

REGISTERED NURSE (RN)

Licensing Authority Kathy Clayton
Iowa Board of Nursing
Iowa Department of Public Health
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Legal Authority Code of Iowa, Chapters 17A, 147, 152, and 272C

Job Description Registered nurses practice nursing skills in hospitals and clinics, schools, clients' homes, workplaces, long-term care facilities, and many non-traditional settings. They practice independently, in conjunction with other nurses, with physicians, and as health team members. Nursing care is provided to acutely and chronically ill patients and their families, and involves health education and health promotion for clients of all ages. Registered nurses may supervise other personnel including licensed practical nurses and nursing assistants.

Education & Experience Required An applicant must graduate from an approved school of nursing at the RN-level and pass a national examination. Nursing education programs in Iowa vary in length from two to four years after graduation/equivalency from high school. Programs offered by community colleges require two years and lead to an associate degree; college and university programs require four years and lead to a baccalaureate degree.

The Iowa Board of Nursing must approve those applicants with a past felony record. Foreign applicants seeking initial licensure in Iowa must be certified by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) prior to taking the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) exam and earn a Test of English as a Second Language (TOEFL) score of 540. CGFNS provides primary source verification of education, licensure in the native country and a qualifying examination.

Continuing Education Twenty-four contact hours or 2.4 continuing education units are required for renewal of a license issued for less than three years.

Thirty-six contact hours or 3.6 continuing education units are required for renewal of a license issued for three years.

Examination The national computerized examination (NCLEX-RN) is given year round at approved Pearson Professional Centers in Davenport, West Des Moines, Coralville, and Sioux City, Iowa.

Fees Endorsement: \$101
Duration: Two-three years – 1st license; Three years – after 1st license
Renewal: \$81
Examination: \$75 – Application for Iowa licensure
\$200 – NCLEX-RN registration

SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage 29-1111 - Registered Nurses (\$19.12)

Number of Licenses Issued Total number of licenses active as of *June 30*,
2002: 38,137
2001: 38,839
2000: 38,839

Note: RN license counts run on a July to June fiscal year, ending June of the year indicated above.

For Additional Information Association of Iowa Hospitals and Health Systems
100 E Grand Ave
Des Moines IA 50309

Iowa Nurses' Association
1501 42nd St Ste 471
West Des Moines IA 50266

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
1 DuPont Cir Ste 530
Washington DC 20036

National League for Nursing
61 Broadway
New York NY 10006

American Nurses Association
600 Maryland Ave SW
Washington DC 20024-2571

American Health Care Association
1201 L St NW
Washington DC 20005-4014