



2024 NLC Legal Conference Series

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A Deep Dive into the Uniform Licensure Requirements (ULRs) to Obtain or Retain a Multistate License

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Article III (c):

Each party state shall require the following for an applicant to obtain or retain a multistate license in the home state:

Key Points and Considerations:

- “Obtain an MSL” pertains to meeting the uniform licensure requirements (ULRs) at the time of application in order to be eligible for issuance of an MSL.
- “Retain an MSL” pertains to a licensee’s ability to continue to hold an MSL is contingent upon the nurse consistently meeting the ULRs. This includes continuing to meet the ULRs at the time of renewal.



Article III (c):

1. Meets the home state's qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure, as well as, all other applicable state laws;

Key Points and Considerations:

- The applicant must meet your single state license requirements.
- If they can't meet your SSL requirements, they can't meet the MS� ULRs.



Article III (c):

2. i. Has graduated or is eligible to graduate from a licensing board-approved RN or LPN/VN prelicensure education program; or

Key Points and Considerations:

- This ULR pertains to board-approved programs in the US.
- Note that an applicant may have graduated or be eligible to graduate.



Article III (c):

2 ii. Has graduated from a foreign RN or LPN/VN prelicensure education program that (a) has been approved by the authorized accrediting body in the applicable country and (b) has been verified by an independent credentials review agency to be comparable to a licensing board-approved prelicensure education program;

Key Points and Considerations:

- This ULR pertains to foreign-educated graduates. “Independent” means the required credentials review (CES Report) cannot be produced by a BON.
- This ULR does not mean that a new credentials report must be purchased at the time of MSL application. For MSL purposes, if a report was purchased in the past for another state, that report may be accepted at the discretion of the BON processing the application.



Article III (c):

3. Has, if a graduate of a foreign prelicensure education program not taught in English or if English is not the individual's native language, successfully passed an English proficiency examination that includes the components of reading, speaking, writing and listening;

Key Points and Considerations:

- This ULR does not mean that a new English proficiency exam must be passed at the time of this MSL application. For MSL purposes, if an exam was passed already in another state, those results may be accepted at the discretion of the BON processing the application.
- The NLC does not specify the acceptable passing English proficiency scores for reading, writing and listening. Rather, it defers to the state.



Article III (c):

4. Has successfully passed an NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® Examination or recognized predecessor, as applicable;

Key Points and Considerations:

- “Recognized predecessor” pertains to the state board test pool exam (SBTPE).
- The Canadian CNAT and CRNE is not acceptable.
- The Puerto Rican exam is not acceptable.



Article III (c):

5. Is eligible for or holds an active, unencumbered license;

Key Points and Considerations:

- An active license in another state is not required for an MSL if the applicant is “eligible” in all other areas. This does not mean that party states cannot require an active license; however, when faced with an applicant who has changed PSOR and whose MSL in the former PSOR expired in recent past, the state may issue the MSL based on the applicant being “eligible” in all areas other than holding an active license. Keep in mind that the former PSOR in this example cannot renew the MSL.
- The applicant cannot be encumbered in any state (compact or noncompact). An encumbrance in any state is a disqualifier to an MSL.



Article III (c):

6. Has submitted, in connection with an application for initial licensure or licensure by endorsement, fingerprints or other biometric data for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records;

Key Points and Considerations:

- The applicant must submit to a new state and federal CBC upon:
 - License by Exam
 - License by Endorsement
 - Upgrade/conversion to MSL application
- Question: What about a CBC before reinstatement or re-issuance of a license after a revocation ? A: This is contingent on the authority in your CBC laws.
- The only exception may be if you have a law or board policy which allows you to use the results of a CBC completed (usually) in the past 6-24 months.



Article III (c):

7. Has not been convicted or found guilty, or has entered into an agreed disposition, of a felony offense under applicable state or federal criminal law;

Key Points and Considerations:

- A felony offense of any type disqualifies the applicant from an MSL unless expunged.
- An agreed disposition related to a felony disqualifies the applicant from an MSL.

Definition: An agreed disposition may involve either a felony or misdemeanor offense and is any outcome in a criminal case between the government and the defendant to a final resolution requiring court approval and execution, the satisfaction of which bars further prosecution. Examples include but are not limited to deferred prosecution, alternative to prosecution, withholding imposition of sentence, staying of a guilty plea, adjudication withheld, nolo contendere.



Article III (c):

8. Has not been convicted or found guilty, or has entered into an agreed disposition, of a misdemeanor offense related to the practice of nursing as determined on a case-by-case basis;

Key Points and Considerations:

- A misdemeanor offense related to the practice of nursing disqualifies the applicant from an MSL unless expunged. Whether or not it is related to nursing practice is at the discretion of the BON.
- An agreed disposition pertaining to a misdemeanor offense related to the practice of nursing disqualifies the applicant from an MSL.

Resource: [NLC Policy 5.1 Misdemeanors Related to the Practice of Nursing](#)



Article III (c):

9. Is not currently enrolled in an alternative program;

Key Points and Considerations:

- An applicant cannot be a current participant in an ATD Program.
- Participation in an ATD program is a disqualifier to an MSL.
- Upon receipt of an application, query Nursys to determine if the ATD Participation indicator (flag) is turned on.



Article III (c):

10. Is subject to self-disclosure requirements regarding current participation in an alternative program; and

Key Points and Considerations:

- All applications must include a self-disclosure question asking, “Are you a current participant in an ATD program in any state?”
- Participation in an ATD program is a disqualifier to an MSL.



Article III (c):

11. Has a valid United States Social Security number.

Key Points and Considerations:

- Infrequently, an applicant may present with an SSN card which indicates that the SSN number is “valid for work authorization purposes only.”
- The NLC does not address such alternate forms of SSNs.
- Whether or not you accept such an SSN card with an MSL application is at the discretion of the BON.

