 04101 Phone: 207 874-8155, Website: www.nmrcmaine.org, Email: Sally Sutton, program coordinator, suttos@portlandschools.org

MAINE NURSING LICENSURE GUIDE

FOR FOREIGN-TRAINED PROFESSIONALS

Table of Contents

<u>Overview of the process</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Frequently asked questions</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Time-line</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Credential evaluation</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>English proficiency test</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Taking the NCLEX</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Completing your application</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Other jobs in healthcare</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Nursing programs in Maine</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Testing information and preparation</u>	<u>11</u>

WHERE SHOULD I START?

If you are educated and licensed as a nurse (RN) in a foreign country, you will need to follow the steps

below to apply for licensure in Maine through the endorsement licensing process.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What if it will take me a long time to get my official documents?

Especially for institutions that are closed or in transition, it may be a long and difficult process to get your official transcripts and diplomas / licenses to CGFNS. You may need to contact a family member or friend or hire someone in your country to act on your behalf. There may also be fees from your school or licensing agency that you will have to pay. Many times, you will be able to retrieve documents, but it could be necessary to take [other jobs in healthcare](#) while you wait.

2. What if I cannot get my official documents?

If you are unable to have your documents sent from your school and country, you may not be able to pursue licensing for nursing through CGFNS. If you have your original transcripts and diplomas with you, and in some instances, copies may be sufficient, you have other options for pursuing a career in healthcare. Some foreign-trained nurses decide to return to school for nursing. Depending on the school you apply to, you may be able to use another evaluation company that does not require that your transcripts be sent from your school. You may also be able to get credit for some of the classes that you have already taken. Other nurses pursue other health careers that do not require verification of documents through CGFNS and that may accept an evaluation done by another company. The first and most important step in determining what evaluation company to use is to know who will be using the information, what school, employer, or licensing agency. These will each say what evaluation company they want used. Each evaluation company also has its own requirements for submitting documents. These can vary depending on your country of origin and the purpose of the evaluation. It is also important to use an approved evaluation company. The National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) <http://www.naces.org/> maintains a list of accredited companies.

3. How do I know if I will be successful on the English proficiency test?

Even if you are very advanced in English, make sure to take a practice TOEFL exam early-on in the process. You could be surprised at what it will take to achieve the required scores, and you may need to set aside quite a bit of time to prepare. If needed, you can get started on preparing for this test right away, even before your evaluation.

4. What happens if there are gaps in my credentials?

If the Maine state Board looks at your CGFNS report and sees a missing course etc., you will need to contact the program chair at one of the [Maine nursing schools](#). You will have to ask the program chair if it is possible to take courses as a non-matriculated student. If you are able to complete the course(s), send the transcripts to the board and you will be complete with your evaluations. You do not need to get your credentials evaluated a second time.

5. How do I prepare for the NCLEX exam?

Start taking practice tests early to see how much preparation you will need. You will most likely enroll in an [NCLEX preparation course](#) on-line or in-person. These courses cost money and take time. Some institutions (hospitals etc.) will provide or support NCLEX prep classes if you are working there in another job (such as CNA or LPN).

6. Are there other jobs in healthcare that are easier to get?

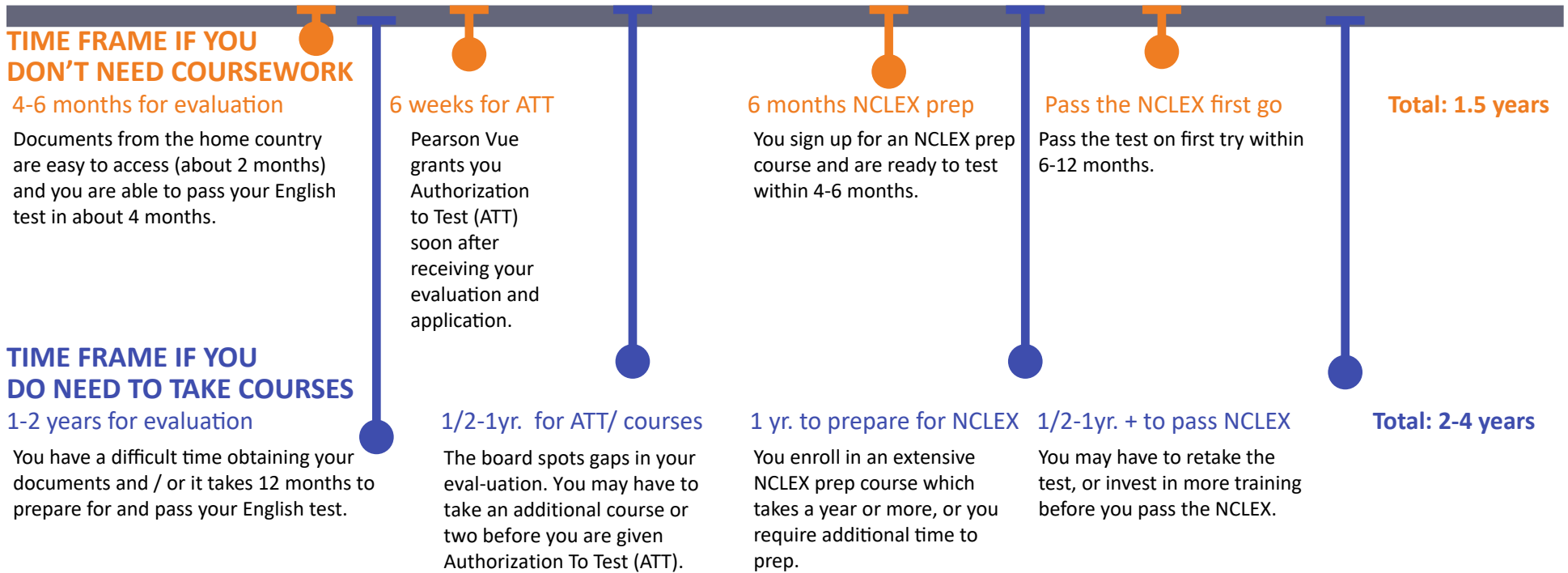
Some positions in healthcare only require a short training, while others require extensive course work as seen in this [chart](#). Consider taking a job that has on-site training or partners with a training institution. Often, these institutions (hospitals, nursing homes etc.) will allow you to work while supporting your certification with time and finances. You may find this for medical assisting, home-health aid, personal support specialist and some other positions. Institutions want their staff to advance and will support you financially to pursue your RN, through course work and NCLEX preparation.

7. How long will it take me to get licensed in Maine?

The time it takes you to get your nursing license in Maine really depends on a few things: how long it will take you to get official documents from your home country, and how long it will take you to study for and successfully pass your English and NCLEX exams. However, see below for some rough estimates as well as some timing constraints you should keep in mind as you plan out your re-licensing process.

TIMELINE FOR NURSE LICENSURE IN MAINE

<p>Once you start your application process with CGFNS, you will have <u>12 months</u> to make sure your official documents are sent from your home country, and that your successful English test results are sent.</p>	<p><u>10 weeks</u> for CGFNS to evaluate your credentials.</p>	<p>Once your CGFNS report is complete you can fill out an application for your Maine nursing license. The board will then review your credentials to determine eligibility to take the NCLEX. If you are eligible to take the NCLEX, the board will grant you authorization and you have 90 days to register to schedule the exam with Person Vue. If you need to complete extra coursework, you will not be able to register for the NCLEX.</p> <p>Once you apply for your Maine nursing license, you will have up to 2 years to complete all of the requirements.</p>
---	--	---



WARNING ABOUT TIME LIMITS:

- **You have 12 months to get your documents to CGFNS, or you will need to pay more to start your application again.**
- **You have 12 months to pass the TOEFL after you have started your CGFNS application.**
- **The Board recommends completing the criminal background check close to the end of the process.**
- **Keep in mind that you will need to have a social security number to be registered as a nurse, so factor in the time this will take.**

1

CREDENTIAL EVALUATION

OVERVIEW: The board of nursing in Maine requires that you get your education and license evaluated by Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) <http://www.cgfns.org/>. You will be in charge of making sure CGFNS receives the following four things:

- 1) Recent English test scores on the TOEFL (84 Total, 26 Speaking) unless you are exempt.
- 2) Official transcripts from your nursing program.
- 3) Verification of licensure from the office or program that gave you your license or diploma.
- 4) Your high school / secondary school diploma or exams (can come from you directly).

How long this will take depends on many factors.

- You will have *12 months* to supply the required documents and scores to CGFNS once you start the process. It may take you much longer than that. Extensions available for additional cost.
- Factor in the time it will take you to pass the English test.
- Factor in time to have documents officially translated if necessary.
- Once all official documents have been sent to CGFNS, it can take up to *10 weeks* for an assessment to be completed (you can expedite for additional fee).

How much will it cost?

- A completed report generally costs \$365.00.
- English language proficiency report (cost per report) \$85.00.
- Your schools or licensing office may also charge you fees.
- You may need to pay someone in your country to help access official documents.
- Additional charges for translation may be necessary.
- Additional charges apply for extensions, re-issuing a report, missing documents, added translation services etc. Details on the fees can be found at <http://www.cgfns.org/support/fee-schedule-and-policies/>.

DETAILS

1. On the CGFNS website, select the [Credential Evaluation Service \(CES Professional Report\)](#) and start the application: <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/register.jsp>. Once you begin the on-line application, the forms mentioned below will become available to you.
2. As soon as possible, prepare and send the *Request for Academic Records Transcripts form* to any nursing or nursing-related post secondary schools that you attended. You can access this form through your on-line application. You must sign it and then you can send it by mail, as an scanned email attachment, or in person.
3. Send a photocopy of your secondary school (high school equivalent) certificate/diploma or results of external exams. This does not need to be official.
4. Prepare and send the *Request for Validation of License Registration/Diploma form* to the office or program that gave you your license, asking them to send the completed form and any attachments to CGFNS.
5. Once you pass your TOEFL exam, they will send official scores to CGFNS.
6. Sign and send the *CES Verification forms* to your nursing school(s) and former licensing agency. They can be mailed, emailed, or delivered in person. These forms will need to be returned to CGFNS by mail directly from the nursing program and licensing office.

*The transcript and license will need to be officially translated if they are not in English. CGFNS can translate documents for an additional fee.

*Details on all required documents can be found here:

<http://www.cgfns.org/services/credentials-evaluation/credentials-evaluation-service-professional-report/>

TIPS

1. If the [English test](#) will be difficult for you, start studying right away and only begin your application with CG-FNS once you are confident you can achieve the necessary scores. You will need to achieve a Passing Score of 84 and Speaking Score of 26 on the TOEFL .

2. The Maine State Board of Nursing uses the CGFNS evaluation to identify any gaps in your education in the following areas: theory and clinical in medical, surgical, pediatrics, psychiatric, and obstetrics.

3. If CGFNS received official transcripts, licenses, and test scores, you do NOT have to also send them to the board.

Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools

+1 (215) 222 - 8454

<http://www.cgfns.org/>

3600 Market Street, Suite 400

Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651 USA

2

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST

OVERVIEW: Maine requires that you take an English proficiency test before applying for nursing licensure. You will need to a Passing Score of 84 and a Speaking Score of 26 on the TOEFL, before your CGFNS evaluation will be complete. These tests are timed. If you have achieved the above mentioned scores in the past two years, you do not need to re-take the test. Make sure you can achieve these scores before starting your evaluation process. Some countries and programs are exempt from this, see details below.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

- Factor in how long it will take you to study to achieve the required scores.
- TOEFL: Register AT LEAST a week in advance of when you want to take your test, or else you will be charged a late fee. Scores are processed in about **10 days**.
- CGFNS does not accept the at-home versions of English Language Proficiency exams.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

- TOEFL iBT tests in Maine are generally **\$225.00**. Fees vary by country and region. Detailed information about testing fees can be found here: <https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about/fees/>.

DETAILS

1. WHO IS EXEMPT?

CGFNS will determine if you are exempt from the English Requirement based on your education. The CGFNS guidelines for exemption here: "All nurses who were educated and licensed in a foreign country need to take the English proficiency test, UNLESS your professional nursing education occurred in the United Kingdom, Australia, Barbados, Canada (excluding Quebec), Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, or the United States; **AND** English must have been the language of instruction, and textbooks and learning materials were in English." Details on exemption can be found here under the 'English requirement' tab: <http://www.cgfns.org/services/credentials-evaluation/credentials-evaluation-service-professional-report/>

2. PASSING SCORES:

TOEFL has four parts, speaking listening reading and writing. The test is timed. The required passing scores set by the Maine State Board of Nursing is an Passing Score of 84 and a Speaking Score of 26. There is a required minimum score for each other section: A 15 on reading, 14 on listening, and 17 on writing.

3. HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN I AM READY?

See [page 11](#) for some tips on test readiness and preparation.

TIPS

1. You can select four recipients for your test scores with TOEFL.
2. You will have to know where you want your scores sent when taking the test.
3. You do not need to send your scores to the state board if they are included in your CGFNS evaluation.

TOEFL Services

<https://www.ets.org/toefl>

Educational Testing Service
P.O. Box 6151

1-609-771-7100 or 1-877-863-3546 Princeton, NJ 08541-6151, USA

www.nmrcmaine.org

3

TAKING THE NCLEX

OVERVIEW: Taking your nursing exam (NCLEX) is the last step of the licensure process. You must be prepared to spend a lot of time and some money to study for this test. The board has to review your evaluations before they can give you Authorization To Test (ATT). If they see gaps in your courses or credentials, they may recommend you take a class at a nursing program in Maine before you sign up for the NCLEX test. The board will notify the testing agency if and when you are authorized to schedule your test.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

- Once the Maine Board of Nursing grants you eligibility to take the NCLEX. You now can register and receive an Authorization To Test (ATT) from Pearson Vue. You will then have 90 days to schedule your NCLEX. It will take 24 hours to find out if you passed which will be online on your license status.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

- It is **200.00** to register for the NCLEX RN.
- Take into account that you will also be completing your on-line application for your license to the board, which is \$50 .00 for an LPN and \$75.00 for an RN.
- NCLEX preparation courses can be costly. Review some of the costs on page 11.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR THE TEST?

1. Your state board must decide if you are eligible to take the NCLEX.
2. In order for the board to decide if you are eligible, your on-line application for license (<http://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/licensing/endorsement.html>) must have all requirements fulfilled, except your NCLEX requirement.
3. The Maine State Nursing Board will base your eligibility on your credential evaluation from CGFNS, which will include your English score.
4. If you have met all the requirements, the board will notify Pearson Vue, who will generate an ATT.
5. You can then complete your enrollment and sign up to test: <https://wsr.pearsonvue.com/testtaker/profile/create/SignUp/NCLEXTTESTING> through Pearson Vue.
6. Details about registration can be found here: <https://www.ncsbn.org/before-the-exam.htm>

TIPS

1. Registration timing is tricky. Before you seek Authorization To Test from the board, make sure you know how much preparation time you will need before you take the test. This will help you to choose a testing date within the 90 day window. Work with the Maine Board of Nursing to help you with the best timing plan.
2. You do not need a social security number at this stage, but you will need one before you are granted full licensure by the state.

National Council of State Boards of Nursing

<https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm>

111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 290, Chicago, IL 60601-4277 Phone 312.525.3600

Email: info@ncsbn.org

4

COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION

OVERVIEW: If you have completed evaluations, been authorized to test and passed your NCLEX, you have all the requirements to complete your license application. You have already submitted this form in order to get authorized to test. While you did not need a social security number before, you will need it now in order to be licensed. Review the checklist below to make sure you have everything necessary for the final application license.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?:

- Once the board has received everything mentioned below, your license should be granted about 24 hours after passing your NCLEX. You can check on your status through the board's website: <https://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/>

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?:

- The application fee is **\$75.00 (RN) or \$50 (LPN)**
- The Criminal Background Check fee is **\$52.00**

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR THE APPLICATION?

1. APPLICATION

Online license application completed through the link provided above.

2. FEE

\$50.00 for LPN, and \$75.00 for RN.

3. PASSPORT PHOTOS

Recent passport type photograph (2 x 2 and no more than two years old). Must be an actual picture, no copies.

4. COMPLETED EVALUATIONS FROM CGFNS

Sent directly from CGFNS.

5. DECLARATION OF PRIMARY RESIDENCE

6. VERIFICATION OF LICENSURE

From the country you were originally licensed in, included in the evaluation from CGFNS. Verification must not be older than 1 year.

7. NURSING TRANSCRIPTS

Included in your CGFNS evaluation, you will not need to send additional transcripts to the board.

8. ENGLISH TEST SCORES

Included in your CGFNS evaluation.

9. PASSING NCLEX SCORES

Must determine sufficient knowledge determined by questions on an computer adaptive test.

10. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK COMPLETED

11. A U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

You will not need it while you are applying, but you will need your SSN before the state can grant a license.

TIPS

1. The Maine State Board of Nursing does NOT recognize advanced nursing degrees, such as CNM, CRNS, CNS, from foreign countries. If you want these advanced degrees, you will have to enroll in a U.S. accredited program.

2. You do not have to re-submit transcripts, verifications of licenses or English scores to the Maine State Board of Nursing if those were all included in your evaluation.

2. By the time you are fully ready to apply for licensure, you will have already submitted your incomplete application in order to get authorization to take the NCLEX.

Board of Nursing, State of Maine

<https://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/>

161 Capitol Street
Augusta, ME 04333

Mailing Address

158 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Phone 207.287.1133
Fax 207.287.1149

Contact Person

Virginia deLorimier, MSN, RN
Assistant Executive Director
virginia.e.delorimier@maine.gov
207-287-1147

OTHER JOBS IN HEALTHCARE

SOME EXAMPLES OF TEMPORARY, ENTRY-LEVEL OR TRANSITIONAL JOBS

<i>Entry-level non-degree jobs</i>				
Job title	Entrance requirements	Required training or license	Time and Money	Other Considerations
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Each program determines their own entrance requirements. Most require high school diploma or equivalent and a Social Security number. --Check with the program about CASAS or other placement test requirements. For example, Portland Adult Education usually requires a score of 240 on the CASAS test. --Some CNA courses are offered with a bridge class or ELL class to help prepare students with lower level English for the CNA course. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --All CNAs in Maine must complete a 180 hour training course. --To work as a CNA, you will need to pass the State Certification Examination. --Background checks may be required before someone is allowed into a course. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --The course is 180 hours. --Each program sets a different cost. --A CNA training course, including all materials, could cost anywhere from \$ 450 to \$1200 in Maine. --Scholarships may be available for some students for some courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Some healthcare institutions will support and pay for the CNA training, while you work at that institution. --Some courses are offered for free if a student agrees to work for the employer sponsoring the course for a set amount of time. --Some hospitals and institutions will support their CNAs in getting their nursing degree.
Home Health Aid (HHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Each program has different entrance requirements. --Requirements for entering a course may be similar to CNA requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Successfully complete the 180-hour CNA training --You must register with the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants & Direct Care Workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Around 180 hours for the course --Check with the program for cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Many places of employment will provide the training themselves or through a partnership with an educational program, so look for an institution that could support you in this.
Personal Support Specialist (PSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Designed as an unlicensed entry level position. --Completion of a state approved training required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Must complete the PSS state mandated curriculum. --Certificates are issued by the State of Maine and are available online through the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Services (DLRS) website. --Check out the Maine Direct Service Worker Training Program: www.mainedirectserviceworker.org. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Could cost around \$85.00 for the course. --Look here https://gateway.maine.gov/dh-hs-apps/assisted/training.asp for training dates a times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Certain places of employment will provide on-site training. --Some employers may require a drivers license.
Direct Support Professional (DSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Requires a High School diploma or equivalent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Completion of the Maine College of Direct Support (ME CDS) is required for Direct Support Professionals. --State approved programs such as the Maine College of Direct Support Professional provide training certificates. --Check out the Maine Direct Service Worker Training Program: www.mainedirectserviceworker.org. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Training includes 16 modules containing 52 online lessons and 11 topics of classroom course-work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Certain places of employment will provide on-site training. --Some employers may require a drivers license.

Transitional healthcare jobs				
Job title	Entrance requirements	Required training or license	Time and Money	Other Considerations
Medical Assistant (MA)	<p>--Medical Assisting programs could range from a shorter term- several month-long training to an Associate Degree program.</p> <p>-- High school or equivalent required.</p> <p>--Accuplacer test in both English and math most likely required for entrance to college MA programs.</p> <p>--A CASAS score of 240 is likely range for short term MA training programs.</p>	<p>--You do not need certification or a license to work as an MA, but most employers require some certification.</p> <p>--There are several different national certifications for Medical Assistants. It is important to know which certification is required by employers in your area.</p>	<p>--Medical Assistant programs could range from being several months to a 1-2 year college program offering an Associates Degree.</p> <p>--MA courses have different fees and lengths. Check out community college and adult education programs for their offerings.</p> <p>-- Financial aid may be available for college programs and other training resources or scholarships may cover shorter term programs.</p>	<p>--As an Associate Degree program, the MA program is longer than training for the other jobs mentioned here.</p> <p>--It is important to check with potential employers to see what certification requirements they have to work as an MA. Depending on your previous experience, there may be some flexibility.</p> <p>--If you want to do the MA Associates Degree program, and you have a previous degree, check with the school to see how you might get credit for your previous courses and what credential evaluator they use. If you have a choice make sure you use one that is NACES (http://www.naces.org/members.html) approved.</p>
Phlebotomist	<p>--Phlebotomy courses will have different entrance requirements, check with the college or institution. For example, Southern Maine Community College requires an Accuplacer score of 74+ on Sentence Skills and 68+ in Reading Skills.</p>	<p>--Employers may require previous experience or a Phlebotomy course.</p>	<p>--SMCC offers an 8 week course with classroom instruction and clinical experience</p> <p>--Cost of course and book about \$700.</p>	<p>----Employers have different requirements for people to work as Phlebotomist, particularly if you have previous training as a nurse. Check with employers in your area to see what requirements they have for applicants for this position.</p>
Pharmacy Tech	<p>--High school diploma or equivalent is required.</p> <p>--A criminal background check is required.</p> <p>--See other requirements http://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/pharmacy/student_intern.html</p> <p>--Although there is no required specific English level required, excellent verbal and written communication skills and good customer service skills are required.</p>	<p>--Pharmacy Technician Certification (PTCB) is helpful but not required by all employers for all employment.</p> <p>--Once you are hired you must register with, and be hired by, the Professional and Financial Regulation's Board of Pharmacy in Maine.</p>	<p>--Pharmacy Tech certification programs range in length and cost.</p> <p>--Certification is also possible by passing the PTCB test without a course.</p> <p>--\$41 for application and background check to the Board of Pharmacy.</p>	

Nursing programs in Maine

Central Maine Community College

[School of Nursing website](#)

1250 Turner Street
Auburn, ME 04210 (207) 755-5426

Maine College of Health Professions (formerly CMMC)

[College of Nursing website](#)

70 Middle Street, Lewiston, ME 04240
(207) 795-7166

Eastern Maine Community College

[Nursing website](#)

354 Hogan Road
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 974-4651

Kennebec Valley Community College

[Nursing program website](#)

92 Western Avenue
Fairfield, ME 04937-1367
(207) 453-5167

Northern Maine Community College

[Nursing program website](#)

33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769-2099
(207) 768-2755

Southern Maine Community College

[Nursing program website](#)

2 Fort Road
So. Portland, ME 04106
(207) 741-5588

University of Maine at Augusta

[Nursing program website](#)

46 University Drive
Augusta, ME 04330-9410
(207) 621-3236

Husson University

[School of Nursing website](#)

1 College Circle
Bangor, ME 04401-2999
(207) 941-7745

Purdue University Global (formerly Kaplan University)

[Nursing program website](#)

14 Marketplace Drive
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 213-2500

Beal College

[Nursing Program](#)

99 Farm Rd, Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 947-4591

St. Joseph's College

[Nursing program website](#)

278 Whites Bridge Road
Standish, ME 04084-5263
(207) 893-7970

University of Maine School of Nursing

[School of Nursing website](#)

5724 Dunn Hall, Room 217
Orono, ME 04469-5724
(207)-581-2535

University of Maine at Fort Kent

[Nursing program website](#)

23 University Drive
Fort Kent, ME 04743-1292
(207) 834-7500

University of New England

[Department of Nursing website](#)

716 Stevens Avenue
Portland, ME 04103
(207) 221-4476 Ext. 4476

University of Southern Maine

[School of Nursing website](#)

96 Falmouth Street
P.O. Box 9300
Portland, ME 04104-9300
(207) 780-4993

Testing Information & Preparation Resources

ARE YOU READY FOR THE ENGLISH TEST?

Unless you are exempt, you will need to achieve a 79-80 on the TOEFL iBT or a 7.5 to 9 on IELTS to be eligible for NCLEX testing and licensure in Maine. **Both tests are timed** and have speaking, listening, reading and writing components. We advise that you speak with any English teachers you may have to help you assess your likelihood of passing this test. Although the CASAS and Accuplacer tests only measure your reading and writing skills, if you have a CASAS score in the range of 240 and above, or an Accuplacer score in the range of 74+ on reading and sentence skills, you may be near being ready to take the TOEFL test. Keep in mind that TOEFL also includes speaking and listening. Since you can choose which test you want to take, research which one might be the best fit for you. Here are some ways to get a sense of how prepared you are for the TOEFL ibt:

https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare/test_questions.

ONLINE ENGLISH PREPARATION COURSES:

- **TOEFL test prep sites:-**

Compare some of the TOEFL test prep materials and prices here: <https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare>. Check out this list of free online TOEFL resources: <https://www.reviews.com/toefl-prep-course/#free-resources>

ARE YOU READY FOR THE NCLEX TEST?

Preparing for and passing the NCLEX test can be challenging and time consuming. We recommend that you get a sense for how prepared you are as soon as possible, and then sign up for preparation courses. See below for links to practice questions and preparation courses.

ONLINE NCLEX PREPARATION COURSES:

1. [National Council on State Boards of Nursing \(NCSBN\) Learning Extension](https://learningext.com/) is a portal for e-learning for nursing that includes test preparation for the NCLEX-RN for nursing candidates and practice for all levels. With the bulletin, you can access the appearance and operation of the interface including the variety of possible question formats (multiple choice, ordering, fill in the blank). (<https://learningext.com/>)
2. [ati NCLEX Prep Solutions](https://www.atitesting.com/nclex-prep): Online with live review and coaching options and practice exams. (<https://www.atitesting.com/nclex-prep>)
3. [Happy NCLEX](https://www.happynclex.com/): Online with opportunity for one-on-one consult. Designed to target the problem solving skills you will need to pass the test. Takes around 6-8 weeks, \$189.00 dollars. (<https://www.happynclex.com/>)
4. [NCSBN Online course](https://learningext.com/students/p/nclex-rn): Self-paced on-line NCLEX-RN review course with flexible times and prices: 2 weeks - \$50 / 5 weeks - \$70 / 8 weeks - \$100 / 15 weeks - \$160. The NCSBN's Review for the NCLEX-RN® Examination v5.4 is a subscription service that includes extensive NCLEX preparation resources, including skills assessment to identify knowledge gaps, plus curriculum, test questions and interactive exercises. (<https://learningext.com/students/p/nclex-rn>)
5. [Hurst Review Online course](https://www.hurstreview.com/nclex-rn): Range of prices from \$299 to \$399 can give you access to courses and sample tests and on-line guidance. (<https://www.hurstreview.com/nclex-rn>)
6. [UWORLD Question Bank](http://www.uworld.com/NCLEX/nclex_rn_home.aspx): Online question bank and self-assessment options. Range of prices from \$139.00 to \$249.00. (http://www.uworld.com/NCLEX/nclex_rn_home.aspx)
7. [KAPLAN Review](https://www.kaptest.com/nclex/courses/nclex-rn-in-person?mkwid=sFflx1qyv_dc&pcriid=53892728316&pmt=e&pkw=kaplan%20nclex&gclid=CO795pKJI8YCFUEUhwodIR4A3Q%23onsite): Kaplan has a variety of different options, including in person prep if you are near a Kaplan center. This course bundle is the perfect blend of strategy, content, and practice, interacting with a teacher in a live classroom setting and question bank / sample tests. Prices range from \$99.00-399.00, depending on what you include. (https://www.kaptest.com/nclex/courses/nclex-rn-in-person?mkwid=sFflx1qyv_dc&pcriid=53892728316&pmt=e&pkw=kaplan%20nclex&gclid=CO795pKJI8YCFUEUhwodIR4A3Q%23onsite)



New Mainers Resource Center
Maine's Welcome Back Center
Portland Adult Education
14 Locust St.
Portland, Maine 04101
207 874-8155
www.nmrcmaine.org
nmrcmaine@gmail.com