

List Serve State Survey Regarding BSN Requirement – January 2009

A survey was recently done via the ASTDN listserv regarding if states required a BSN to practice as a public health nurse. Some people replied briefly to the question indicating simply “yes’ or “no” while others supplied more information. The e-mail messages indicated that few states actually require a BSN most states prefer a baccalaureate degree for state positions but usually experience or degree in another field can substitute for BSN. Some states actually require a BSN for “public health nurse” positions but not all nurses working in public health have this title. The results of the survey follow:

<u>Alabama</u>	No
<u>Alaska</u>	Not for PHN I or II positions but working on requiring for PHN III positions
Arizona	No
Arkansas	No
California	Must have PHN certificate-which can be obtained with Bachelors degree in another field with PHN coursework. However nurses may work in “public heath clinic settings” without BSN.
Colorado	No
Connecticut	No
Delaware	Yes
District of Columbia	N/a
Florida	No
Georgia	No
Hawaii	N/a
Idaho	No
Illinois	No
Indiana	No
Iowa	No

Kansas	No
Kentucky	na
Louisiana	No
Maine	No
Maryland	State positions require BSN but can substitute Bachelors in another field or experience
Massachusetts	No
Michigan	No
Minnesota	Yes - Also must be registered with Board of Nursing as a public health nurse
Mississippi	No
Missouri	No
Montana	No
Nebraska	No
Nevada	No
New Hampshire	No
New Jersey	No
New Mexico	No
New York	BSN required for PHN title, however all nurses do not have title of PHN. Requirement is in Public Health Law
North Carolina	Yes – required in state code but if do not have a BSN must take course provided by state within one year of employment
North Dakota	No
Ohio	No

Oklahoma	No
Oregon	No
Pennsylvania	No
Rhode Island	No
South Carolina	Yes-state requirement
South Dakota	No
Tennessee	No
Texas	No
Utah	No
Vermont	Need bachelor degree but may be in a related field
Virginia	No
Washington	No
West Virginia	n/a
Wisconsin	Yes
Wyoming	No