Legal Limitations for Licensure

Any individual who wishes to apply to write the PN/RN licensure examination in the State of Kansas must possess the following qualifications:

1) Have graduated from an approved school of practical/professional nursing in the United States or its territories or from a school of practical/professional nursing in a foreign country which is approved by the Board.

2) Have obtained other qualifications not in conflict with this act as the Board may prescribe.

3) File with the Board written application for a license. (Applicant for licensure as a professional or practical nurse is required to be fingerprinted and submit to a state and national criminal history record check.)

The Kansas State Board of Nursing has the power to deny a license to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse or as a registered nurse if the applicant is found, after a hearing:

- to be guilty of fraud or deceit in practicing nursing or in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing.

- to have been guilty of a felony or to have been guilty of a misdemeanor involving an illegal drug offense unless the applicant or licensee establishes sufficient rehabilitation to warrant the public trust, except that notwithstanding K.S.A. 74-120 no license to practice nursing shall be granted to a person with a felony conviction for a crime against persons as specified in Article 21 of Chapter 34 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated and acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto.

- to have committed an act of professional incompetency.

- to be unable to practice with skill and safety due to current abuse of drugs or alcohol.

- to be a person who has been adjudged in need of a guardian or conservator, or both, under the act for obtaining a guardian or conservator, or both, and who has not been restored to capacity under that act.

- to be guilty of unprofessional conduct.

- to have willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of the Kansas Nurse Practice Act or any rules and regulations adopted pursuant to that act.
• to have a license to practice nursing as a registered or practical nurse denied, revoked, limited or suspended, or to be publicly or privately censured, by a licensing authority of another state, agency of the United States government, territory of the United States or country or to have other disciplinary action taken against the applicant or licensee by a licensing authority of another state, agency of the United States government, territory of the United States or country.

• to have assisted suicide in violation of K.S.A. 21-3406.


If an applicant is guilty of any one of these charges, it is recommended that the applicant contact the nursing director/assistant director concerning the procedure to follow. The Kansas State Board of Nursing makes the final decision on whether the graduate nurse gets a license.

If a student elects to write the PN/RN licensure examination in a state other than Kansas, it is essential that the student write to the Board of Nursing in that state and inquire into the unique limitations for state licensure which may have been established. An address for each State Board of Nursing in the United States may be obtained via a web search.