

Additional Licensure Guidelines for International Students

As you begin to think about applying for licensure through the state of Virginia, please be aware of the following two guidelines:

1. Social Security Number

The state of Virginia will not issue an initial license without a social security number. Here is the official policy from the state, which can be found in [VDOE's Application for a Virginia License](#):

NOTICE: In accordance with § 63.2-1937 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Virginia Department of Education requires applicants for teacher licensure in Virginia to provide their Social Security numbers. Additionally, Virginia uses applicants' Social Security numbers to check the clearinghouse maintained by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) for license revocation, cancellation, suspension, denial, and reinstatement in other states. Virginia also reports information to the clearinghouse as needed. The Virginia Department of Education will not release your Social Security number except to the NASDTEC clearinghouse to report cases of license revocation, cancellation, suspension, denial, and reinstatement as noted above. Please note that if you do not provide your Social Security Number, your application will not be processed and no Virginia teaching license will be issued.

2. Graduates of Foreign Institutions of Higher Learning

If you attended a university or earned a degree outside of the United States and are applying for licensure in Virginia, you will need to obtain an evaluation of your credentials from an outside agency. Here is the official policy, including a link to recommended agencies:

Individuals who are seeking an educator license and who attended a college/university or earned a degree outside of the United States need to obtain an evaluation of their credentials conducted by one of the following agencies listed on the [graduates of foreign institutes'](#) document. (If an individual took only coursework – not completed a degree – outside of the United States and it was transferred on an official transcript from a regionally accredited college or university listing the course titles and semester- or quarter-hour credits earned, the official transcript from the U.S. regionally accredited college or university is acceptable to document the courses.) **To document degrees**, the evaluation **must** include a statement regarding the equivalency of the program of study to a degree (such as baccalaureate degree or master's degree) granted from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States. **The evaluation also must include a listing of the courses completed and the semester-hour equivalent for each course.** The evaluation may be accepted in lieu of an official transcript from the institution of higher education outside of the United States.