

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Students and Clinical Practice in Oregon (Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Information)

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**1. Which programs require authorization for students to complete clinical learning experiences in Oregon?**

The Oregon Board of Nursing requires a review and authorization of clinical learning experiences completed in Oregon by all pre-licensure students enrolled in programs based outside of Oregon. This includes nursing programs leading to licensure at the RN or PN level provided by a non-Oregon based program.

**2. What is meant by “non-Oregon based program”?**

The Oregon Board of Nursing has authority to review and approve programs which are based in Oregon only. Non-Oregon based programs are physically located or based outside of Oregon. The theory learning for these programs is often provided via distance to Oregon residents or on a campus in another state but clinical practicum experiences may be completed within Oregon.

**3. Why isn't there a list of approved non-Oregon based programs?**

The Oregon Board of Nursing lacks the authority to review and approve programs in other states. The Board approves clinical placements rather than entire programs for non-Oregon based institutions. A list of those programs located outside Oregon that have had clinical practicum experiences approved in the past is posted for reference. Any nursing program may seek approval for clinical placements.

**Note:** The [List of Non-Oregon Based Programs Granted Clinical Placement Petitions](#) is updated periodically and may not include programs that could currently be in the process of seeking clinical placement approvals.

**4. What must a program do to obtain pre-approval for individual student clinical experiences through the Oregon State Board of Nursing?**

The non-Oregon-based program is required to submit a **petition** requesting approval from the Oregon State Board of Nursing to have students complete clinicals in Oregon. All instructions listed on the petition must be followed and the appropriate information on each placement must be submitted in order to demonstrate compliance with Oregon law regarding faculty, preceptors, licensure, and accreditation status. Prior to the start of student clinical placements, a program must receive confirmation of OSBN approval of the placement.

**Note:** Program approval through the Oregon Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) is required before the petition is submitted to the Board of Nursing or the university/program must be approved through the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). See: <http://nc-sara.org/sara-states-institutions>

If the program is offered in a SARA state, **the educational institution must have the appropriate approval in the state where it is based to be included in the agreement.**

**For non-SARA states or institutions not approved through SARA, contact Oregon Office of Degree Authorization (ODA)**

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

[info.hecc@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:info.hecc@hecc.oregon.gov)

Website: [Higher Education Coordinating Commission : Office of Degree Authorization - Institution Resources : Institution Authorization and Licensing : State of Oregon](#)

**5. Where can a student obtain proof that a program has approval to place students from the Oregon State Board of Nursing and/or from the Oregon Office of Degree Authorization?**

Each program enrolling students who plan to do clinical in Oregon is responsible for demonstrating to students that they meet all state and federal laws and requirements. Students must contact their program directly for confirmation of required approvals.

**6. What if a program cannot supply the needed information?**

The clinical experience cannot begin in Oregon until the approvals have been completed. Hours completed in Oregon without prior approval **may not be counted** towards practicum hours required for licensure. Additionally, there are potential fines for preceptors who authorize and supervise students without approval by the Board. **Preceptor penalties include fines up to \$5000.00 for non-compliance with Oregon law.**

**7. Which programs do not require prior approval by the Oregon State Board of Nursing?**

Programs offering degrees that do not lead to additional licensure in Oregon (example: RN-BSN, Masters in Nursing Education or Administration for already licensed nurses, PhD and DNP programs for students who are already licensed as APRNs).

**Note:** These programs still require approval either through SARA (see above) or through the Oregon Office of Degree Authorization before enrolling students who are Oregon residents.

**Oregon Office of Degree Authorization (ODA)**

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**8. Why does the Board need to review clinical experiences in advance?**

The Board's mission is to safeguard the public's health and well-being by providing guidance for, and regulation of, entry into the profession, nursing education, and continuing safe practice. The Board therefore has oversight when clinical learning experiences prepare individuals for licensure.

**9. What if the Board has already approved the clinical and plans change for a practicum?**

The Board will accept a revision of a previously approved placement. Any modifications to an approved clinical placement must be submitted before the revisions are effective.