

The CGFNS Qualifying Exam®:

# Internet-based in 2011!

## BREAKING NEWS

The CGFNS Qualifying Exam® for foreign-educated, first-level, general nurses will be Internet-based beginning March 2011.

"The CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, which has been given in paper-and-pencil format to over 500,000 foreign-educated nurses during the past 30 years, continues with the same testing rigor and remains a psychometrically sound and legally defensible examination. Moving to Internet-based testing expands our reach and strategic value to our global community," said Dr. Barbara L. Nichols, CGFNS International CEO.

CGFNS has selected Kryterion as its test delivery vendor to administer the Internet-based exam. Applicants will continue to apply for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® through CGFNS International's Certification Program, or through HHRDC in China or IIG in Vietnam for the CGFNS International Standards for Professional Nurses (ISPN) program.

The CGFNS Qualifying Exam® satisfies the immigration exam requirement for first-level, general nurses seeking an occupational visa in the United States and is also recognized by several U.S. State Boards of Nursing as a prerequisite for licensure.

For more information regarding the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, please visit [www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/cp/default.shtml](http://www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/cp/default.shtml).

### About Kryterion

**Kryterion is a full-service provider** of custom assessment and certification products and services. They work with organizations to build and deliver everything from skills tests and simple online assessments to a comprehensive, high-stakes, worldwide certification program. They offer a viable addition to high-stakes test delivery with unsurpassed program security, control and convenience. Kryterion has 469 worldwide available testing locations. For more information, go to [www.kryteriononline.com](http://www.kryteriononline.com).

### CGFNS Qualifying Exam® dates

2011 test window	Approval date to be eligible for this window
7 – 11 March	31 January
11 – 15 July	31 May
12 – 16 September	31 July
14 – 18 November	30 September

The deadline to change a previously scheduled exam is 72 hours before it occurs.

### About the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®

The exam tests your knowledge and understanding of nursing as it is taught and practiced in the United States today, using objective, multiple-choice and alternate-item type questions designed by experts to help predict your likelihood of passing the NCLEX-RN®.

The CGFNS Qualifying Exam® satisfies one of the immigration requirements for obtaining an occupational visa to work in the United States and is a prerequisite in some states for licensure (for each state's requirements, go to [www.cgfns.org/sections/tools/apps/sbonrequirements.shtml](http://www.cgfns.org/sections/tools/apps/sbonrequirements.shtml)).

We offer the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® in five-day test windows during designated months. Go to <http://www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/cp/qedates.shtml> for a list of current exam dates.

The new Internet-based CGFNS Qualifying Exam® will be given during a five-day period in March, July, September and November 2011 in over 469 locations. You can schedule any day within a five-day test window in one of the two months you are authorized to take the exam.

Please note: *You may register for one exam only.* If you select more than one test window, more than one location, or more than one date and time, your exam registration will be cancelled upon review and you will be required to register again for a single selection.

Unlike the paper-based exam, the Internet-based exam is a combined, single test that takes approximately three hours. For a list of exam centers, go to [www.kryteriononline.com/host\\_locations/index.asp](http://www.kryteriononline.com/host_locations/index.asp).

### Authorization to take the exam

To be authorized to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, you will need to undergo a CGFNS credentials review. We evaluate your education and license/registration to verify that you are a first-level, general nurse (as defined historically by the International Council of Nurses).

The academic requirements are that you:

- successfully completed a secondary school education separate from your nursing education
- graduated from a government-approved, general nursing program of at least two years in length

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## Introducing two new Credentials Evaluation Service reports!

The CGFNS Credentials Evaluation Services has announced the creation of two new CES reports tailored to meet specific needs, debuting 1 February 2011.

The new CES Professional Report has been designed to meet the specific requirements of individual state boards of nursing to provide a more comprehensive credentials evaluation of applicants educated outside the United States. Other recipients, such as employers, immigration attorneys and recruiters, may also find this report helpful.

This customized report allows state boards of nursing to incorporate their own requirements template, which includes a statement of comparability of an applicant's education when measured against U.S. standards.

The new CES Academic Report is designed to meet the needs of applicants pursuing further education in U.S. institutions

of higher learning. It will help these universities to assess your education in terms of U.S. education standards comparability and credit your education accordingly.

"We are genuinely grateful for the input that U.S. state boards of nursing have provided regarding their current and future assessment needs," said Barbara L. Nichols, CEO, CGFNS International. "Technology enables us to continue to provide customized reports to meet the specific needs of recipient boards while keeping the cost affordable to the applicants."

Beginning 1 February 2011, applications for the CES Professional and Academic Reports will only be accepted using our online application system. After that date, applications for the discontinued Full Course-by-Course and Healthcare & Science reports will no longer be accepted. The price for the Professional Report is \$335. The price for the Academic Report is \$385.

## Credentials Evaluation Service questions

### General information

#### What does the Credentials Evaluation Service provide?

The Credentials Evaluation Service (CES) evaluates the comparability of international education to U.S. standards. It provides detailed reports for regulatory bodies, academic institutions and employers. Two reports are available: the Professional Report, which meets the specific requirements of individual state boards of nursing, and the Academic Report, which meets the needs of applicants pursuing further education in U.S. institutions of higher learning.

#### Why do I need to have a CES report?

Many U.S. state nursing boards either require or accept a CES report as a prerequisite for licensure. You'll need to contact them to find out which CGFNS service they use. Also, academic institutions, specialty certification authorities, recruiters and employers may request a CES report.

#### Who requests, requires or accepts a CES report?

Those who request or require CES reports include U.S. state boards of nursing, academic institutions, specialty certification authorities, recruiters and employers. There is a list of state boards of nursing at [www.cgfns.org/sections/tools/apps/sbonrequirements.shtml](http://www.cgfns.org/sections/tools/apps/sbonrequirements.shtml) and each service they require or accept.

#### What type of information does a CES report contain?

CES reports contain an analysis of your education: country-specific background information about schools you attended, attendance dates, and grading scales in terms of U.S. standards. They also contain an evaluation of your registration/license/certification and credential source verification.

#### What are the requirements for the Credentials Evaluation Service?

The CES Requirements PDF is located at [http://www.cgfns.org/files/pdf/req/CES\\_Requirements.pdf](http://www.cgfns.org/files/pdf/req/CES_Requirements.pdf)

#### What are the differences between the CES report and the CGFNS certificate from the Certification Program?

The Credentials Evaluation Service report summarizes a health care professional's credentials. The Credentials Evaluation Service evaluates the educational/professional credentials of first- and second-level nurses, while the Certification Program accommodates only first-level, general (registered) nurses. CES does not require passing the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. Passing the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® for the CGFNS certificate will indicate one's likelihood of passing the NCLEX-RN®.

#### Does CES make a recommendation regarding candidacy for academic admission, licensure or employment?

No. CES reports are advisory in nature. They provide factual information and U.S. comparisons about education and registration/licensure. They do not make specific recommendations.

#### How long does it take to obtain a report?

After we receive all required documents and fees, an average of 10 weeks is needed to prepare and issue a completed report.

**Beginning January 2011, only online applications will be accepted for the Certification Program and beginning February 2011, only online applications will be accepted for the Credentials Evaluation Service.**

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# CGFNS Qualifying Exam® questions

## Dates and locations

### When are the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® dates for 2011?

In 2011, the Internet-based CGFNS Qualifying Exam® will be given in March, July, September and November, during a five-day test window in each of these months.

### What should I do if I need to change my exam date or location after I have been scheduled?

You may change your exam date, without charge, for another day in the same 5-day period or the other month you were approved for in your Authorization to Test notification at least 72 hours before your originally scheduled exam. Scheduling details are found in the Authorization to Test notification that we sent you. You will not be eligible for a refund if you do not arrive for your scheduled exam.

### Where is the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® offered and the address details?

For a complete list of the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® locations, go to [www.kryteriononline.com/host\\_locations/index.asp](http://www.kryteriononline.com/host_locations/index.asp)

## Eligibility

### If I am not approved to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, what is my next step?

CGFNS will provide you with information on how to correct any deficiency you may have.

### Who is eligible to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®?

The CGFNS Qualifying Exam® is open only to first-level, general (registered) nurses who have their credentials successfully evaluated by CGFNS for the CGFNS Certification Program or The CGFNS International Standards for Professional Nurses program. Other eligibility criteria is listed at [www.cgfns.org/sections/](http://www.cgfns.org/sections/)

[programs/cp/default.shtml](http://programs/cp/default.shtml) and at [www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/country/ispndescription.shtml](http://www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/country/ispndescription.shtml)

### I have sent all my documents including my payment (certified bank check) for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. How will I know if I'm approved to take the exam? I haven't received a letter.

In addition to documents and payment, CGFNS needs to receive your transcripts and license validation from your schools and licensing authorities. Once we receive them and your documents are successfully evaluated, you will be authorized to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. We will send you an Authorization to Test notification with instructions to schedule your exam.

### I applied for the exam, I did everything on time, but I still haven't been approved for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. How much time does it take to check all the papers and approve my exam?

In addition to documents and payment, CGFNS needs to receive your transcripts and license validation from your schools and licensing authorities. Once we receive them and your documents are successfully evaluated, you will be authorized to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. We will send you an Authorization to Test notification with instructions to schedule your exam.

## How long does it take?

### How long will it take to receive my CGFNS Qualifying Exam® results?

Results will be posted to your online account two weeks after the five-day test window of your exam at <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp>. After you login, click Test Information located under Applicant Options on the left.

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## About the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®

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- received theory and clinical education in each of the following: nursing care of the adult (which includes medical and surgical nursing), maternal/infant nursing, nursing care of children and psychiatric/mental health nursing

Licensure requirements are that you must hold an initial license/registration as a first-level, general nurse in your country of education, and currently hold a license/registration as a first-level, general nurse.

Once you successfully complete the credentials review, you will receive an Authorization to Test notification that includes scheduling instructions and the dates of the two test windows for which you are authorized to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®.

### If you need to change your exam date

If you need to change your exam date, you may do so by giving 72 hours notice before your scheduled exam: 1) to another day or time in the five-day test window of your originally scheduled

exam, without charge or 2) to the later five-day test window you were given, without charge.

You will not receive a credit if you do not arrive for your scheduled exam.

### If you miss or fail the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®

You will need to complete and pay for a re-examination application ([www.cgfns.org/files/pdf/apps/CP\\_ReExam\\_Instructions.pdf](http://www.cgfns.org/files/pdf/apps/CP_ReExam_Instructions.pdf)), if you do not show up for your scheduled exam or you fail and want to be authorized to take it in another month.

### If your Certification Program application expires before you are scheduled for the exam

If you want to qualify for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, but you haven't met the requirements of the Certification Program in 12 months' time, you will need to complete and pay for a Certification Program reprocess at <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp>.

# CGFNS Qualifying Exam® questions

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## How long does it take to receive my CGFNS (Certification Program) certificate? I passed the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® two years ago and my IELTS exam one year ago.

That is a very long time not to have received your certificate, indicating that there could be more than one reason. How often have you checked your status messages in your online account at <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp>? You may have passed your IELTS, but IELTS International was not instructed to send your scores to CGFNS, so your status would have been "Waiting on English". The CGFNS Qualifying Exam® and the English language proficiency exam must be passed within two years of each other. Another circumstance could have been that you signed an Authorization to Release Information form, so your certificate would have been sent to the third party you designated. Please telephone Customer Service through the contact details listed at <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/processContactUs.do>.

## I passed the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. How long will it take to get a visa or green card?

Please contact the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service (USCIS) through [www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis). CGFNS has no jurisdiction with regard to obtaining U.S. visas.

## Missed exam

### I missed my scheduled CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. How do I schedule the next one? And is it necessary to pay again?

Apply to take the exam again through your online account at <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp>. Once approved, you will receive another Authorization to Test notification with instructions to schedule the exam. You will have to pay the fee listed at [www.cgfns.org/sections/apply/fees.shtml](http://www.cgfns.org/sections/apply/fees.shtml), and you will not receive a credit for the exam that you missed.

## NCLEX®

### I passed my CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. Do I need to take the NCLEX® as well? How do I get a visa?

If you plan to work in the United States, the NCLEX-RN® is required for initial licensure by each state board of nursing in the United States, regardless of passing the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. CGFNS does not administer NCLEX®. In order to obtain a visa, you need to first determine the visa you need through <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>. Your visa may require you to apply for the VisaScreen®: Visa Credentials Assessment through CGFNS. VisaScreen® information is located at <http://www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/vs/>. You can download the requirements PDF for VisaScreen® at <http://www.cgfns.org/files/pdf/req/vs-requirements.pdf>

## Results

### Where are CGFNS Qualifying Exam® results online?

Results will be posted to your online account two weeks after the five-day test window of the your chosen exam at <https://>

[www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp](http://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp). After you login, click Test Information located under Applicant Options on the left.

### What is the passing score for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®?

For the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, the passing scaled score is 400.

## No license in country where educated

### I was never licensed in the country where I went to nursing school. Can I still take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®?

No. You must hold a first-level, general nursing license/registration in the country where you graduated nursing school to be approved for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. This requirement is waived only if you were not permitted to take a licensing exam in the country where you went to nursing school because you are not a citizen.

## Preparatory

### How do I prepare for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®?

You will be sent the *Official Study Guide for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®* PDF (when it becomes available) to the email address you provided on your application, after CGFNS receives your Certification Program application and the fees. This comprehensive study guide will help prepare you for both the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® and the NCLEX-RN®. It includes information about the organization of the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® and a practice test with rationales for the answers.

Additional online practice exams and modules will be available for purchase in 2011.

### What books do you recommend to prepare for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®? Are the NCLEX® books satisfactory?

*The Official Study Guide for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®*, which you receive after CGFNS receives your application and payment for the Certification Program, is our recommended preparatory material.

### Does CGFNS require that applicants use a preparatory course for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®?

CGFNS does not require that you take a preparatory course for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. CGFNS has not authorized any individual or organization to conduct preparatory courses for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®. Beware of organizations offering preparatory courses for the exam that claim that they are authorized by or represent CGFNS.

## U.S. citizen

### I graduated from a five-year nursing school in Taiwan, completed a total of 221 credits and have a nurse license from Taiwan. I am also a U.S. citizen, am I qualified for the RN exam?

If you mean the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, that depends on the state where you are applying for a license. You will need to contact the board of nursing in the state where you wish to practice to determine the CGFNS service that is needed. If you mean the NCLEX®-RN exam, also check with the board of nursing in that state.

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# CGFNS Qualifying Exam® questions

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## Process

### How do I apply for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®?

You need to apply online for the Certification Program <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/intro.jsp>

## State requirements

### Which states require the Certification Program that incorporates the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®?

Please check [www.cgfns.org/sections/tools/apps/sbonrequirements.shtml](http://www.cgfns.org/sections/tools/apps/sbonrequirements.shtml). Also check with your state board of nursing to make certain that their requirements have not changed since CGFNS last updated the page.

## Program requirements

### Does everybody have to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®?

No. Only first-level, general nurses applying for licensure in certain U.S. states. See [www.cgfns.org/sections/tools/apps/sbonrequirements.shtml](http://www.cgfns.org/sections/tools/apps/sbonrequirements.shtml). Double check with the state board of nursing where you are applying for a license, as their requirements can change prior to notifying us.

### I passed my CGFNS Qualifying Exam® back in 1995. After that, I moved to another country, where I did not need my CGFNS Certificate. I did my nursing licensure examination in the country where I am living. After 15 years, I am thinking of moving to the United States. Do I need to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® again?

If you received your CGFNS (Certification Program) certificate, it does not expire and you do not have to take the exam again. If you did not pass an English language proficiency exam within two years of passing the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, and therefore did not receive your CGFNS (Certification Program) certificate,

then you will have to apply for the Certification Program again, have your credentials evaluated to retake the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® and take an English Proficiency exam. You must pass the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® and the English language proficiency exam within two years of each other.

## Failing the exam

### I did not pass the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, what is my next step?

Your results notification includes your diagnostic profile, which indicates your strengths and weaknesses in the client needs categories. These categories form the basis not only of the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, but also of the NCLEX-RN®. You may do better on the next exam if you concentrate on the weaknesses that caused you to fail. You may apply for the re-examination online and pay the appropriate fee.

### How many times can I take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®?

You can take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® as many times as you need, by paying the appropriate re-examination fee, until you achieve a passing score. However, applicants must pass both the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® and an English language proficiency exam within two years of each other.

## CGFNS certificate

### When I pass the CGFNS Qualifying Exam®, do I receive my CGFNS (Certification Program) certificate?

You need to pass both the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® and an English language proficiency exam within two years of each other and your documents need to go through a final review before receiving your CGFNS (Certification Program) certificate. When the final review indicates that you have successfully met all the requirements of the Certification Program, your certificate will be mailed to you.

# CGFNS leaders honored as Living Legends



### CGFNS International Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Barbara L. Nichols and Board of Trustees Vice President Norma Lang were honored with Living Legend awards during the American Academy of Nursing 37th Annual Meeting and Conference in Washington, D.C., on 11 November 2010.

The award recognizes extraordinary lifetime

achievement and sustained contributions to nursing and health care throughout their career. The recipient of this award has been an Active or Emeritus Fellow for at least 15 years while continuing to influence the profession.

Prior to joining CGFNS, Dr. Nichols served as President of the American Nurses Association, as Professor of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and -Milwaukee Colleges of Nursing, as Director of Nursing for the Wisconsin Area Health Education Center System and as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing. She also is a former member of the International Council of Nursing's Board of Directors.

Dr. Lang is the former Margaret Bond Simon Dean for the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and leader of the knowledge-based Nursing Initiative (KBNI), a leading edge partnership between Aurora Health Care, Cerner Corporation, and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing (ACW) to accelerate and expand the use of knowledge and evidence in nursing practice through intelligent technology.

The AAN Living Legends awards were established in 1994 and have honored 77 Living Legends in the past 16 years.

# Credentials Evaluation Service questions

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## Do I receive a copy of the completed CES report?

When a CES report is issued, you can view and print a copy of your report by logging in to your online account at <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp>. Click on the "Order Status" link under "Applicant Options" to the left, select your order, click the "View CES Applicant Report" button. Your report will be only available for one year. A timeline follows:

CES reports that were issued	How you receive them
before February 2010	postal mail copy only
2 February 2010 to 1 March 2010	postal mail copy and online copy
after 1 March 2010	online copy only

## What does CGFNS do when they receive my application?

The application steps for the Credentials Evaluation Service are found at [www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/ces/cessteps.shtml](http://www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/ces/cessteps.shtml).

## CES report recipients

### Can I apply for a CES report without a recipient?

No. CGFNS International requires you to have an official recipient for the report. You do receive an online copy of the report.

### Who do I designate as my CES report recipient?

Your choice of recipients depends on who is asking you to provide the report. CES report recipients can be state boards of nursing, schools, potential employers, recruiters and others. There is no need to designate yourself as one of the recipients, because you are automatically provided an online copy.

### If I need to send a copy of my CES report to another recipient at a later date, must I go through the entire process again?

You need to apply for the Professional Report Re-evaluation through your online account at [www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp](http://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp). If the recipient is a school, you need to make an initial application for an Academic Report. A re-evaluation can not be from one kind of CES report to the other.

### I need to send a copy of an Academic Report to a state board of nursing, what do I do?

You need to make an initial application for the Professional Report through your online account at [www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp](http://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp). We cannot send Academic Reports to state boards of nursing, or Professional Reports to schools. Additionally, a re-evaluation application can not be from one kind of CES report to the other.

## New 2011 CGFNS fees

**Applications for the Certification Program**, the Credentials Evaluation Service, the *VisaScreen*®: Visa Credentials Assessment, the Credential Verification Service for New York State and ancillary services, received on or after 1 January 2011, will be charged according to the new fees, located at [www.cgfns.org/sections/apply/2011fees.shtml](http://www.cgfns.org/sections/apply/2011fees.shtml).

## I already have a completed CES report, and now want to apply to a different board of nursing (haven't licensed in any state yet, so can't endorse over to other state). How do I have this report forwarded to the other state?

First check with the board of the new state to ascertain if they will accept a CES report. They might require the Certification Program instead, in which case, they will not accept a CES Report. If the state accepts a CES report, you simply need to apply for a re-evaluation of the Professional Report.

## Application forms

### How do I get an application?

You apply online. Go to <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/intro.jsp> and follow the instructions to create an account. Download the application instructions from <http://www.cgfns.org/sections/apply/download.shtml> and the mail-in Credit Card Form and the Authorization to Release form from <http://www.cgfns.org/sections/apply/forms.shtml>

## My application status

### What can I check online?

Once logged into your online account at <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp>, you can check the status of

- your application or order
- whether we received your documents and/or credentials from schools/licensing authorities,
- whether you have been assigned your ID number and more

Using the information listed on the Contact Us page located at <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/processContactUs.do>, you can also ask us questions by phone, email or make an appointment.

### How will I know when you have received documents from me, from schools and from licensing authorities for evaluation?

Each time we receive a document, we will update your status at your online account at <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp> and send an email or letter notifying you. We will also make you aware of documents that are still needed.

### I just received an email from CGFNS saying that I can check my status. Does anyone know how long that will take?

Checking your status is immediate once you've created an online account at <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/intro.jsp>. Then the process of your application depends on when we receive documents from you, your schools and licensing authorities. Each service has its own timing.

## Helpful Web sites

English proficiency examination providers

[www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org) [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

[www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis)

# CGFNS International Chief Executive Officer Barbara Nichols announces retirement

**Capping her distinguished career in** nursing and organizational leadership, Barbara L. Nichols, DHL, MS, RN, FAAN, announced her retirement from CGFNS International, effective 30 June 2011. She will continue to be available to CGFNS's new leadership through 2011 as needed.

Nichols has served as the organization's CEO for 12 years and has led CGFNS through a period of securing authorization from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to conduct visa credentials assessment certifications for health care workers seeking an occupational visa to work in the United States. Other accomplishments include the launch of the International Centre on Nurse Migration in partnership with the International Council of Nurses (ICN), and the implementation of technology-based solutions for online applications and assessment services.

During her tenure, Dr. Nichols has presided over many major accomplishments, designed to meet the vision and goals of CGFNS, including implementation of the organization's name change — changing from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools to CGFNS International — to better reflect the global significance of CGFNS's work.

Under Dr. Nichols's stewardship, CGFNS has fulfilled its leadership role as a global resource for knowledge and fairness pertaining to the ethical recruitment of foreign-educated health care professionals and protection of the health care consumer. Throughout her career, Dr. Nichols has been recognized for her role in teaching and mentoring nurses of color and her passion for social justice for immigrating nurses and women.

"We are extremely grateful for Dr. Nichols's commitment and passion to the nursing and health care professional community, the vision to embrace technology and open new doors globally, and her insistence on forging partnerships with global educational, regulatory and professional institutions whose relationships will serve the organization well into the future. We wish her all the best in this new phase of her life," said CGFNS President Carol Bradley, MSN, RN, CENP.

Prior to joining CGFNS, Dr. Nichols served as President of the American Nurses Association, Professor of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and -Milwaukee Colleges of Nursing, Director of Nursing for the Wisconsin Area Health Education Center System and Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of

Regulation and Licensing. She also is a former member of the International Council of Nursing Board of Directors.

She is currently a member of the Nursing Faculty, Excelsior College, Albany, New York and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Board of Directors and Conformity Assessment Policy Committee.

She has consulted on numerous global projects and is the recipient of many awards including five honorary doctorates and the American Academy of Nursing's Living Legends award for her leadership and sustained contributions to the nursing profession.

## Dr. Barbara Nichols speaks at the UPenn School of Nursing Martin Luther King celebration

Dr. Barbara L. Nichols, CGFNS International's CEO, was the guest lecturer on Tuesday, 18 January 2011, at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Her presentation was titled "Remembering the Dream — Realizing the Vision".

Dr. Nichols was the first African American nurse to be elected president of the American Nurses Association. She has consulted on numerous global projects and is the recipient of many awards.

During her tenure as the CEO of CGFNS International, Nichols has received many accolades from the community including being a 2006 Inaugural Inductee to the National Black Nurses Association Institute of Excellence, the 2007 Distinguished Scholar, Howard University College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, Division of Nursing, and being named an Ambassador in Research! America's Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research, for which she served as one of the nation's top 50 global health experts, who joined together to increase awareness about the critical need for greater U.S. public and private investment in research to improve global health.

### BREAKING NEWS

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