



COMMISSION ON
GRADUATES OF
FOREIGN
NURSING SCHOOLS



FACTS AT A GLANCE

The ICHP *VisaScreen*™: Visa Credentials Assessment and the Kentucky Board of Nursing

All candidates for RN and LPN licensure in Kentucky must pass the U.S. national licensing examination (NCLEX). The Kentucky Board of Nursing requires that internationally-educated candidates for RN and LPN licensure by examination and endorsement obtain a *VisaScreen*™ Certificate issued by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS International). This Fact Sheet provides applicants with information regarding these requirements.

WHAT IS THE COMMISSION ON GRADUATES OF FOREIGN NURSING SCHOOLS (CGFNS INTERNATIONAL)?

CGFNS International is an immigration-neutral, nonprofit organization based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The organization offers evaluation and assessment services such as the *VisaScreen*™: Visa Credentials Assessment for internationally-educated nurses applying for licensure in and immigration to the United States. CGFNS has more than 29 years of experience in credentials evaluation, and is the only credentials evaluation organization dedicated primarily to the credentialing of international nurses.

THE ICHP VISASCREEN ASSESSMENT

The Kentucky Board of Nursing requires candidates for **RN and LPN licensure by examination and endorsement** to have a *VisaScreen*™ Certificate. The *VisaScreen* Certificate is issued after a complete evaluation of a professional's credentials and English proficiency to verify that he or she meets the minimum federal requirements. The Certificate must be received before the Kentucky Board of Nursing will issue a license to you. The International Commission on Healthcare Professions (ICHP), a division of CGFNS, administers this screening process, which is called the *VisaScreen*™: Visa Credentials Assessment. Minimum passing scores for the required English examinations are listed below.

Healthcare Profession	Option #1			Option #2			Option #3		Option #4
	(TOEFL) Test of English as a Foreign Language	(TWE) Test of Written English	(TSE) Test of Spoken English	(TOEIC) Test of English for International Communication	TWE	TSE	IELTS International English Language Testing Service	IELTS Spoken Band	TOEFL iBT Total & Speaking Section
Registered Nurse (RN)	207 (computerized) 540 (paper/pencil)	4.0	50	725	4.0	50	6.5 (Academic module)	7.0	83 / 26
Practical/Vocational Nurse (LPN / LVN)	197 (computerized) 530 (paper/pencil)	4.0	50	700	4.0	50	6.0 (General module)	7.0	79 / 26

Graduates of health professional programs in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States are exempt from the English language requirement of *VisaScreen*.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

If you were licensed in a U.S. jurisdiction as a Registered or Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse by exam (i.e., you have already passed the NCLEX-RN or NCLEX-PN) and wish to become licensed in that same profession in Kentucky, you are **NOT EXEMPT** from the CGFNS requirements. If you were licensed in another U.S. jurisdiction, whether by exam or endorsement, that did not require the *VisaScreen* Certificate, and you now wish to become licensed in Kentucky, you are required to complete the *VisaScreen* Assessment and obtain a *VisaScreen* Certificate.

REGISTERED NURSES APPLYING FOR LICENSURE BY EXAM: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

In order to qualify for the *VisaScreen* Certificate, registered nurses must pass either the NCLEX-RN examination, or complete the CGFNS Certification Program¹. The Kentucky Board of Nursing will make you eligible to take the NCLEX-RN once you have met all of the remaining requirements of *VisaScreen*. You will be required to provide the Kentucky Board of Nursing with a copy of your *VisaScreen* Assessment status letter issued by ICHP indicating that you have met all of the requirements of *VisaScreen* except for successful completion of either the NCLEX-RN or the CGFNS Certification Program. Once you have taken and passed the NCLEX-RN, and provided the Kentucky Board of Nursing with written authorization, your NCLEX-RN examination results will be forwarded to ICHP by the Kentucky Board of Nursing so that you can obtain your *VisaScreen* Certificate. You must provide the Kentucky Board of Nursing with a copy of your *VisaScreen* Certificate before you will be issued a Kentucky RN license.

¹ Details on the CGFNS Certification Program may be obtained on the CGFNS website at www.cgfns.org.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I RECEIVE A VISASCREEN™ APPLICATION?

- The entire application packet and handbook for the *VisaScreen: Visa Credentials Assessment* is available on-line at www.cgfns.org. You may also apply directly on-line via the CGFNS On-Line Application System.
- After reading the entire application handbook, complete the "**Application Form for VisaScreen Certificate**" and send it, along with other requested documentation (such as your secondary/high school exam certificate or diploma) and full payment, to ICHP. Full payment for all services must be included with your Application.
- Complete and send the "**Request for Academic Records**" form to your nursing school(s) in order that your school completes this form and sends copies of your full academic records directly to ICHP.
- Complete and send the "**Request for Validation of Registration/License**" form to the licensing/registration authorities in your country of education, and to ALL other jurisdictions, internationally or within the United States, where you have ever been licensed, whether current, expired, active, inactive, etc. The licensing authority must complete this form and return it to ICHP. If your diploma authorizes the right to practice in your country, you must also forward this form to the institution that issued your diploma (school, Ministry of Health, etc.) and request that the completed form be mailed to ICHP.
- If you have taken and passed the NCLEX-RN examination, complete and send the "**Request for Validation of Registration/License**" form to the US Board of Nursing where you passed the exam.
- You must apply directly with the examining institution in order to schedule an examination date for the English proficiency examinations. All English scores must be sent directly to ICHP from the examining institution; ICHP will **NOT** accept an official score report submitted by the applicant or any third party. All English language proficiency scores are valid for up to two years from the date of administration, and must be valid at the time your VisaScreen application is approved.
- You will be contacted by ICHP by mail regarding the status of your application and the need for any outstanding documentation. You may also check the status of your file at any time at www.cgfns.org via the On-Line Application System.

You can request additional help regarding the ICHP VisaScreen: Visa Credentials Assessment by visiting the CGFNS website at www.cgfns.org or by writing to:

CGFNS, Attn: VISASCREEN: VISA CREDENTIALS ASSESSMENT
3600 Market Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651

You may also call the CGFNS Customer Service Department at (215) 349-8767 ext 476, or submit an email via CGFNS' website at www.cgfns.org under "**Contact Us**". Phone lines are generally open between 9 AM and 5 PM Monday through Thursday, and 9 AM through 4:30 PM on Friday (ET). The Customer Service lines are not open evenings, weekends, or on U.S. holidays; however, recorded information on all programs and voice mail is available after business hours. The CGFNS Automated Voice Response System can be reached at (215) 599-6200 for 24 hour/day, 7 day/week applicant file status updates.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: All documentation sent to CGFNS must be sent by mail; CGFNS will NOT accept any application forms, or other academic or licensure documentation, by fax or email. All academic records and transcripts must be an original document sent by mail to CGFNS by your school, or, in the event that your school is closed, the institution designated as the official repository to hold that document. All registration/licensure documentation must be an original validation sent by mail by the issuing/licensing body. Transcripts and license validations will **NOT** be accepted if sent by any other source, even if they are contained in a sealed envelope. Documentation received from the issuing bodies that is not in English will be translated by CGFNS for an additional fee.