

PORTER AND CHESTER INSTITUTE Practical Nursing Program

Practical Nursing Licensure Considerations

Connecticut Public Act 86-365:

Graduates of the Practical Nursing Program that apply for licensure with the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health:

Provision of Public Act 86-365 authorizes the Department of Public Health to deny licensure to applicants who may be addicted to drugs or alcohol, have been disciplined in other states or who have been convicted of a felony. Candidates for licensure in Connecticut will be asked questions pertaining to these matters during the licensure application process.

Above and beyond drug abuse, applicants could be denied licensure for engaging in acts that would not conform to accepted practice if such applicant were licensed. For example, negligent/incompetent practice, illegal conduct, fraud practice, or engaging in, aiding or abetting the unlicensed practice of a regulated profession.

A license also may be denied if the applicant has a condition, which would interfere with the practice of the profession, including but not limited to, physical illness or loss of skill or deterioration due to the aging process, emotional disorder or mental illness, substance abuse drug related or substance abuse alcohol related.

Graduates who intend to take the NCLEX-PN and apply for licensure in a state other than Connecticut bear the responsibility of researching any similar regulations in their intended state of practice. The Practical Nursing program meets the educational requirements of Connecticut and Massachusetts for graduates to be eligible to sit for the NCLEX-PN and apply for licensure. We have not made a determination about licensing requirements in any other state.

In a related context, many clinical sites will refuse to accept students with misdemeanor charges, in addition to felonies. Students must notify the PN supervisor if they are arrested for, or convicted of, charges that would preclude them from attendance at clinical sites. Students who are denied access by a clinical site because of pending charges, convictions, or other behavior must withdraw from the program. They can apply for readmission once their legal issues are resolved.

By electronically signing the acknowledgment form, I certify that I have read and understood Public Act 86-365 and I understand that my criminal, medical or professional history may prevent me from receiving approval to sit for the NCLEX-PN (licensing exam) or cause my application for licensure to be denied. I understand that I will be required to withdraw from the program, if I am denied access to clinical sites because of charges, convictions, or other unacceptable behavior.