



UNAPPROVED NURSING PROGRAMS OPERATING IN CALIFORNIA

This is to inform prospective applicants and nursing students about an increasing number of unapproved nursing programs operating within California. The Board of Registered Nursing (Board) will not qualify an applicant to take the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX), or to be licensed, after completion of an unapproved nursing program located in California. **If any portion of the instruction is completed at or through an unapproved nursing program, that portion will not be counted.**

In some cases, these unapproved programs have been or are operated by **Continuing Education Providers** that are operating beyond the scope of their approval.

The Board has not approved any international distance learning programs. Even if an international nursing school is appropriately accredited or approved by its own government, completion of an international distance learning program and/or blended instruction will not qualify an applicant to sit for the NCLEX.

The Board **cannot** qualify an applicant to take the NCLEX, or to be licensed, after completion of a California based unapproved nursing program, even if the unapproved nursing program represented to the student that it was approved. Therefore, an applicant who attended one of these programs, was found eligible by another state to take the examination, and successfully passed the examination is **not** eligible for licensure in California.

Indicators that the program may be unapproved or cannot be deemed equivalent:

- Lack of proof of BRN approval in California. (The nursing program may tell you that it is approved.)
- Lack of a course syllabus for each course taught.
- Lack of information regarding credentials for each program instructor.
- Representation of online, distance, and/or blended instruction.
- Representation that transcripts and/or degrees will be issued by an international program rather than the program where instruction is provided.
- Lack of concrete information regarding clinical instruction, such as the location of the clinical instruction or that clinical instruction is to be completed abroad.
- Lack of concurrent instruction of theory and clinical practice.

To verify whether a registered nursing program is BRN approved, please see the listing of [Approved California RN Nursing Programs](#) on the Board website at www.rn.ca.gov. For Further information, you may also contact the California Board of Registered Nursing at (916) 322-3350 or via email at brn.licensing@dca.ca.gov.