



# **Oregon State Board of Nursing**

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# What We Do

- ORS 678.150 (5)
  - *The Board shall determine the qualifications of applicants for a license to practice nursing in this state and establish educational and professional standards for such applicants subject to the laws of this state.*
- Mission Statement:
  - *The Oregon State Board of Nursing protects the public by regulating nursing education, licensure, and practice.*

# What is required to be awarded a license?

- 678.040:
- Must be a graduate of a nursing program in the US or if educated in another country, show evidence that the education is equivalent to that of the US.

## 678.050

- Must pass a nursing examination.
- For candidates endorsing into Oregon, pass the examination in their home state and establish competency.
- 678.111
- Demonstrate through background check and disclosure that the applicant does not demonstrate a possible cause for denial. All cases are determined on an individual basis through additional review or investigation.

# License Types and Current Numbers (9/20/2022)

Registered Nurses:	80123
Licensed Practical Nurses:	6128
Nurse Practitioners:	6687
Clinical Nurse Specialists:	143
Certified RN Anesthetists:	720
Nurse Emeritus:	31
Certified Nursing Assistants:	18979
Certified Medication Aides:	850
 Total Licenses:	 113,661

# Types of Applications

- Initial License by Examination : New Graduates and educated in a foreign country never having had a US license before.
- Endorsement by active license in another state.
- Reactivation: Previous Oregon license currently expired more than 30 days.
- Renewal: Within 30 days of expiration date along with a \$100 in-lieu of civil penalty fee for RN/LPN/APRN.
- Reinstatement: After revocation or voluntary surrender.
- CNA initial license
- CNA endorsement
- CNA renewal/reactivation/reinstatement
- CMA certification/renewal/reactivation/reinstatement
- Nurse Emeritus
- Limited Liability, RNFA

# Applications and Licenses Issued (Jan 1, 2022 – Aug 31, 2022)

	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Total
Nurse Apps	1353	1443	2738	2000	1990	1836	1520	1485	14,365
Nurse Issued	778	783	999	1256	1169	1895	1960	1472	10,312
CNA Apps	418	559	649	432	506	652	642	641	4499
CNA Issued	258	356	366	201	208	331	341	259	2320

# “Pain Points”

- Whenever the process needs a human to read the documents and verify that the information provided meets standards.
- Applicants who delay in requesting documents be sent to the OSBN; Transcripts, out of state license verification, delay in getting their fingerprints done.
- Abandoning of application without OSBN notification. Appears as “still in progress”.
- No legislative authorization to award “Graduate permits”.
- Staff turnover and absence.

# FAQ

- Current Processing Time? Unable to calculate depends on the number of documents coming in per month, depends on review of background information, too many variables to predict.
- What is the benchmark? Applications are “worked” by the technician within two weeks of receipt. Application reviewed for completeness, qualifications review, review what documents are there, determine what is outstanding.
- Current processing time: New Grads – up-to-date
- Endorsements: 32 days from receipt to being “worked”. This was 90 days in April 2022.
- CNAs: 3 weeks from receipt to being worked.
- Renewals: Automatic unless there is an exception.



# FAQ's

- What has the Board done to overcome backlog:
  - Two LD positions hired, became permanent, two more hired, waiting to start.
  - Increased role authority in licensing to allow other staff to validate document information.
  - Moved to all electronic applications, however, no electronic process for validating documents.
  - Cross train staff to assist if their own work slows down, Ex: APRN technician helping with reactivations.
  - Volume + need for human intervention = backlog

# Solutions?

- Change verification requirements?
  - Fraudulent documents. Increase seen since pandemic.
  - Criminal Background check – healthcare workers working with people when they are vulnerable.
  - Testing- establish entry level competency to practice safely.
  - License Verification – Inability to determine if other states have placed discipline on a license.

Could we do it in 7 days as Washington was mandated to do?

Yes, negate safety checks.

Retrospective legal actions post licensure.

Would not solve staffing shortage issue.