

Oklahoma Board of Nursing
2915 N. Classen Boulevard, Suite 524
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
(405) 962-1800
www.nursing.ok.gov

**INSTRUCTIONS for INITIAL LICENSURE
as an ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE**

APPLICATION FEE - \$70.00

Use this application if:

- **you are applying for advanced practice registered nurse licensure in Oklahoma; and**
- **you have not been licensed previously in Oklahoma in the same advanced practice role; or if you are applying for an additional advanced practice role (i.e., CNP, CNS, CNM, or CRNA); or if you are applying for an additional specialty area.**

**PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION.**

There are four roles of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses defined in the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act*: the Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), and the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

In order to obtain an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) license in Oklahoma, the applicant must hold one of the following licenses:

- A current Oklahoma license to practice as an Registered Nurse (RN); **or**
- A dated temporary Oklahoma RN license; **or**
- A current multistate license to practice as an RN issued by another Compact state with Oklahoma multistate licensure privilege.

The nurse must obtain Oklahoma licensure as an APRN prior to employment in Oklahoma in a role that requires licensure as an APRN or identifying oneself as an APRN.

- Applications for RN licensure by endorsement and reinstatement are available on the Board's website for those who do not currently hold an active Oklahoma RN license, a dated temporary Oklahoma RN license, or a current multistate license to practice as an RN issued by another Compact state with Oklahoma multistate licensure privilege. The APRN must hold a separate license in each specialty area for which he/she has obtained the required education and certification.

Only those persons who hold a license to practice advanced practice registered nursing in this state shall have the right to use the title "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse" and to use the abbreviation "APRN". Only those persons who have obtained a license in the following disciplines shall have the right to fulfill the roles and use the applicable titles: Certified

Registered Nurse Anesthetist and the abbreviation “CRNA”, Certified Nurse-Midwife and the abbreviation “CNM”, Clinical Nurse Specialist and the abbreviation “CNS”, and Certified Nurse Practitioner and the abbreviation “CNP”. It shall be unlawful for any person to assume the role or use the title Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or use the abbreviation "APRN" or use the respective specialty role titles and abbreviations or to use any other titles or abbreviations that would reasonably lead a person to believe the user is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, unless permitted by this act. Any individual doing so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, which shall be punishable, upon conviction, by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year or by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such imprisonment and fine for each offense [59 O.S. § 567.3a(5)].

REQUIREMENTS for APRN LICENSURE in OKLAHOMA

Educational Requirements: To be eligible for initial licensure an applicant must have completed an accredited graduate level advanced practice registered nursing education program in one of the four advanced practice registered nurse roles (CNP, CNM, CNS, and CRNA) and in at least one of the following population foci: family/individual across the lifespan, adult-gerontology, neonatal, pediatrics, women’s health/gender-related, or psychiatric/mental health as follows:

- An applicant for licensure as a Clinical Nurse Specialist must have completed an education program that prepares Clinical Nurse Specialists in a graduate-level advanced practice education program accredited by or holding preliminary approval or candidacy status with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA).
- An applicant for licensure as a Certified Nurse Midwife must hold a graduate-level degree from an advanced practice education program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education.
- An applicant for licensure as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist must hold a graduate-level degree from a program preparing the graduate for certification as a nurse anesthetist accredited by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists’ Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.
- An applicant for licensure as a Certified Nurse Practitioner must hold a graduate-level degree from an advanced practice education program accredited by or holding preliminary approval or candidacy status with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), or the Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA).

Certification in Area of Specialty: The applicant must also hold a **current national certification** in the specialty area consistent with educational preparation and by a national certifying body recognized by the Board. Successful completion of the educational program shall establish an academic preparation consistent with the recognized certification examination in the specialty area.

□ Because you are applying for initial APRN licensure, you must access the list of *APRN Certification Examinations Approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing* at www.nursing.ok.gov/prac-natlcert.pdf to ensure your certification is listed.

Renewal Requirements: Advanced practice licensure must be renewed concurrently with the Oklahoma Registered Nurse renewal in even-numbered years. If the Registered Nurse license is a multistate license issued by another Compact state, the Oklahoma APRN license must be renewed on even years by the end of the licensee’s birth month.

□ If you are applying for advanced practice licensure within 90 days prior to the expiration date of your Oklahoma RN license, you must renew your license prior to the date the advanced practice licensure is granted. Please see the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules* for renewal requirements.

Review of criminal charges, disciplinary action, or judicial declaration of incompetence:

State law (59 O.S. § 567.5 B 2.) requires each applicant for licensure as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse to have a fingerprint-based background check not more than ninety (90) days old prior to submission of the application for licensure. The background check consists of fingerprint-based searches of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal History Record Information databases and name index searches of computerized databases containing criminal history records. Please read the *Privacy Act Statement and Applicant Notification* found in the Appendix to this set of instructions. Please see the “Instructions” section for further information on obtaining a fingerprint-based background check.

In addition to the background check, applicants for licensure are required to notify the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, in writing, specific information related to criminal charges and/or convictions, investigations, disciplinary actions, and/or judicial declaration of mental competence. A “report in writing” means that the applicant/licensee provided a description stating in his/her own words the date, location, and circumstances of the incident, and if applicable, the resulting action taken by the court, agency, or disciplinary board. The report should be in the form of a statement in the provided space on the application. Certified court records or a board order, as applicable, must be uploaded during the application process. A verbal report does not constitute a “report in writing”. A written report not accompanied by a full set of certified court records or the board order(s) does not constitute a “report in writing”. Failure to report such action is a violation of the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act*.

Citizenship: All applicants for licensure who are a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or Legal Permanent Resident Alien must complete an *Affidavit of Citizenship Status* unless such information is already on file with this Board.

According to State law, **if you are a qualified alien, you must bring in person** the *Evidence of Status Form* to the Board office along with the original documents that support your qualified alien status, as shown on the *Evidence of Status Part B Form*. At the Board office, a staff member will copy your qualified alien status documentation and will notarize the *Evidence of Status Form*.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION

1. **Completion of application:** The application should be completed and submitted online on the Board's website via your Nurse Portal account. You must complete all sections of the application **using your name as it appears on your license.**

You must provide a Social Security number on the application. This information is mandatory, pursuant to 56 O.S. § 240.21A.

If you have been licensed with this Board under a different name, you must complete a *Name Change Request* found in the [Other Applications link](#) on your Nurse Portal page, upload a certified copy of the legal document changing your name and submit the required fee in order to be licensed under your new name.

2. **Review of licensure status:** Before your advanced practice licensure can be processed, you must have a current Oklahoma RN license, a dated temporary Oklahoma license, or a current multistate RN license issued by another Compact state with Oklahoma multistate licensure privilege. If your Oklahoma RN license is not in an active status and you do not have a current multistate RN license issued by another Compact state, you must complete an *Application for Return to Active/Reinstatement* for your RN license. If you have never been licensed as a RN in Oklahoma and Oklahoma is now your primary state of residence, please complete the *Application for Licensure by Endorsement*.
3. **Background Check:** Each applicant must provide fingerprint images to be used for the purpose of permitting a state and national criminal history records search through the OSBI and FBI. The criminal history records search must be conducted through the Board's vendor, L-1 (MorphoTrust / IdentoGO) no more than (90) days prior to receipt of the application in the Board office. The results of the search are provided directly to the Board office by the OSBI usually within one to two weeks. Please read the *Privacy Act Statement and Applicant Notification* found in the Appendix to this set of instructions. Procedures for changing, correcting or updating OSBI and / or FBI results are set forth in Title 28, C.F.R., §16.34 and will be furnished as needed.

Option 1: If you have an Oklahoma mailing address, you will need to go to an IdentoGo center sponsored by Idemia located within the state to provide fingerprints electronically. These sites are available by appointment only. You must visit the following website to schedule an appointment: www.identogo.com, or you must call (877) 219-0197 to make an appointment. Payment can be made during your appointment or online when scheduling. **Please note that your fingerprints must be obtained electronically only at an IdentoGO center sponsored by Idemia.**

Option 2: If you have an out-of-state mailing address, Board staff will mail you specific fingerprint cards that you must take to a local law enforcement agency to obtain the fingerprints. **Please note that you must wait to receive the specific coded fingerprint cards from the Board office prior to obtaining your fingerprints.** An addressed envelope will be provided as the fingerprint

cards **must be mailed by the law enforcement agency directly to an IdentoGO center sponsored by Idemia.** You are responsible for the postage and the costs associated with obtaining your fingerprints; **OR** If you are in Oklahoma, you may follow the instructions for Option 1 above. Please note that you cannot be issued a multistate license from the State of Oklahoma unless you declare Oklahoma as your primary state of residence.

4. ***Criminal Charges, Disciplinary Action, or Judicial Declaration of Mental Incompetence:*** If you answer “yes” to the criminal charge, discipline, or competency questions on the application, you must **submit a statement on the application form, describing the date, location and circumstances of the incident, and the resulting action taken by the court or disciplinary board.** In addition, you will be required to upload certified copies of identified documents. If you have more than one incident you are reporting, you must speak to every case/charge that has been filed.
1. Have you ever had disciplinary action taken against a nursing license, recognition, certificate, or privilege to practice; any professional or occupational license, recognition, or certificate; and/or any application for a nursing or professional or occupational license, recognition, or certificate in any state, territory or country not previously reported **in writing** to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing?
 - a. If you answered “yes”, you must type in the space available a statement describing the date, location, and circumstances of the incident(s), and, if applicable, the resulting action(s) taken by the disciplinary board.
 - b. If you are reporting more than one incident, you must describe every case that has been filed.
 - c. You will need to upload certified copies of the charges/complaints, findings of fact, and orders from the licensing agency.
 2. Is there currently any investigation of your nursing license, recognition, certificate, or privilege to practice; and/or any professional or occupational license, recognition, or certificate; and/or any application for a nursing and/or professional or occupational license, recognition, or certificate in any state, territory or country not previously reported **in writing** to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing?
 - a. If you answered “yes”, you must type in the space available a statement describing the date, location, and circumstances of the incident(s), and, if applicable, the resulting action(s) taken by the disciplinary board.
 - b. If you are reporting more than one incident, you must describe every case that has been filed.
 3. Have you been charged and/or convicted in any criminal offense not previously reported **in writing** to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, including those pending appeal? (You may exclude minor traffic violations, but must report all DUI/DWI charges and/or DUI/DWI convictions)
Check all that apply:
 - been convicted of a misdemeanor?
 - been convicted of a felony?
 - pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?

- received deferred adjudication, to include but not limited to deferred prosecution agreement?
- been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilt?
- been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? Court-ordered confinement?
- been granted pre-trial diversion, to include but not limited to Drug Court?
- have any pending criminal charges?
- have any pending violation of the law?
- been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?
- No, none of the above applies.

NOTE: Expunged and Sealed Offenses: While expunged or sealed offense, arrests, tickets, or citations need not be disclosed, it is your responsibility to ensure the offense, arrest, ticket or citation has, in fact, been expunged or sealed. It is recommended that you submit a copy of the Court Order expunging or sealing the record in question to our office with your application. Non-disclosure of relevant offenses raises questions related to truthfulness and character.

If you checked any of the above (except “No, none of the above applies”):

- a. If you answered “yes”, you must type in the space available a statement describing the date, location, and circumstances of the incident(s), and, if applicable, the resulting action(s) taken by the court.
 - b. If you are reporting more than one incident, you must describe every case that has been filed.
 - c. You will need to upload certified copies of Court Records to include the Information Sheet, Incident Report, Complaint, and/or Charges; Affidavit of Probable Cause; Judgment and Sentence; and verification of completion of the Judgment and Sentence. The Court Records must be obtained from the Court(s) in which the offense(s) occurred.
4. Have you ever been judicially declared incompetent in any state, territory or country not previously reported **in writing** to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing?
 - a. If you answered “yes”, you must type in the space available a statement describing the date, location, and circumstances of the incident(s), and, if applicable, the resulting action(s) taken by the court or agency. If you are reporting more than one incident, you must describe every case that has been filed.
 - b. You will need to upload a certified copy of the Court Order.
 5. **Transcript:** An official transcript should be submitted from your advanced practice educational program verifying the degree conferred, date of conferral, advanced practice role and specialty. **Transcripts that have been issued to the student will not be accepted.**

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing must evaluate the curriculum provided in the out-of-state advanced practice program to ensure that it meets the state's curricular requirements. If you completed an advanced practice program in another state, you may be requested to submit further information to verify that the program meets the requirements of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

6. ***Certification by a National Certifying Body:*** Current national certification at an advanced practice level in the specialty area consistent with the advanced practice educational program you completed and recognized by the Board is required to receive advanced practice licensure.
 - Because you are applying for initial APRN licensure, you must access the list of *APRN Certification Examinations Approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing* at www.nursing.ok.gov/prac-natlcert.pdf to ensure your certification is listed.
 - You will be required to upload evidence of current national certification.
 - **Only one** certification may be selected per application. **Verification of your current certification must also be received directly from the national certifying body.** You must request that verification of the certification be provided directly to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing. In some cases, the certifying body will charge a fee for the certification. If so, the applicant for licensure as an APRN is responsible for paying the required fee to the certifying body.

In order to change or add an area of specialty and national certification, you must meet initial requirements for licensure as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, which requires submission of a new application. In addition, the Board must be notified in writing of changes of national certification within the same specialty area within 30 days of the change.

7. ***Fee:*** You must pay the application fee online, using a VISA, a MasterCard or an electronic fund transfer when completing the application. *Fees submitted are not refundable.*
8. **Verification of citizenship status:** State law requires the Board of Nursing to issue a license only to U.S. citizens, nationals and legal permanent resident aliens; and to qualified alien applicants who present, *in person*, valid documentary evidence of:
 1. A valid, unexpired immigrant or nonimmigrant visa status for admission into the U.S.;
 2. A pending or approved application for asylum in the U.S.;
 3. Admission into the U.S. in refugee status;
 4. A pending or approved application for temporary protected status in the U.S.;
 5. Approved deferred action status; or
 6. A pending application for adjustment of status to legal permanent residence status or conditional resident status.

Applicants in the above six categories will only be eligible to receive a license that is valid for the time period of their authorized stay in the U.S., or if there is no date of end to the time period of their authorized stay, for one year. The license is required to indicate that it is temporary. The information will be verified through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program, operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Your application to the Board is valid for one year after receipt. After that time, a new application and fee must be submitted. Applications are processed in the order they are received. You may view average processing times of a completed application on our website in the Agency Data / Statistics / Quarterly Statistics link. Every effort is made to process applications expeditiously. **Fees submitted are not pro-rated and are not refundable.**

You are required to notify the Board in writing of any address changes occurring during the application process. This notification must be submitted via your Nurse Portal account.

If you wish to obtain prescriptive authority as well, please complete the *Application for Prescriptive Authority* after your APRN license is granted. The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse must hold prescriptive authority recognition **for each advanced practice license** in the State of Oklahoma in order to prescribe drugs and other medical supplies.

In accordance with Oklahoma law (59 O.S. §567.7 (E)), the Executive Director shall suspend the license or certificate of a person who submits a check, money draft, or similar instrument for payment of a fee which is not honored by the financial institution named. The suspension becomes effective ten (10) days following delivery by certified mail of written notice of the dishonor and the impending suspension to the person's address on file. Upon notification of suspension, the person may reinstate the authorization to practice upon payment of the fees and any and all costs associated with notice and collection. The suspension shall be exempt from the Administrative Procedures Act.

Pursuant to Oklahoma law, you must have an active single state Oklahoma RN license or an active multistate RN license to practice as an APRN in Oklahoma. If you do not have an active RN license and an active APRN license, you must notify this Board immediately and pursuant to Oklahoma law, you cannot lawfully practice as an APRN until you hold an active RN and APRN license.

COMMON MISTAKES THAT DELAY PROCESSING

Common mistakes that delay the processing of your application include failure to:

- **Failing to submit fingerprint images to be used for the purpose of permitting a state and national criminal background search no more than 90 days prior to receipt of the application in the Board office**
- **Provide a social security number**
- **Provide the full name of licensee**
- **Provide license or certificate numbers**
- **Confirm the requested exam for licensure is listed on the approved list of certification exams**
- **Request that an official transcript be submitted directly to the Board by the advanced practice educational program**
- **Request verification of the current advanced practice national certification from the certifying body**
- **Write in the space available for each question a complete description and documentation regarding history of criminal charges, disciplinary action, or judicial declaration of incompetence**

Appendix

Privacy Act Statement and Applicant Notification

Authority: The FBI's acquisition, preservation, and exchange of fingerprints and associated information is generally authorized under 28 U.S.C. 534. Depending on the nature of your application, supplemental authorities include Federal statutes, State statutes pursuant to Public Law 92-544, Presidential Executive Orders, and federal regulations. Providing your fingerprints and associated information is voluntary; however, failure to do so may affect completion or approval of your application.

Principal Purpose: Certain determinations, such as employment, licensing, and security clearances, may be predicated on fingerprint-based background checks. Your fingerprints and associated information/biometrics may be provided to the employing, investigating, or otherwise responsible agency, and/or the FBI for the purpose of comparing your fingerprints to other fingerprints in the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system or its successor systems (including civil, criminal, and latent fingerprint repositories) or other available records of the employing, investigating, or other responsible agency. The FBI may retain your fingerprints and associated information/biometrics in NGI after the completion of this application and, while retained, your fingerprints may continue to be compared against other fingerprints submitted to or retained by NGI.

Routine Uses: During the processing of this application and for as long thereafter as your fingerprints and associated information/biometrics are retained in NGI, your information may be disclosed pursuant to your consent, and may be disclosed without your consent as permitted by the Privacy Act of 1974 and all applicable Routine Uses as may be published at any time in the Federal Register, including the Routine Uses for the NGI system and the FBI's Blanket Routine Uses. Routine uses include, but are not limited to, disclosures to: employing, governmental or authorized non-governmental agencies responsible for employment, contracting, licensing, security clearances, and other suitability determinations; local, state, tribal, or federal law enforcement agencies; criminal justice agencies; and agencies responsible for national security or public safety.

Applicant Record Challenge

Applicant Record Challenge: Before a final decision is made, you have the opportunity to complete or challenge the accuracy of the information contained in the FBI identification record. The procedure for obtaining a change, correction, or updating an FBI identification record is set forth in Title 28, CFR 16.34. For information on updating the national criminal history record, visit www.FBI.gov or <https://www.fbi.gov/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks#challenge-of-an-identity-history-summary>.

If certified documents are obtained for the purpose of updating your criminal history record, the documents should be forwarded to the FBI and to the repository in the state where the arrest occurred.