

CES reports will now be available electronically

In order to provide applicants quick and reliable access to their CES reports, beginning 2 February 2010 CES reports can be viewed and downloaded at CGFNS Connect.

When a CES report is issued, applicants can go to www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp, click on the "Order Status" link under "Applicant Options" to the left, select their order, click the "View CES Applicant Report" button and they will be able to view and print the report. **This report will be available for one year only.**

BREAKING NEWS

Applicants who were issued a report before 2 February will **not** be able to view or download them electronically. Applicants who are issued a report between 2 February and 1 March will both receive a paper copy of the report and also be able to view and download their report online. **After 1 March 2010 only online access to the report will be available.**

However, a paper report can be ordered through CGFNS Connect at www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/login.jsp, by clicking on

the "Place Order" link under "Applicant Options" to the left. On that screen, click the "Begin Selection Process" button at the bottom right. On the screen that appears, click the radio button next to "Additional CGFNS services" and then click the "Next" button at the bottom right. On this screen "Additional CGFNS Services — Issue Duplicate Credentials Evaluation Service Report to Applicant" is shown with the associated fee. Select this service to place your order.

ESTA goes compulsory from 20 January 2010



Beginning 20 January 2010 it is mandatory for all air passengers travelling to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to apply for an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) 72 hours prior to departure.

This online form will eventually replace the green visa waiver form (I94W) which is currently completed while enroute to the United States. The ESTA form has been accessible since August 2008 when it was recommended that passengers apply for it on a voluntary basis to familiarize themselves with the system — however, commencing 20 January, this will be mandatory and must be completed by all passengers intending to travel under the Visa Waiver Program.

Passengers should visit the Web site: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> and fill in the required information. In most cases a response will be received within seconds whether travel to the United States has been authorised. If the application is not authorised then a visa may be requested through a U.S. Embassy. In some instances customers will need to wait up to 72 hours for authorization.

ESTAs are in addition to the requirement for all air passengers to submit Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) data. US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has a comprehensive list of frequently asked questions regarding ESTA available on its website: www.cbp.gov.

CGFNS updates the VisaScreen® Expedited Review Service

CGFNS International has updated its Expedited Review Service for VisaScreen® to include applicants who have an offer for employment, in addition to those who have a Request for Evidence or a deportation deadline regarding their U.S. visa application.

VisaScreen® applicants are eligible for this Expedited Review Service only if:

- they have met the criteria of Section 343 of the Illegal Immigration Reform Immigrant Responsibility Act
- we have received all required documents and
- we have received a copy of their Request for Evidence, deportation deadline or offer for employment accompanied by a completed CGFNS Expedited Review Service form

To apply for the Expedited Review Service, eligible VisaScreen® applicants will need to call CGFNS Customer Service between the hours of 8am and Noon, U.S. Eastern Time, to receive instructions. We will need the items requested above with an online credit card payment of \$500. CGFNS will then perform the necessary review within five business days and, if all requirements have been successfully met, issue a VisaScreen® certificate via UPS next day air. Applicants who are ineligible for a VisaScreen® certificate based on the review will be notified. Fees for the Expedited Review Service are not refundable.

Haiti's and Chile's current natural disasters

CGFNS offers its condolences to all those affected by the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. Applicants from the affected areas will be granted deadline extensions in accordance with our procedures for such circumstances. CGFNS has developed processes to assist in the documentation of an applicant's education and licensure and also to ensure the integrity of its evaluation services when a country's infrastructure and abilities have been compromised by natural disasters or conflicts.

CGFNS reauthorized to certify health care workers

CGFNS International and its division, the International Commission on Healthcare Professions (ICHP), were reauthorized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to continue certifying health care workers born outside the United States in seven occupations covered under section 212(a)(5)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). The approval is valid for five years beginning November 19, 2009, and comprises a visa credentials assessment certification for registered and licensed vocational nurses, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, audiologists, medical technologists, medical technicians, occupational therapists and physicians assistants seeking employment in the United States. This certification process was established by Congress in 1996 and is required for all non-citizens in those occupations.

“No other organization in this country is authorized to certify health care professionals from all seven occupations”

CGFNS was notified of the reauthorization on November 9, 2009. CGFNS was initially granted a five-year authorization in November 2004 as a certifying organization by the Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services. Prior to that, CGFNS operated under the authority of interim rules previously issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service’s Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

“CGFNS is pleased with the U.S. Government’s five-year reauthorization to allow us to continue providing a certification

service for health care workers seeking U.S. employment. Its recognition of our more than 30 years’ experience certifying the credentials of health care workers born outside the United States is gratifying. No other organization in this country is authorized to certify health care professionals from all seven occupations,” said Barbara L. Nichols, Chief Executive Officer of CGFNS International. “In the past 12 years, we have issued 90,000 International Commission on Healthcare Professions *VisaScreen*® certificates to foreign-born health care professionals seeking to work in the United States.”

The International Commission on Healthcare Professions *VisaScreen*® certificate is issued after a complete evaluation of a professional’s credentials to verify that they meet the minimum statutory requirements. The International Commission on Healthcare Professions administers this screening process. The certificate must be presented to:

- a U.S. Embassy or Consulate for visa approval
- a border agent to have Trade NAFTA (TN) status granted
- or USCIS to change or adjust immigration status.

The *VisaScreen*® program is comprised of

- a credentials review of the applicant’s education and the licenses/certification/registration that he/she has held
- for registered nurses, successful completion of either the CGFNS Qualifying Exam or the NCLEX-RN®
- successful completion of designated English language proficiency exams.

The *VisaScreen*® certificate is valid for five years and must be renewed if the person has not been awarded permanent status.

CGFNS 2010 Qualifying Exam® schedule

A component of the Certification Program, the CGFNS Qualifying Exam® tests your nursing knowledge/understanding compared to how it is taught and practiced in the United States. The exam uses objective, multiple-choice and alternate item type questions designed by subject matter experts to help predict your likelihood of passing the NCLEX-RN® (National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses) examination.

The instructions of your Certification Program application form asks you to select two different exam dates and a location.

Go to the **Test center locations and numbers** on the CGFNS Web site at www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/cp/qecenters.shtml and select one or two locations for your test and enter the city’s corresponding number on your application.

Then go to the **CGFNS Qualifying Exam® dates** page at www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/cp/qedates.shtml and select two dates for your test and enter the dates on your application.

Choose your exam date and location thoughtfully. Your application fee will be forfeited if you miss the exam and had not requested a change of date or location 10 weeks prior to that exam date. If you miss the exam, you will have to pay to reschedule the exam at a later date.

When you become eligible for the exam, we will try our best to schedule you for your first choice. An exam may be cancelled at a particular center if there are too few applicants rostered, a natural disaster or other adverse conditions. If your first choice is not available, you will be scheduled for your second choice.

Examination date	Deadline for new applications*	Deadline for reapplications*	Deadline to change location/test date
10 March 2010	extended to 27 January 2010	extended to 17 February 2010	30 December 2009
10 November 2010	18 August 2010	15 September 2010	1 September 2010

*Application deadlines are firm unless extended by CGFNS. See our Web site at <http://www.cgfns.org/sections/programs/cp/cp-qe.shtml>

CGFNS publishes two books for health care professionals

These books are dedicated to all foreign-educated health care professionals whose wisdom, courage and caring spirit give voice and meaning to health care delivery worldwide.

Based on over 30 years of experience in providing credentials evaluation and verification services pertaining to the education, registration and licensure of health care professionals worldwide, CGFNS International recently teamed with Springer Publishing Company to publish two resource books for foreign-educated health care professionals wishing to practice in the United States. CGFNS International CEO Barbara L. Nichols, DHL, MS, RN, FAAN, and CGFNS International Director of Global Research and Test Administration Catherine R. Davis, PhD, RN, were the editors for the books.

These books were developed and written by leading health care professionals in the United States and are a must read for every nurse and allied health care professional who is contemplating practicing in the United States. Topics addressed include the challenges foreign-education health care professionals face in pursuing their dreams to practice in the United States ranging from leaving their home countries to obtaining a U.S. work visa, attaining licensure and employment, understanding and communicating within the U.S. health care system and adjusting to a new life.

The Official Guide for Foreign-Educated Nurses: What You Need to Know About Nursing and Health Care in the United States and *The Official Guide for Foreign-Educated Allied Health Professionals: What You Need to Know About Health Care and the Allied Health Professions in the United States* both provide invaluable insight about providing safe, competent health care in the United States. Both books are now available for purchase and can be ordered online from Springer Publishing.

- Nurses: www.springerpub.com/cgfns-nurses (\$35 USD)
- Allied health professionals: www.springerpub.com/cgfns-allied (\$40 USD)

VisaScreen® renewal

VisaScreen® certificate holders who have not obtained a permanent U.S. visa are required to renew their certificates within five years of the issue date. *VisaScreen®* renewal certificate applicants should begin the process six months before their current certificate expires. The renewal fee is \$275 USD. The renewal application is available for download at www.cgfns.org/files/pdf/apps/VisaScreenReApp.pdf or applicants may apply online through [CGFNS Connect](#).

CGFNS increases prices on its services

CGFNS International announced on 21 December 2009 a new pricing structure for core services and several ancillary services.

Applications for the Certification Program, the Credentials Evaluation Service, the *VisaScreen®*: Visa Credentials Assessment program, the Credential Verification Service for New York State and ancillary services received on or after 1 January 2010 will be charged according to the new fee schedule.

The updated 2010 fees can be found at www.cgfns.org/sections/apply/fees.shtml



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<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/pages/CGFNS-International/23155560578?ref=ts>



CGFNS RSS news feed

<http://www.cgfns.org> and click "News Feed" at the top of our home page

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CGFNS Web site	http://www.cgfns.org
CGFNS Connect	https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/intro.jsp
Apply/Check Status	https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/intro.jsp
Email	https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/processContactUs.do

*check sidebar on <https://www.cgfns.org/cerpassweb/processContactUs.do> for times

Helpful Web sites

English proficiency examination providers
www.ets.org www.ielts.org
 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis

*Click here for the pdf
 "CGFNS services needed by nurses
 educated outside the United States for
 licensure by U.S. State Boards of Nursing"*