

State Authorization and Professional Licensure Programs

Last updated: November 7, 2023

The University of Tennessee Southern (UTS) is a member of NC-SARA (National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements) which allows UTS to provide distance learning programs and coursework to residents of states other than Tennessee. NC-SARA provides national leadership over the reciprocity agreements regulation among U.S. member states. In collaboration with four regional compacts and a broad array of higher education stakeholders, NC-SARA helps ensure alignment on core elements and requirements of SARA, supports quality assurance and consumer protections for students, and increases the value of credits earned through education programs.

NC-SARA membership, however, does not grant reciprocity or exempt students from state professional licensing requirements. Each state/territory defines its own requirements for licensing and certification in professional fields. As a result, licensing requirements in Tennessee may not be recognized as sufficient to obtain a license in another state.

Before enrolling in a program intended to satisfy a state's educational requirements for the practice of a particular occupation, students should investigate whether that the program meets the requirements of the state in which he or she intends to practice. To assist students with this research, NC-SARA has created and maintains a [Professional Licensure Directory](#) which provides contact information for the 50 United States in the following programs that lead to professional license. While not a comprehensive list, it is intended to provide a starting place for searching and verifying licensure requirements.

The following provides an overview of the licensure programs offered at UTS, the accrediting agencies and professional agencies associated with each, the license/certification examinations required, and state requirements and reciprocity, if known.

Please note that the information provided does not guarantee that a state's licensure or certification officials will approve or deny a candidate's application. These disclosures do not take into consideration changes in state law or regulations that may impact a candidate's application for licensure that occur after this disclosure has been made. If you are considering a program that leads to licensure or certification it is strongly recommended that you contact the State's licensure office or professional agency to review all requirements imposed by the chosen state.

You should also contact the program director who oversees the academic program you are interested in for additional information about licensure and certification requirements.

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Education

Contact Information for Teacher Licensure Program:

Janet C. Hanvy, Ed.D.

Director of Teacher Education, Grissom School of Education

jhanvy@utsouthern.edu

(931) 363-9852

Accreditation Agency: State of Tennessee Department of Education

Certification Exam: [Praxis Exams](#)

Professional Licensure by State: Graduates are qualified to apply for licensure in Tennessee. Graduates are also qualified for licensure in many, but not necessarily all, other states and territories. Teaching licensure reciprocity is complicated and states often have additional requirements that must be fulfilled at the time of licensure or within the license renewal cycle when moving to a new state.

For additional information about the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification's licensure reciprocity/interstate agreement, visit <https://www.nasdtc.net/page/Interstate> and review the [Information for Out of State Applicants](#).

At this time, it has not been determined if the educational requirements for the following teaching licensure programs will meet requirements in any state other than Tennessee:

- BS in Biology, 6-12 Licensure Concentration
- BS in Elementary Education, K-5 Licensure Concentration
- BS in English, 6-12 Licensure Concentration
- BS in History, 6-12 Licensure Concentration
- BS in Human Performance and Physical Education, K-12 Licensure Concentration
- BS in Mathematics, 6-10/6-12 Licensure Concentration
- BS in Special Education, K-8 Interventionist Concentration
- BS in Special Education, 6-12 Interventionist Licensure Area

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Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Contact Information for BSN Program:

Michelle Decker, D.N.P., R.N.
Chair, Travis School of Nursing & Health Sciences
mdecke10@utsouthern.edu
(931) 424-2019

Accreditation Agency: Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

Certification Exam: National Council Licensure Examination ([NCLEX](#)).

Professional Licensure by State: Graduates of the program are prepared to sit for the registered nurse licensure exam. Under the [Nurse Licensure Compact \(NLC\)](#), qualified nurses can apply for a multistate license, which allows for practice in other compact states without having to obtain additional licenses. This [map](#) illustrates current NLC status.

For states which are not members of the NLC, UT Southern has not determined whether its BSN curriculum will meet the licensure requirements in that state. Students interested in the Nursing licensure requirements for other states should reach out to the appropriate Nursing Regulatory Body (NRB). Contact information for each state's NRB is available [here](#).