



Georgia Board of Nursing

Continuing Competency/Education Plan Options for Registered Nurses

In 2013, Georgia law was amended to require licensees to complete continuing competency/education requirements as a condition of licensure renewal. These requirements become effective as part of the 2016 renewal cycle (any license expiring on or after January 31, 2016). Licensees may select one of the following options to fulfill the continuing competency/education requirements. If audited, the licensee will be required to submit documentation of completion of one of the following five options. Licensees who submit a renewal application, are selected for renewal audit and do not complete the audit requirements will be considered to have submitted an incomplete renewal and the license will not be renewed.

Please Select From One Of The Following Five Options				
The selected option must be completed during the biennial renewal period				
Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
<p>Completion of thirty (30) continuing education hours by a Board approved provider [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(1)].</p> <p>Please submit certificates of completion documenting thirty (30) continuing education hours completed during the biennial renewal period.</p> <p>Please visit the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/nursing for a list of acceptable providers.</p>	<p>Maintenance of certification or recertification by a national certifying body recognized by the Board in Rule 410-12-12 [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(2)].</p> <p>Please submit evidence of recertification completed during the biennial renewal period.</p> <p>Please visit the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/nursing, click on "Laws, Rules and Policies" and view Rule 410-12-12 for a complete list of Board approved certifying bodies.</p>	<p>Completion of an accredited academic program of study in nursing or a related field as recognized by the Board [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(3)].</p> <p>Program of study must be a minimum of two credit hours. Acceptable areas of study include respiratory therapy, informatics, health care administration, and business administration.</p> <p>Please submit transcripts showing completion of course(s) during the biennial renewal period. Please include course description(s).</p>	<p>Verification of competency by a health care facility or entity licensed under O.C.G.A. §31-7 or by a physician's office that is part of a health system and at least five hundred (500) hours practiced as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the Board [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(4)].</p> <p>Please have your employer complete and submit the verification of competence/active practice form.</p>	<p>Completion of a Board approved reentry program or graduation from a nursing education program [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(5)].</p> <p>Please submit documentation of completion of a Board approved reentry program or graduation from an approved nursing education program within the biennial renewal period.</p>

Please note, documentation of completion of continuing competency requirements should only be submitted if you are audited during the license renewal process.



Georgia Board of Nursing
Acceptable Providers for Continuing Education
for Registered Nurses or Licensed Practical Nurses

Acceptable continuing education may be taken in a conventional classroom setting, through online courses, professional journals, correspondence or independent study.

1. Any provider, recognized by a national credentialing body, offering certification in the licensed nurse's specialty area of practice.

Examples of National Nurse Credentialing/Certification bodies include but are not limited to:

- American Nurses Credentialing Center Commission on Certification (ANCC)
- Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)
- Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN)

2. Any provider, recognized by a national credentialing body, recognized by the Georgia Board of Nursing in Rule 410-12-.12, offering certification to advanced practice nurses.

Examples of National Nurse Credentialing/Certification bodies include but are not limited to:

- American Nurses Credentialing Center Commission on Certification
- American Midwifery Certification Board
- National Board on Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists

3. Georgia Nurses Association ("GNA"), including offerings given by the GNA Continuing Education Provider/Approver Unit. Information regarding the Georgia Nurses Association can be found at:

- www.georgianurses.org

4. Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) in Georgia or any state AHEC that is a member of the National AHEC Organization. Information on Georgia AHEC can be found at: www.gru.edu/ahec

5. American Nurses Association (ANA), or ANY ANA affiliated state nurses association provider/approver unit

- ANA – www.nursingworld.org
- GNA – www.georgianurses.org

6. National League for Nursing (NLN)

- www.nln.org

7. National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)

- www.ncsbn.org

8. Employer sponsored continuing education programs having a minimum of one course objective. Unless the program is accredited through one of the other bodies mentioned on this document, employer sponsored continuing education may only be used for up to 50% of total contact hours.

9. Any provider of professional continuing education for health care professionals.
Examples include offerings related to specialty areas of nursing practice such as research, case management, health policy, forensics, mental health, or complementary alternative therapies offered by bodies including but not limited to:
- Commission for Case Manager Certification (CCMC)
 - Healthcare Quality Certification Board (HQCB)
 - American Legal Nurse Consultant Certification Board (ALNCCB)
10. Professional Journals (i.e. *The American Journal of Nursing*, *Nursing 2013*, *Nursing Management* and *The Nurse Practitioner*) offering continuing education approved by appropriate bodies including but not limited to:
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) www.nursingworld.org/ancc
 - American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) www.aacn.org
11. Any provider recognized by another state board of nursing within the United States.

Activities NOT accepted as Continuing Education

Offerings designed for lay persons

Offerings less than 30 minutes in duration

On-the-job orientation

On-the-job training related to new policies, procedures or equipment

Other educational activities not sufficiently professional in character to reasonably qualify as continuing education.

Definition of Continuing Education Units and Contact Hours

The Georgia Board of Nursing accepts either contact hours or CEUs (in any combination) to fulfill the continuing education requirements of O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(1)

- One Contact Hour is equal to 60 minutes of instruction.
- 0.1 CEU is equal to 60 minutes of Instruction.
- 1 CEU is equal to ten hours of instruction.



Georgia Board of Nursing

Continuing Competence – Evidence of Active Nursing Practice

O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(4) provides that applicants for licensure renewal as a registered nurse may submit verification of competency by a health care facility or entity licensed under O.C.G.A. §31-7 or by a physician's office that is part of a health system. The licensee must have practiced at least five hundred (500) hours during the biennial renewal period and the employer must complete the certification form below.

Name _____ License Number _____

I certify that the above licensee has worked at least five hundred (500) hours during the period of _____ (MMYY) through _____ (MMYY) and has performed his/her duties competently.

Employer/Representative Name _____ Date _____

Employer / Representative Signature _____ Title _____

Name of Company _____ Telephone _____

Email _____