

CGFNS creates successful customized service for New York State Board of Education

In 2001, the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) created a new, customized service, the Credentials Verification Service for New York State (CVS), to independently verify credentials of foreign-educated healthcare professionals who are seeking licensure in New York State.

In the sixteen months since the creation of the service, the CVS program has proved to be a huge success. Since the program's inception on February 19, 2001, CGFNS has successfully verified the credentials of 3,000 applicants for the New York State Education Department. Also, due to the large demand for verifications, CGFNS has tripled its operational staff for the program. As the program continues to expand, CGFNS continuously evaluates the efficiency and integrity of the program. To that end, CGFNS has been meeting with the Philippine Nurses Association and Philippine officials on ways to expedite the process of obtaining original documentation from the Philippines.

The New York State Education Department requires that foreign-educated registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, occupa-

tional therapists and occupational therapy assistants obtain independent verification of the authenticity of their credentials from a State Education Department approved credentials verification service. CGFNS, a world leader in evaluation of

international healthcare credentials, was authorized by the New York State Education Department to provide such a service.

The CVS program independently collects and verifies the authenticity of an applicant's educational and licensure/registration credentials. Once verified, the credentials are forwarded to the New York State Education Department to be evaluated as part of the applicant's licensure application. CGFNS assumes no responsibility for, and makes no analysis or determination as to the comparability or sufficiency of the applicant's education or that the applicant has met any licensure requirements.

Drawing upon 25 years of experience evaluating international healthcare credentials, CGFNS offers customized services to meet the needs of individual clients and organizations. CGFNS can work with a client to custom tailor existing programs or reports to meet the specific needs of the client, or as in the case of the CVS program, can work with a client to develop a new program to provide needed services.

In order to meet the need for customized services and programs, CGFNS created another division, the International Consulting and Educational Service (ICE), which is a team of experts established by CGFNS to assist those in need of consultation on international standards, education and licensure/registration for healthcare professions around the world.

ICE provides the following services: (1) Independent Credentials Evaluation: fast, accurate comparisons of international credentials to the client's standards; (2) Standards Committee

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U.S. Boards of Nursing and their CGFNS requirements

Board of Nursing	CGFNS Requirement for Initial Licensure	CGFNS Requirement for Endorsement of Another State License
Alabama	Certification Program <u>and</u> Credentials Evaluation Service (Full)	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service
Alaska	Certification Program	
American Samoa		
Arizona	Certification Program	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)
Arkansas	Credentials Evaluation Service (Full)	Credentials Evaluation Service (Full)
California		
Colorado	Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)	
Connecticut	Certification Program	
Delaware	Certification Program	
District of Columbia	Certification Program	
Florida	Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)	Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)
Georgia	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)	
Guam		
Hawaii	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)
Idaho	Certification Program	
Illinois	Certification Program	Certification Program
Indiana	Certification Program	
Iowa	Certification Program	
Kansas	Certification Program	
Kentucky	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service (Full)	Credentials Evaluation Service (Full)
Louisiana	Certification Program	
Maine	Certification Program	
Maryland	Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)	Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)
Massachusetts	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)	Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)
Michigan	Certification Program	
Minnesota	Certification Program	
Mississippi	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)	

for foreign-educated registered nurses prior to licensure

Board of Nursing	CGFNS Requirement for Initial Licensure	CGFNS Requirement for Endorsement of Another State License
Missouri	Certification Program	
Montana	Certification Program	Certification Program
Nebraska	Certification Program	
Nevada		
New Hampshire	Certification Program	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service (Full)
New Jersey	Certification Program	Certification Program
New Mexico		
New York	Credentials Verification Service for NY	
North Carolina	Certification Program	Certification Program
North Dakota	Certification Program	
Northern Mariana Islands		
Ohio	Credentials Evaluation Service (Full)	
Oklahoma	Certification Program	
Oregon	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)	Certification Program or Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)
Pennsylvania	Certification Program	Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)
Puerto Rico		
Rhode Island	Certification Program	Credentials Evaluation Service (Full)
South Carolina	Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)	Credentials Evaluation Service (N&S)
South Dakota	Certification Program	
Tennessee	Certification Program	
Texas	Certification Program	Credentials Evaluation Service
Utah	Certification Program	Certification Program
Vermont	Certification Program	Certification Program
Virgin Islands	Certification Program	
Virginia	Certification Program	Certification Program
Washington	Certification Program	
West Virginia	Certification Program	
Wisconsin	Certification Program	
Wyoming	Certification Program	

CGFNS requests approval of alternate English proficiency exams

Currently, under INS regulations, applicants to the *VisaScreen* Program must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), Test of Written English (TWE) and Test of Spoken English (TSE) exams administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), or the MELAB parts 1-4, including the Oral Interview and Speaking Test administered by the English Language Institute.

However, applicants to both programs are experiencing some difficulties when trying to register for the exams. Allegedly, applicants trying to register for the TSE exam with ETS are finding delays. Applicants to the MELAB battery of exams can no longer take the exams overseas, as they are now being offered only in Canada and the United States.

In order to facilitate the *VisaScreen* process, CGFNS has searched for other

“nationally recognized, commercially available, standardized assessments” of the English language skills of foreign healthcare workers.

CGFNS has formally contacted the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to request a review of both the Test of English in Communications (TOEIC), administered by the Chauncey Group, as well as the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), administered by University of Cambridge (U.K.) Local Examinations Syndicate, as alternative English language proficiency exams to meet the requirements under Section 343 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996, under which provision *VisaScreen* is administered.

(Note: CGFNS is not affiliated with the aforementioned organizations and does not endorse one examination over any other.)

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Formation: instruction and guidance in setting up, monitoring and maintaining standards committees for a variety of healthcare professions worldwide; and (3) Healthcare Speaker's Bureau: inspirational speakers from its team of experienced and talented healthcare professionals who will provide valuable information on numerous healthcare topics.

With the CGFNS database and years of experience as its foundation, ICE is able to custom-design its services to meet the immediate and future needs of clients and provide the essential information and results clients are seeking. For more information on custom-designing a report or program for your organization, contact: International Consulting and Educational Service, Attn: Dr. Catherine Davis, 3600 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19104; telephone: (215) 222-8454, ext. 228; or email: crdavis@cgfns.org.

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