

WHEN DOES THE BOARD MEET?

Open to the public, Board meetings are held every month except July and December. Meeting dates are available on the board web site or from the board office. For groups of five or more contact the board office for seating availability.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE BOARD

- *Arkansas State Board of Nursing Nurse Practice Act and Rules and Regulations*
- Position Statements
- School Nurse Guidelines
- *ASBN UPDATE*

These publications can be downloaded at www.arsbn.org or ordered from the Board for a nominal fee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION....

Education

Nursing Education Programs 501.686.2709

Licensure

Examination, Endorsement 501.686.2710

License Verification 501.682.2200

Practice

Complaints 501.686.2711

Practice Questions 501.686.2788

Advanced Practice

Licensure, Complaints

Prescriptive Authority 501.686.2706

Office Hours 8:00 – 4:30 M - F

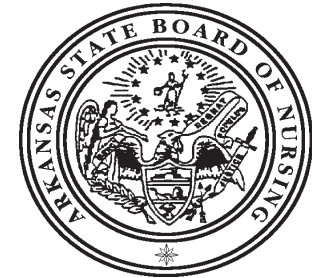
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ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING



Mission Statement

The mission of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing is to protect the public and act as their advocate by effectively regulating the practice of nursing

WHAT IS THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING?

Established by the Arkansas Legislature in 1913 to safeguard the life and health of its citizens, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing achieves its mission by developing standards for safe nursing care, approval of nursing schools and regulating licenses to practice nursing.

In addition to the *Nurse Practice Act and Rules and Regulations*, there are position statements and guidelines for nurses to follow. The ASBN is responsible for enforcing these laws and rules pertaining to the regulation of nurses, nursing education and nursing practice.

Structure

The ASBN is comprised of thirteen Arkansas residents appointed by the Governor for four year terms, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Of the seven registered nurses, two are diploma school graduates, two are associate degree graduates, two are baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate graduates, and one is an advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority. There are three licensed practical nurses and one licensed psychiatric technician nurse. All hold Arkansas licenses and are actively practicing in their license category.

Of the remaining two members, one lay person represents consumers and one represents the elderly population.

Nurse Licensure Compact

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing participates in the Nurse Licensure Compact which allows RNs and LPNs residing and licensed in one compact state the privilege of working in all other compact states.

WHAT ARE THE BOARD'S FUNCTIONS?

Issuing Licenses

Three are over 46,000 licenses issued by the Board in the following categories:

RN - Registered Nurse

LPN - Licensed Practical Nurse

LPTN - Licensed Psychiatric Technical Nurse

RNP - Registered Nurse Practitioner

APN - Advanced Practice Nurse

ANP - Advanced Nurse Practitioner

CNM - Certified Nurse Midwife

CRNA - Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

CNS - Clinical Nurse Specialist

After completing basic nursing programs, RNs and LPNs must pass nationally standardized examinations. LPTNs must have passed a state licensure exam.

RNPs have completed a nurse practitioner program in addition to their RN program. To be licensed as an APN, an RN must complete an advanced practice nursing program and hold certification from a Board approved nationally recognized certifying body.

The Board also issues certificates of prescriptive authority to eligible APNs and credentials Diabetes Self-Management Educators.

Acting on Complaints

If a nurse is found to have violated the *Nurse Practice Act* or rules that govern nursing practice in Arkansas, the Board may take disciplinary action and/or impose a civil penalty. The disciplinary action may include a letter of reprimand, probation, suspension or revocation of the license. A non-disciplinary letter of warning may be issued on certain types of complaints to give notice that continuation of such acts will result in disciplinary action.

The board investigates complaints about nurses for practice or behavior that may be unsafe, incompetent, unethical, related to substance abuse or a violation of other laws or rules.

Nurses practicing in Arkansas on a license from another compact state may be issued an order to cease and desist practicing in this state in response to a complaint.

Anyone may submit a complaint to the board about a nurse's practice or behavior. The complaint must be in writing, but it does not have to be signed.

Approving Nursing Programs

The Board approves programs which prepare individuals to apply for nurse licensure. There are twenty-nine LPN, twenty-five RN and three APN programs in the state. These schools are surveyed periodically for continued approval.

Diabetes self-management courses, leading to certification as a Diabetes Self-Management Educator, are also approved by the Board.

WHO CAN PRACTICE IN ARKANSAS?

Only persons licensed by the Board or holding a license from a compact state which is their primary state of residence may practice nursing in Arkansas.

A twenty-four hour on-line system is available for verification of a nurse's current Arkansas licensure status. The licensure status of RNs and LPNs from compact states can be verified by contacting the Board in the nurse's primary state of residence.