NCLEX
We strongly encourage you to take the NCLEX before you start work as a nurse resident at Vanderbilt. Contact us at galyn.martin@vanderbilt.edu if you have questions about this. A lack of licensure will greatly impact the progression of your orientation. Until you are licensed, you cannot perform any tasks that require licensure (medication administration, etc.). If you are not able to take your NCLEX before the Nurse Residency start date, you must talk with the Residency Program leader for your track to explain your status and plan to become licensed. The rules vary for compact states and non-compact states. For a list of compact and non-compact states, visit the National Council of State Boards of Nursing website or click here.

COMPACT STATES
✓ If you live in a compact state, you should take the NCLEX in your home state. However, you will need to plan for Licensure by Endorsement at a later date. Please read the information on endorsement below.

NON-COMPACT STATES
✓ If you live in a non-compact state, you should apply to take the NCLEX for Tennessee (which you can take in your state). This will save you time and money and simplify the process for you.

Schedule your NCLEX as soon as you have received your Authorization to Test (ATT). Try to schedule it at least 2 weeks before your start date.
TN LICENSURE
The rules vary for compact states and non-compact states. For detailed information about multistate licensure, as well as a list of compact and non-compact states, visit the National Council of State Boards of Nursing website or click here.

If you live in a:

✓ **Non-compact state:** Your license is not valid in Tennessee and you need to request *Licensure by Endorsement*. Please do so soon because the process takes 4-6 weeks. (*Call the TN Board of Nursing for details:* 1-800-778-4123)

This is where taking the NCLEX for Tennessee works to your advantage.

✓ **Compact State:** If you already have a valid, multistate license, you may practice in Tennessee on the multistate privilege to practice. However, if you do something to change your official residency from your compact state to Tennessee (see below), you have 30 days to get a TN permit or license.

WHO NEEDS ENDORSEMENT?
✓ All nurse residents who are licensed in a **non-compact** state, or
✓ All nurse residents who are **licensed in a compact state and who have declared Tennessee as their primary state of residence**. (This is done by applying for a TN driver’s license or voter’s registration card, or filing federal income taxes in Tennessee).

WHAT MAKES YOU A TENNESSEE RESIDENT?
You become a Tennessee resident if you do any of the following:
✓ Apply for a Tennessee Driver’s License, **OR**
✓ Apply for a voter’s registration card (remember, this is an election year) **OR**
✓ File federal income tax in Tennessee.

Once you do any of the above, you have changed your primary state of residence to Tennessee, and you have 30 days to get either a TN permit or license. Keep in mind that it can take 4-6 weeks to get licensure by endorsement, so if you do declare yourself a TN resident, you must start the endorsement process immediately.