

Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission



Options for Practicing as a Nurse

Options and Descriptions:

Timelines:

Practice as a volunteer healthcare provider

(not a license or permit) The [Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioner Act](#) allows individuals already licensed in another state, as long as they are in good standing, to be approved to practice in Washington State. This option allows an individual registered in the emergency volunteer practitioner system to practice in Washington State while the Governor declared emergency proclamation is in effect. To apply, volunteers must [register online](#) with DOH's Volunteer Provider Unit. Questions may be emailed to waserv2@doh.wa.gov.

24–48
hours

Temporary Practice Permits (RNs, LPNs, & ARNPs)

Issued to nurses who have applied for a permanent license in Washington State and have met all licensure requirements, except for the FBI fingerprints. The fingerprint process takes time to complete, which is why a temporary practice permit is issued as soon as requirements are met. **Please Note:** All nurses who have been issued a temporary practice permit are expected to complete their FBI fingerprints as soon as possible to avoid closure of their pending application for their full license. [FBI fingerprint instructions](#) are on the NCOAC licensure webpage. Applicants may not complete the fingerprint process until they have applied with Washington State and have a pending credential number.

2–8
weeks

Washington State License by Interstate Endorsement

Issued to nurses who have applied through the [online application portal](#), have an active license in another U.S. state, and completed all Washington State [endorsement licensure requirements](#), including the FBI fingerprints. A temporary practice permit will automatically be issued by the Nursing Commission after the application has been reviewed (does not need to be requested).

4–10
weeks

Washington State License by Examination

Issued to nurses who have applied through the [online application portal](#), have graduated from an approved nursing education program, and completed all Washington State [examination licensure requirements](#), including passing of the NCLEX.

4+
weeks

Emergency Interim Permit (for new graduates only)

Issued upon request to recent nursing graduates who have applied through the [online application portal](#), have graduated from an approved nursing education program, have sent official transcripts with degree posted to the Nursing Commission, and have registered for the NCLEX through [Pearson Vue](#).

Dependent
on receipt of
requirements

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) License

Issued to nurses who have applied through the [online application portal](#), have an active Washington State RN license, and completed all Washington State [ARNP licensure requirements](#).

4–10
weeks

Nursing Technician Registration

Issued to nursing students preparing for RN licensure who meet the requirements of [RCW 18.79.340](#) and have applied online through the [online application portal](#) (must submit [employment](#) and [education](#) verification forms with the online application).

2–4
weeks