



Additional Instructions for International Applicants or Applicants who Attended Nursing School in a Country Other than the U.S.

I. Admissions

International applicants to the University of Washington Bothell Nursing Program are expected to meet the same [requirements](#) as applicants educated in American schools. This includes having [a Washington State Registered Nurse \(RN\) license](#) if you are planning to apply to the Master of Nursing Program, or do clinical work as part of your program of study.

REMINDER: All International applicants are encouraged to apply BY NOVEMBER 1 to be considered for admission to the UW Bothell Master of Nursing for the following Autumn Quarter.

II. Testing

English Proficiency Requirement

International Applicants, as well as Immigrants to the U.S. and U.S. Permanent Residents applying to the MN program, whose native language is not English, and who have not received a Bachelor's degree or higher in the U.S., Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand or the United Kingdom, must show proficiency in English language speaking as well as listening, writing and reading. Required are a minimum TOEFL score of 580 or a minimum TOEFLC score of 237 **AND** a score of 55 or greater on the International Test of Spoken English (TSE) **or** 230 or better on the Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit (SPEAK), administered by the [University of Washington through the Testing Center at the Office of Educational Assessment](#) . To qualify to take SPEAK you must have already applied to the UW Graduate School.

If you take the new TOEFLiBT exam you are required to have a minimum average score of the listening, writing and reading sections of 70 PLUS a speaking section score of 26 or higher. Test scores must be less than 2 years old from the test date. English proficiency scores should be sent to the UW Graduate School and photocopies of score reports you receive included with the School of Nursing Master's application. . The School of Nursing English proficiency requirement for admission may differ from that of other graduate programs at the University of Washington, and was established to ensure students' success in the MN program and in clinical settings.

III. Licensing

National Council of the State Board of Nursing Registered Nurse Licensure Examination (**NCLEX**) exam results are required for any foreign-trained nurse. In order to take the NCLEX exam here in Washington State, all nurses educated outside of the United States, including those educated and licensed in Canada, must first take a preliminary screening examination called the Commission of Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) Qualifying Examination. Your results on the CGFNS exam determine whether or not you are eligible to sit for the NCLEX exam here in Washington.

The CGFNS is administered in numerous foreign countries and at six U.S. sites. It is not administered in Seattle. **It is recommended that you take the CGFNS exam before coming to the United States.** Below, you will find contact information for both CGFNS and the state board that handles RN licensing here in Washington (every state has a board of nursing in its state capitol. Ours is actually known as the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission).

The alternative to taking the CGFNS exam is to first get a nursing license in a state in the U.S. which does not require CGFNS exam results, and then transfer the license to the State of Washington. New York and California may not require CGFNS exam results; there may be other states as well (for a list of state boards of nursing go to: <http://www.aanp.org/statebon.htm>)

Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)-Remember that it is recommended that you take the CGFNS screening exam before coming to the United States

Request information for registering for the screening examination by contacting:

Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools

3600 Market St., Suite 400

Philadelphia, PA. 19104-2651

Phone: 215/349-8767;

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

Email addresses: Customer Service : support@cgfns.org

Other information: info@cgfns.org

You must have an active State of Washington RN license. Request information about RN licensing in Washington by contacting:

Department of Health

Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission

1300 SE Quince St.

Olympia, Washington 98504

phone: 360/236-4740

fax: 360/236-4738

email: tjw1303@doh.wa.gov

website: <https://wws2.wa.gov/doh/hpqa-licensing/HPS6/Nursing/default.htm>

(If you go to the Web address, click on 'Application Forms', go to 'Registered Nurse' and then scroll down to 'REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE BY EXAMINATION (Trained outside United States).')

We encourage you to contact both these agencies as soon as possible. It takes some time and effort to get the necessary documents submitted.

IV. Transcripts

International applicants must submit a second official transcript from each undergraduate and graduate institution attended to the Office of Graduate Admissions at the time of application. This is in addition to the transcripts submitted to the Nursing Program at the time of application.