

CGFNS/ICHP Visascreen®: Visa Credentials Assessment Program

The CGFNS/ICHP *VisaScreen*® Assessment is comprised of an educational analysis, licensure validation, English language proficiency assessment, and, for registered nurses only, an exam of nursing knowledge. Once the applicant successfully completes all elements of the *VisaScreen*® Assessment, the applicant receives a CGFNS/ICHP *VisaScreen*® Certificate, which can be presented to a consular office or, in the case of adjustment of status, to the attorney general as part of a visa application.

EDUCATIONAL ANALYSIS

The educational review ensures that the applicant's secondary and professional education meets all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements for the profession that the applicant intends to practice. It also makes sure that the applicant's education is comparable to the education of U.S. graduates in that same field who are applying for licensure.

Registered Nurses must meet all of the educational requirements as a first level, general (Registered) Nurse, CGFNS/ICHP requires evidence that you have:

- successfully completed secondary school education that is separate from your nursing education;
- graduated from government-approved, general nursing program of at least two years in length; and
- received a minimum number of hours of theoretical instruction and hours of clinical practice in each of the following:
 - Nursing Care of the Adult (which includes Medical and Surgical Nursing)
 - Maternal/Infant Nursing (excluding Gynecology)
 - Nursing Care of Children (Pediatrics)
 - Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing (excluding Neurology)

Physical Therapists must include with their application a self-reported, typewritten summary of their supervised clinical experiences to include:

- A Physical Therapist educated outside the United States must have an education comparable to that of a US educated Physical Therapist.

- The program of study for a Physical Therapist educated outside the United States must be recognized by that country's Ministry of Education/Health as an institution approved to grant credentials or degrees/certificates.
- Applicants must meet minimum credit requirements in General Education, Foundation Sciences, Clinical Sciences, and Clinical Education.
- Physical Therapists must include with their application a self-reported, typewritten summary of their supervised clinical experiences to include:
 - dates and number of clock hours of each supervised clinical experience
 - type of facility in which each supervised clinical experience took place
 - overall focus of each supervised clinical experience (e.g. orthopedics, pediatrics, geriatrics, medical-surgical, etc.), and
 - approximate number of patients cared for during supervised clinical experiences, in each of the following age ranges: 0–18, 19–55, 56 and over.

Occupational Therapists must contact their professional school and have them send directly to CGFNS/ICHP the following:

- details of your supervised clinical fieldwork including the name and credentials of the supervisor of your occupational therapy fieldwork, and
- the number of hours/weeks of each experience and the types of clients treated

Clinical Laboratory Scientists (Medical Technologists) and **Clinical Laboratory Technicians** (Medical Technicians) must contact their professional school and have them send directly to CGFNS/ICHP:

- details of your clinical laboratory practice hours in the following areas: clinical chemistry, hematology, hemostasis, urine and body fluid analysis, specimen collection and handling, parasitology, mycology, microbiology, virology, and immunohematology and immunology.

Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists must contact their professional school and have them send directly to CGFNS/ICHP:

- details of your clinical observation and clinical practicum hours for: the evaluation and treatment of speech disorders in both children and adults, and the evaluation and treatment of language disorders in both children and adults

LICENSURE VALIDATION

The licensure review is an evaluation of all licenses that have been issued including initial, current, and past registrations/licenses/certifications held by the applicant. The issuing/validating institution provides validations directly to CGFNS/ICHP to affirm that the applicant has completed all practice requirements and that the registration/licensure has not been suspended or revoked.

REGISTERED NURSES ONLY: AN EXAM OF NURSING KNOWLEDGE

As part of the CGFNS/ICHP *VisaScreen*[®] Assessment, registered nurses applying for an occupational visa must have a passing score on either the CGFNS International Qualifying Examination or on the U.S. registered nurse licensure examination, the NCLEX-RN[®], to provide proof of their nursing knowledge.

FOR AN ELIGIBILITY REVIEW, CGFNS/ICHP MUST RECEIVE:

1. The completed and signed *VisaScreen*[®]: Visa Credentials Assessment Application Form
2. A bank check or international money order (drawn on a U.S. bank in U.S. funds) made payable to ICHP, or credit card payment (Visa, MasterCard or Discover), for the full *VisaScreen*[®] application fee in U.S. dollars within 60 days of the application date. DO NOT SEND CASH.
3. Documentation of your secondary school (high school) education, or external exam certificate, with literal English translations, including a Certificate of Accuracy (if not in English)
4. The completed "Request for Academic Records" form and full academic records/transcripts from each of your professional schools
5. For Occupational Therapists Only: a report on the nature and depth of your occupational therapy fieldwork, including your supervisor's name and credentials, directly from your school
6. For Physical Therapists Only: Self-reported clinical summary of your supervised clinical experience completed during your professional training
7. The completed "Request for Validation of Registration/License" form from each licensing agency where you have ever held a registration/license/certification as a professional in your field; or, in cases where your diploma authorizes legal practice, this same form mailed to ICHP from the institution that issued your diploma
8. For Registered Nurses Only: Documentation verifying successful completion of the NCLEX-RN[®] (or State Board Test Pool Exam) directly from the relevant U.S. Board of Nursing (if applicable) or evidence of passing the CGFNS

Qualifying Exam.

9. Two passport-sized photographs, signed on the front and the back

10. Certified English translation of all documents not in English

Note: CGFNS/ICHP is unable to accept any transcript or licensure documentation sent by email, fax or via the Internet. All official documentation must be in hard copy format with the appropriate seals and sent to CGFNS/ICHP by mail or courier.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

The English language proficiency assessment confirms that the applicant has demonstrated the required competency in oral and written English by submitting passing scores on tests approved by the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. See Passing Score Per Profession chart on next page. Passing English scores are valid for two years.

Applicants educated in countries not designated as being English exempt must take one of the following groups of English examinations:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), Test of Written English (TWE), and the Test of Spoken English (TSE); or
- Test of English as a Foreign Language, internet-based version (TOEFL iBT), measuring all four skills of communication: reading, writing, listening, and speaking; or
- Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC), the TWE, and the TSE; or
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Academic Module for Registered Nurses, Physician Assistants, Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists, and Clinical Laboratory Scientists (Medical Technologists); or general module for Clinical Laboratory Technicians (Medical Technicians) and Licensed Practical or Vocational Nurses
- Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists may take only TOEFL plus TSE and TWE or TOEFL iBT.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) does not allow the combining of scores from different testing services.

For applicants to be exempt from the English proficiency requirement for the *VisaScreen*[®] Assessment, they must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Their entry-level professional education occurred in the United States, Canada (except Quebec), the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia or New Zealand
- The language of instruction was English
- The language of the textbooks was English

Only CGFNS/ICHP *VisaScreen*[®] applicants who meet ALL of the above criteria are exempt from the English proficiency requirement.

SECTION 212(R) CERTIFIED STATEMENT

Section 212(r) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant

Passing Score Per Profession

Healthcare Profession	OPTION 1			OPTION 2			OPTION 3		OPTION 4	
	TOEFL <i>Test of English as a Foreign Language</i>	TWE <i>Test of Written English</i>	TSE <i>Test of Spoken English</i>	TOEIC <i>Test of English for International Communication</i>	TWE <i>Test of Written English</i>	TSE <i>Test of Spoken English</i>	IELTS <i>IELTS, Inc.</i>	IELTS <i>Spoken Band</i>	TOEFL iBT <i>Total</i>	TOEFL iBT <i>Speaking Section</i>
Registered Nurse	207 (540 *)	4.0	50	725	4.0	50	6.5 (Academic)	7.0	83	26
Practical/Vocational Nurse (LPN/LVN)	197 (530)	4.0	50	700	4.0	50	6.0 (General)	7.0	79	26
Physical Therapist	220 (560)	4.5	50						89	26
Occupational Therapist	220 (560)	4.5	50						89	26
Speech Language Pathologist	207 (540)	4.0	50	725	4.0	50	6.5 (Academic)	7.0	83	26
Audiologist	207 (540)	4.0	50	725	4.0	50	6.5 (Academic)	7.0	83	26
Clinical Laboratory Scientist (Medical Technologist)	207 (540)	4.0	50	725	4.0	50	6.5 (Academic)	7.0	83	26
Clinical Laboratory Technician (Medical Technician)	197 (530)	4.0	50	700	4.0	50	6.0 (General)	7.0	79	26
Physician Assistant	207 (540)	4.0	50	725	4.0	50	6.5 (Academic)	7.0	83	26

*Scores in parenthesis refer to the minimum passing score acceptable on the paper based version of the TOEFL examination

Note: English scores are valid only for two years from date of testing. All scores must be valid at the time that the VisaScreen® Certificate is issued.

Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) authorizes CGFNS to issue “Certified Statements” to foreign-educated nurses who meet the following criteria.

1. The registered nurse must have been educated in one of the listed exempt countries: United Kingdom (England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland), Australia, Canada (Quebec approved schools include: McGill University and Dawson College in Montreal, Vanier College in St. Laurent, John Abbott College in Sainte Anne de Bellevue, and Heritage College in Gatineau), South Africa, New Zealand, Ireland, Trinidad/Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados or the United States. To verify the graduation from an approved school of nursing, CGFNS/ICHP will require that the school send a verification of graduation stating that the language of instruction and the textbooks was in English. The verification of graduation must carry the official school seal and signatures. CGFNS/ICHP does not require a full transcript or a Nursing Education Form.
2. The registered nurse must have passed NCLEX®. The applicant must also be currently licensed to practice in one of five states: Florida, Georgia, New York, Illinois and Michigan. CGFNS/ICHP must receive a license validation form from one of those states.
3. The nursing school must be one of those approved by CGFNS and must be on the list that CGFNS established in

1999 after its review of the education in the above countries. Any school founded after November 1999 must be reviewed and approved by CGFNS.

VISASCREEN® STREAMLINE PROCESS

IIRIRA also authorizes CGFNS to perform a streamline process for applicants born outside of the U.S. who received their entry level professional education in the U.S. This healthcare worker is exempt from the educational comparability review and English language proficiency examination. CGFNS/ICHP will require that the school send a verification of graduation with the official school seal and signatures affixed. Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists qualify if their U.S. education program was accredited by the following:

- Nurses: A nurse who has graduated from an entry-level program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or an internationally educated nurse who then completes an Associate Degree (AD), BSN, or combined BS/MS from an accredited U.S. nursing program. The verification of graduation must carry the official school seal and signatures.

- Occupational Therapists: An Occupational Therapist who has graduated from a program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association.
- Physical Therapists: A Physical Therapist who has graduated from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association.
- Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists: A Speech Language Pathologist or Audiologist who has graduated from a program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

VISASCREEN® RE-PROCESS AN EXPIRED INITIAL ORDER

(For service that has not resulted in the issuing of a *VisaScreen*® Certificate within 12 months of initial application date due to program requirements not being met)

1. The completed and signed *VisaScreen*®: Visa Credentials Assessment Re-Process an Expired Initial Order Application Form
2. A bank check or international money order (drawn on a U.S. bank in U.S. funds) made payable to ICHP, or credit card payment (Visa, MasterCard or Discover), for the full second year re-application fee in U.S. dollars within 60 days of the second-year re-applicant application date. DO NOT SEND CASH.

VISASCREEN® RENEWAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

(*VisaScreen*® Certificates are valid for five years from date of issue. Unless the applicant has obtained a permanent visa or has become a U.S. citizen, the *VisaScreen*® Certificate holder must re-apply to CGFNS/ICHP and obtain a new certificate prior to the expiration date of the *VisaScreen*® Certificate. Applicants should begin the renewal process six months before the expiration of their current *VisaScreen*® certificate)

1. The completed and signed *VisaScreen*®: Visa Credentials Assessment Renewal Form
2. A bank check or international money order (drawn on a U.S. bank in U.S. funds) made payable to ICHP, or credit card payment (Visa, MasterCard or Discover), for the full *VisaScreen*® renewal application fee in U.S. dollars within 60 days of the application date. DO NOT SEND CASH.
3. The completed "Request for Validation of Registration/License" form from each licensing agency where you have ever held a registration/license/certification as a professional in your field; or, in cases where your diploma authorizes legal practice, this same form mailed to ICHP from the institution that issued your diploma. If you hold a lifetime license or certificate to practice, you still must have a validation completed to document that there have no suspensions, revocations or restrictions on your practice since the initial validation was received by CGFNS/ICHP. Note: Some licensing/registration authorities may charge a fee for verifying your license(s)/registration(s). You are responsible for any additional fees associated with processing your *VisaScreen*® application.
4. Proof of English proficiency through examination (Passing English scores are valid for two years)
5. For Registered Nurses Only: Documentation verifying successful completion of the NCLEX-RN® (or State Board Test Pool Exam) directly from the relevant U.S. Board of Nursing (if applicable) or evidence of passing the CGFNS Qualifying Exam.
6. Certified English translation of all documents not in English

Note: CGFNS/ICHP is unable to accept any transcript or licensure documentation sent by email, fax or via the Internet. All official documentation must be in hard copy format with the appropriate seals and sent to CGFNS/ICHP by mail or courier.