

TENNESSEE BOARD OF NURSING
Continuing Competence Requirements
Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses
Rule 1000-01-.18 (2) (a)(b)(c)

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses **who are practicing** maintain evidence of:

- Verify your license and Certificate of Fitness (CF) at <https://apps.health.tn.gov/Licensure/default.aspx>

APRN *without* Certificate of Fitness (CF) supply the following:

1. Current national certification certificate (NOT state license; ex: ANCC, AANP, NBCRNA, etc)
2. ONE item from the Registered Nurse proof of competence (See RN/LPN list below)

APRN *with* Certificate of Fitness supply the following:

1. Current national certification certificate (NOT state license; ex: ANCC, AANP, NBCRNA, etc)
2. ONE item from the Registered Nurse proof of competence (See RN/LPN list below)
3. TWO contact hours (minimum) of continuing education designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The continuing education must include instruction in the TN department of Health's treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol, and may include such other topics of medicine addiction and risk management tools. Quick link:
<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/healthprofboards/nursing/continuing-education/Continuing%20Ed%20Tennessee%20Chronic%20Pain%20Guidelines.pdf>

Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses maintain evidence of **TWO** items from the following list:

1. A copy of a satisfactory employer evaluation.
2. A letter from a peer providing a satisfactory evaluation of your nursing performance.
3. Copy of a contract renewal, re-appointment or continuing contract to a nursing position.
4. A written self-evaluation based on the standards of your profession.
5. Evidence of current national certification from nationally recognized certification body appropriate to the individual's nursing practice.
6. A document identifying two nursing goals and subsequent development, implementation, and evaluation based on the standards of your profession.
7. A letter where you have volunteered as a nurse or performed service relevant to nursing on local, state or national boards, commissions, foundations, or agencies.
8. Documentation from a school of nursing stating you have participated in the formal education of nursing students (RNs only).
9. Certificate/evidence of **ten** contact hours per renewal period of continuing education/in-service education applicable to nursing practice.
10. Copy of a published article relevant to nursing in a professional journal written by the licensee.
11. Proof of successful completion of a two-week Board-approved nursing refresher program.
12. Proof of completion of a two-week Board-approved comprehensive orientation program offered by a prospective nursing employer.
13. An official transcript (may be student issued) from an approved/accredited school of nursing leading to licensure as a RN, RN-BSN completion or to an advanced degree in nursing showing three hours of nursing credit during the past five years.
14. Evidence of successfully retaken the NCLEX.

Biennial competency requirements (with each renewal). Each active licensee must maintain evidence of compliance for four years from when the requirements are completed. This documentation must be produced for inspection and verification within thirty days of a written request by the board. Failure to either complete the continued competence activities or to falsely certify completion of continued competence activities may subject the nurse's license to disciplinary action.

10/2024