State Professional / Occupational License Requirements for Immigrants

Important Disclaimers:

- This information is based on outreach to each state's specific licensing boards from April to July 2023. To get up to date information on licensure application requirements, you should verify this information with the appropriate licensing board in your state.
- This information does not constitute legal advice. Consult with an attorney for legal advice.
- If you qualify for professional licensure (refer to your state chart) and you do not have work authorization, you cannot work as an employee. You may be able to use your license as an independent contractor or business owner.
- Federal law prohibits states from issuing professional licenses to immigrants who are not lawfully present in the U.S. unless the state passes a law expressly providing eligibility for professional licensure. You can check the law for your state at this link: https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/states

Licensure Checklist

Before you rely on the information below, take these steps:

1. Contact the state licensing board and ask for the latest guidance on whether you will need lawful status, a social security number (SSN), or an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) to:
   a. Obtain a license;
   b. Complete required clinical hours; or
   c. Complete a background/fingerprint check. *(Note, the Board may direct you to a separate agency or third-party vendor for this information).*
2. If you do not have an SSN or an ITIN, you can find out how to get an ITIN on TheDream.US website: thedream.us/itin

Last updated July 16, 2023

New York

THEDREAM.US

IMMIGRANT FINANCE

New York Professional License Requirements

Professional License	Available with SSN & Lawful Presence*	Available with ITIN	Available without SSN *or* ITIN
Nurse	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Physician's Assistant	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Counselor	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Psychologist	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Medical/Clinical Lab Technician	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dentist / Hygienist	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Educator	Yes	Yes, with a valid passport	Yes, with a valid passport
Attorney	Yes**	Yes**	Yes**
Accountant	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Social Worker	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Professional Engineer	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

**For purposes of this guide, lawful presence is defined under 8 CFR § 1.3, which includes DACA and TPS holders.*

***A valid government-issued photo identification is needed for the exam.*