**20:48:03.01:01.  Application for licensure.** An applicant for licensure as a clinical nurse specialist shall file with the board a written application that contains:

(1)  Evidence that the applicant has completed an advanced practice program in nursing that awards or confers a graduate degree, post-graduate degree, or post-graduate certificate, with a major in the role and population-focus area of clinical nurse specialist, and is accredited by a nationally recognized nursing accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of Education. An applicant who does not meet the requirement but holds an active, unencumbered license as a clinical nurse specialist in another state, may request review of educational qualifications to meet licensure qualifications in this state;

(2)  Evidence that the applicant has passed a board-approved, nationally recognized certification examination that is specific to the applicant’s advanced practice registered nurse role and educational preparation, and maintains current certification;

(3)  Evidence that the applicant holds an unencumbered South Dakota registered nurse license or privilege to practice; and

(4)  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. A permanent license may not be issued until the criminal background check is complete.

The application must be accompanied by the fee required in § 20:48:06:01.

**Source:** 22 SDR 61, effective November 7, 1995; 26 SDR 174, effective July 4, 2000; 33 SDR 43, effective September 12, 2006; 41 SDR 12, effective July 31, 2014; 48 SDR 40, effective October 5, 2021.

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

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 36-9-29, 36-9-86, 36-9-97.