

Tennessee Board of Nursing School Approval Information

Currently, the Tennessee Board of Nursing is accepting applications for all nursing programs, including pre and post licensure, seeking approval. Tennessee statute relative to schools, Tennessee Code Annotated §63-7-117 reads that an institution desiring to conduct a school of professional nursing or a school of practical nursing on ground, distance, online or via other electronic means must apply to the board for approval.

The Board's authority to approve schools of nursing is found in Tennessee Code Annotated § 63-7-117 and 118 and Administrative Rules 1000-01-.05 & 1000-02-.05. To access the Statutes and Rules, go to <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/nursing-board/nursing-board/statutes-and-rules.html>, click on "Click here" under Statutes to review the Tennessee Code Annotated and click on "Click here" under Rules to review the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

Board approval of a school of nursing is a two-step process.

- The first step involves approval of a letter of intention to establish a nursing program.
- After the Board grants approval of the letter of intention to establish a nursing program, the second step is submission of an application for initial approval of a nursing program.
- Information for submitting a letter of intent and submitting the application for initial approval of a nursing program can be found at the following link:
<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/nursing-board/nursing-board/educational-programs.html>.

As noted in the guidelines for a letter of intention, a survey of the institution or institutions and agencies with which the school is to be affiliated shall be conducted prior to the institution appearing before the Board for approval. The letter of intention and all supporting documents must be submitted electronically to Board Staff a minimum of 90 days prior to the scheduled Board meeting.

Once the letter of intention and all supporting documents are received, Board Staff will contact the institution to schedule the survey. Once the survey has been completed, Board Staff will confirm the request to be placed on the Board of Nursing agenda. After confirmation has been received, Board Staff will send instructions for mailing the documents to the Board Members.

The Board of Nursing meetings are scheduled quarterly typically in February, May, August, and November.

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