Licensed Practical Nurses in New Brunswick

In New Brunswick, nursing is a profession with two regulated nursing groups: registered nurses (RNs), and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). The main differences between RNs and LPNs are the breadth and depth of their education and the scope of practice. For example, the length of programs, the legislation operated under, and the procedures they are permitted to perform are different. Review the requirements for each group to determine which will be the best match for your qualifications.

Licensed practical nurses work in partnership with other members of health-care teams to provide nursing services to individuals, families and groups of all ages. LPNs assess, plan, implement and evaluate care for clients throughout the life cycle and through palliative stages.

The Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses (ANBLPN) is the regulatory body responsible for setting the standards of practice that LPNs must maintain and is responsible for their education, registration and discipline in the province.

How do I get my credentials recognized?

LPNs who completed their education in another country must meet the standards set by ANBLPN. This does not apply if you already registered in another Canadian province.

Foreign qualification recognition is the process of verifying that the knowledge, skills, work experience and education obtained in another country are comparable to the standards established for Canadian professionals and tradespersons.

The steps to follow are listed below:

**Step One: Credential Evaluation**

Your nursing education must be assessed to determine if it is equivalent to a license practical nurse program in Canada. You can assess your credentials using one of the five approved Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada by visiting [www.canalliance.org](http://www.canalliance.org).

**Step Two: Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)**

After you have completed your credential evaluation, please contact ANBLPN and request an application package. You will be required to submit the following documents:

- high school and post-secondary transcripts;
- proof of equivalent Grade 11 or 12 high school science (physics, chemistry, or biology);
- proof of registration to a regulatory body in another country (if applicable);
- proof of language fluency;
- complete application forms;
- processing fee;
- proof of legal name (i.e. birth and marriage certificates);
- request for nursing education records; and,
  - a completed verification of employment hours form is preferred but not required.

Your registration process will not be finalized until you have submitted all required documents and successfully taken the LPN national exam.

**Step Three: Language Fluency**

You must demonstrate proficiency in one of the two official languages, English or French, to practise as a Licensed Practical Nurse in New Brunswick. The following tests, and their required passing mark, are accepted.
For written fluency:

- Computer-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Passing mark: 203 overall;
- Paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Passing mark: 537 overall;
- Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (iBT). Passing mark: 74 overall;
- Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB). Passing mark: 75;
- International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS). Passing mark: 6.5 (listening), 6.5 (writing), and 6.5 (reading);
- Test of English for International Communications (TOEIC). Passing mark: 720 overall; and,
- Canadian Language Benchmarks Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN). Passing mark: 9 (listening), 8 (reading), and 7 (writing).

For spoken fluency:

- Test of Spoken English (TSE). Passing mark: 50;
- MELAB. Passing mark: 3;
- IELTS. Passing mark: 7; and,
- CELBAN. Passing mark: 8.

For both written and spoken fluency in French, the Test d’Evaluation du Français (TEF) is accepted.

**Step Four: LPN National Exam**

Each province and territory is responsible for ensuring that graduates of practical nursing programs in Canada, and practical nurses educated in other countries applying for licensure/registration, meet an acceptable level of competency before they begin to practice. This competency is measured, in part, by the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE) administered by ANBLPN. The test is offered three times per year. To access practice tests and study materials, visit www.cpnre.ca.

There are many resources available to help you find employment in New Brunswick, including immigrant-serving agencies and job banks. Visit www.gnb.ca/immigration.

**Finding a job in New Brunswick**

There is a need for licensed practical nurses in various communities across the province and in both official languages.

You should take the time to research job requirements and develop a plan for finding work. There are many resources that you can access before coming to New Brunswick and after you arrive.

**Additional resources**

Canadian Council for Practical Nurse Regulators www.ccpnr.ca

Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses www.anblpn.ca

Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination www.cpnre.ca

Assessment Strategies www.asitest.ca

Horizon Health Network www.horizonnb.ca

Vitalité Health Network www.santevitalitehealth.ca

IEHP Atlantic Connection www.atlanticcanadahealthcare.ca

Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick www.ccnb.nb.ca

New Brunswick Community College www.nbcc.ca

New Brunswick Immigration Portal www.gnb.ca/immigration

Citizenship and Immigration Canada www.cic.gc.ca

Service Canada www.servicecanada.gc.ca

Foreign Credentials Referral Office www.credentials.gc.ca

Service New Brunswick www.snb.ca

NB Jobs www.nbjobs.ca

Working in New Brunswick Tool www.gnb.ca/immigration

**Before you arrive**

While you are waiting to come to New Brunswick, there are many important things you can do to improve your chances of success. You can start collecting all the required documents for PLA listed in Step Two.

The Foreign Credentials Referral Office (www.credentials.gc.ca) is an organization of the Government of Canada that provides you with helpful resources. The Government of New Brunswick has specially designed tools to help you make Canada your home. Visit www.gnb.ca/immigration.

If your education was not completed in either English or French, you are required to take a language proficiency test which assesses listening, reading, writing and speaking skills.

If you need to improve your language skills, start before you come to Canada.