



Policy 4.1 Eligibility Requirements

The Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN®) establishes eligibility criteria for its examination programs based on (1) a series of variables indicative of knowledge, skills, and abilities required for specialty nursing practice and (2) the characteristics of the specific specialty nursing population, the combination of which is expected to enhance safe, effective practice. Among these variables are education, years of experience, and prerequisite credentials based on data derived from job analysis data. Each variable in the eligibility criteria for BCEN's examination programs is defined by a panel of experts, rated by a separate panel of experts and other stakeholders, and approved by the BCEN Board of Directors (Board). Eligibility criteria for each BCEN certification program are defined on BCEN's website and in the *Candidate Handbook*.

To qualify to sit for any of BCEN's certification examinations or recertify a BCEN credential, a nurse must hold a current, unrestricted Registered Nurse license in either the United States, a US Territory, Canada, or Australia. A nursing certificate that is equivalent to a Registered Nurse in the United States is also acceptable and must be verified through a credential's evaluation organization for nursing professions, such as CGFNS International.

Any active restriction, suspension, probation, or any order arising from a nursing license authority will disqualify a candidate from sitting for a BCEN examination or from recertifying a BCEN credential. During the application process, candidates will attest that they meet the eligibility requirements for the specific BCEN certification examination program. A Candidate who does not meet the stated eligibility requirements will have their application denied and be notified. Candidates may dispute the denial of their application due to eligibility requirements and may appeal the decision according to the procedures in Policy 4.6 – Reviews and Appeals.

Approved: June 2016

Reviewed and Approved: May 2019; Revised: September 2022; November 2024; September 2025; December 2025