

SCHOOL NURSE CERTIFICATION COURSES

Registered Nurses in Arizona are able to receive certification as school nurses under R4-19-308. Specific course work is required to renew the initial certification in the areas of school nurse practice, physical assessment of the school age child, and nursing care of the child with developmental disabilities. University of Phoenix has consistently offered these courses to school nurses. Other colleges and universities may offer the courses according to demand.

Registered nurses who do not have a BSN need coursework in community health theory and management theory on the next renewal. These courses may be obtained at community colleges and universities throughout Arizona. There are additional continuing education requirements for school nurse certification as specified in the rules below:

R4-19-308 School Nurse Certification Requirements

C. Educational requirements.

1. Upon application for the first renewal of certification, a professional nurse shall provide proof of completion of all of the following educational requirements:
 - a. Three semester hours in school nurse practice course work,
 - b. Three semester hours in physical assessment of the school-aged child course work, and
 - c. Three semester hours in nursing care of the child with developmental disabilities.
2. Upon application for second renewal of certification, a professional nurse shall provide proof of one of the following:
 - a. A bachelor of science degree in nursing, or
 - b. Completion of the following educational requirements:
 - i. Three semester hours in community health theory;
 - ii. Three semester hours in management theory; and
 - iii. Either three semester hours of upper division or graduate credit in nursing or health-related subjects from a regionally-accredited institution, as defined in R4-19-101(23), or 45 hours of continuing education related to nursing practice.
3. Before all subsequent applications for renewal of certification, a professional nurse shall provide proof of completion of one of the following educational requirements:
 - a. Six semester hours of upper division or graduate credit in nursing or health related subjects from a regionally accredited institution, as defined in R4-19-101(23); or
 - b. Ninety contact hours of continuing education related to nursing practice.
4. Notwithstanding subsections (B)(3) and (C)(1), a professional nurse who is or has been certified as a school nurse by the Department of Education, is applying for initial certification, first renewal of certification, or subsequent renewal of certification by the Board as a school nurse, and:
 - a. Has completed the educational requirements in (C)(1), shall provide proof of completion of the educational requirements in (C)(2); or
 - b. Has completed the educational requirements in (C)(2), shall provide proof of completion of the educational requirements of (C)(3).