Health Care Positions

Some health care positions have additional requirements. To practice medicine or to undergo clinical medical residency or fellowship training in the U.S. in H-1B status, foreign medical graduates must meet the following requirements:

- Passed the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) steps 1, 2 and 3. (NOTE: *FLEX Parts I and II or National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Parts I, II and III may be substituted.)
- Demonstrated English language proficiency. (NOTE: Showing an Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates [ECFMG] certificate meets this requirement.)
- Have a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a foreign country or have graduated from a medical school in a foreign country. For H-1B purposes, graduates of Canadian medical schools are considered foreign medical graduates (although they are exempt from the English proficiency requirement). Foreign-born graduates of U.S. medical institutions are not considered foreign medical graduates.
- Have a Michigan medical license.
- Physicians of national or international renown may be exempted from the licensing examination and English proficiency requirements if the national or international reputation of the physician is thoroughly documented.
- Alien physicians may teach and conduct research in H-1B status without meeting the licensing exam and English requirements if no patient care is performed, or if it is incidental to the physician's teaching or research.

Nurses generally do **not** qualify for H-1B status, because a bachelor’s degree is not normally required for most nursing positions. Nursing supervisors or other specialized nurses may qualify for H-1B status if the position requires a minimum of a Bachelor's degree and the candidate possesses the required degree. In addition, nurses must have a state license and the required certificate from Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) to hold H-1B status.

Nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, medical technicians/technologists, speech/language pathologists, audiologists, and physician assistants must obtain a certificate from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) or an equivalent independent credentialing organization before they are eligible for H-1B status. For more information, please see the CGFNS [Visa Credential Screening site](https://cgnfs.org/credential-screening) [1].

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Links