20:48:03.01:01. Approved education programs. An applicant for licensure as a clinical nurse specialist shall file with the board a written application that contains evidence that the applicant has completed a graduate program in nursing that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of Education. The education program must specifically prepare the nurse to function in the clinical nurse specialist role and include a clinical practicum that provides for integration of the functions of the clinical nurse specialist referred to in SDCL subdivision 36-9-87(1). Each applicant for licensure as a clinical nurse specialist who does not hold a registered nurse license in this state must submit a set of fingerprints on a standard card provided by the board for the purpose of obtaining a state and federal criminal background check through the Division of Criminal Investigation. An authorization and release form must be signed by the applicant authorizing the release of the criminal history record to the board. The fingerprint card, authorization and release form, and fee for the criminal background check must accompany the application for licensure.

Any person whose education does not meet the requirements of this section before November 1, 1996, must show evidence of a graduate degree in nursing with a clinical component and evidence of clinical practice of at least 520 hours in a 12-month period or an accumulation of at least 1,040 hours during the 3-year period preceding licensure.

Source: 22 SDR 61, effective November 7, 1995; 26 SDR 174, effective July 4, 2000; 33 SDR 43, effective September 12, 2006.

General Authority: SDCL 36-9-21(1), 36-9-86. **Law Implemented:** SDCL 36-9-86, 36-9-97.

