



Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNRR)

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Preparing Your Nursing Students for a Successful NCLEX Examination Experience

PURPOSE: This document is provided to the nurse educator as a tool to help her/his students prepare for a successful NCLEX experience by alleviating anxiety and providing a sense of comfort and confidence with NCLEX content and structure.

NCLEX Content

- Schedule open discussions with students to:
 - Illustrate the consistency of content between education content, the Canadian entry-to-practice competencies and the NCLEX. Present the NCLEX detailed test plan and practice analysis to facilitate the discussion.
- Show several sample NCLEX questions, taken from the detailed test plan, to the students.
 - Compare these questions to questions with similar content from your classroom examinations
 - Illustrate that the NCLEX includes elements of both the art and science of nursing.
 - Schedule time during the final quarter of the program to refresh the critical elements of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, etc.
- Perform a “crosswalk” of your curriculum, the Canadian entry to practice competencies, and the NCLEX practice analysis to ensure the essential elements of each piece have been adequately addressed. Any discrepancies noted during the “crosswalk” should be included in the review discussed above.
- Provide students with the document entitled “Nursing Student Guide to a Successful NCLEX Experience” (attached to this document). This document will give the students a variety of tools to use when preparing for their NCLEX experience, including a step-by-step process for registering with the provincial regulatory body, scheduling their NCLEX appointment, and ways to directly contact NCLEX experts if they have any difficulty during the examination experience.

Comparability of NCLEX-RN to Canadian Nursing Practice and Pass Rates information

- In 2013, NCSBN conducted a replication study of the 2011 practice analysis (U.S.) using Canadian entry-level nurses as participants. Entry-level Canadian nurses from all ten jurisdictions that will utilize the NCLEX-RN in 2015 were included in the [2013 Canadian RN Practice Analysis](#). The survey results indicated that entry-level nursing characteristics in Canada are very similar to those in the U.S. The time spent in different categories of nursing activities reported by Canadian and U.S. survey respondents were almost identical. The frequency and importance ratings given to all entry-level nursing activities were also quite similar between the two groups of respondents.
- The current NCLEX-RN pass rate of U.S.-educated first-time writers is 85% and ranged from 13% to 100% among education programs across the U.S. These figures are comparable to those of Canadian-educated first-time CRNE pass rates (87%). Historically with U.S.-educated candidates, there will be a slight drop in the pass rate immediately after a new passing standard is introduced. However, the pass rates generally return to or exceed previous levels after a year.

- Additionally, the upper 25% of U.S. nursing education programs (1st quartile) have an average pass rate of 94% and the 2nd quartile an average of 88%. Overall, the upper 50% of U.S. programs have an average pass rate of 91%. Based on the consistency in educational content and nursing practice between the U.S. and Canada, it is not unreasonable to expect the same sort of distribution of pass rates for nursing educational programs in Canada. This means that programs in the upper 25% can expect pass rates meeting or exceeding 90% and programs in the upper 50% can expect pass rates equal to the average national pass rate (85%) or higher once familiarity with the NCLEX information becomes common place among the Canadian nurse education community and is transferred to students through the education process.
- It has been our experience that education programs that incorporate the information provided on the NCSBN website (e.g., the new test plan, current practice analysis and Knowledge Skills and Abilities study) into curricular development tend to have a higher pass rate and students that tend to have a more successful exam experience overall. It is possible that if the strategies that have been presented to Canadian educators over the transition period are implemented, that the Canadian cohort could experience equal or better result on the NCLEX.

Nursing Student's Guide to a Successful NCLEX Experience

Quick links:

Pearson VUE (For registering/scheduling for the NCLEX) – www.pearsonvue.com/nclex/

NCSBN (For NCLEX policy, administration details, etc.) – www.nclex.com

CCRN (For licensure/registration/eligibility) - www.ccrnr.ca/members.html

In order to ensure a successful examination experience, the steps required to get an Authorization to Test (ATT), schedule an exam, and get results will be described below. In addition, information on the NCLEX exam broken down by what must be done before the exam, on the day of the exam, and after the exam is available. Finally, students may access additional NCLEX resources provided in the last section.

1. Getting Ready for the NCLEX

- Confirm that all the nurse regulatory body requirements to take the NCLEX are met.
 - Reminder: registration requirements of the nurse regulatory body may vary by province/territory. For a list of the Canadian nurse regulatory bodies and up-to-date information on their application process, visit the CCRNR website at www.ccrnr.ca/members.html.
- Submit an application for licensure/registration to the regulatory body where you wish to be licensed/registered.

2. Register for the NCLEX with Pearson VUE

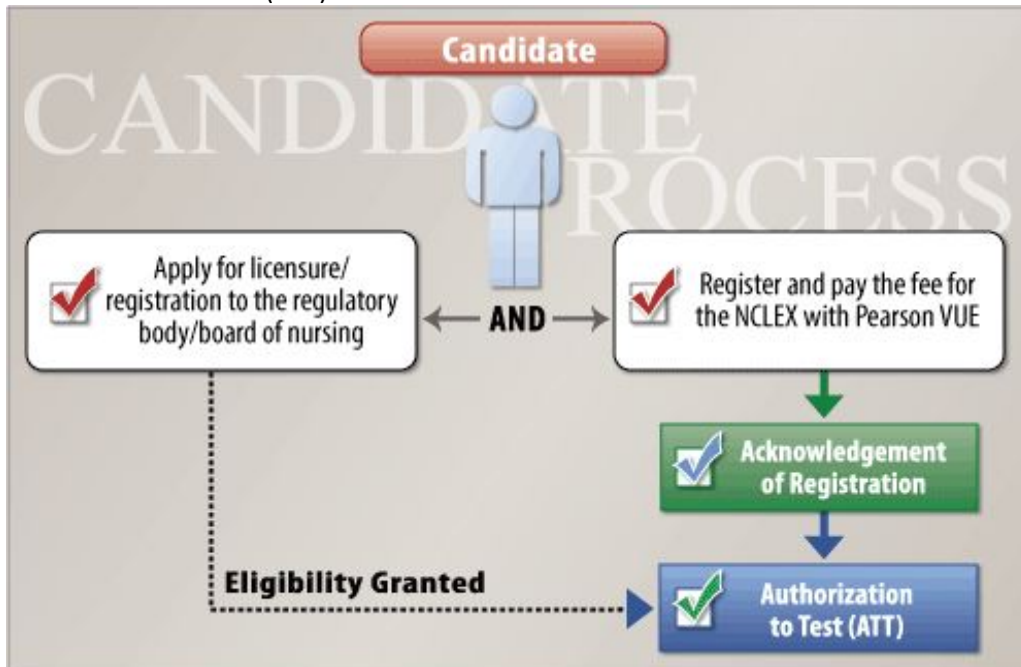
- Visit the NCLEX Candidate website at www.pearsonvue.com/nclex.
 - Click on the “Register” link
 - Create a Pearson VUE Web account
 - Begin the examination registration process.
 - Read and accept the Pearson VUE privacy policy (can be viewed before registration at www.pearsonvue.com/legal/appprivacy/)
 - Provide an email address. Pearson VUE will use this email address to communicate important examination information during your NCLEX experience.

Students with limited or no internet access can complete the examination registration process by contacting Pearson VUE NCLEX Candidate Services via telephone at (866) 496-2539 (for French support call (866) 228-8454), Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00am and 7:00pm, Central Standard Time.

- Pay for the NCLEX
 - The fee for the NCLEX is \$360 CAD and can be paid for by credit, debit or prepaid card. Students can view additional exam fee information at www.ncsbn.org/1203.htm
 - Students should familiarize themselves with the exam refund policy found here: www.ncsbn.org/2628.htm
- Receive confirmation of registration via email.
- The NCLEX Registration Acknowledgement email will be sent to you by Pearson VUE.
 - If a student does not receive this email within two days of submitting a registration, she/he should contact Pearson VUE NCLEX Candidate Services.

3. Once the process for registering to take the NCLEX has been completed and the regulatory body has granted the student's eligibility, you will receive the ATT email from Pearson VUE.

Below is a graphic overview of the process a student must complete in order to receive an Authorization to Test (ATT).



4. Scheduling for the NCLEX at a Test Center

- Find a test center at the Pearson VUE website under “locate a test center,” found at www.pearsonvue.com/nclex.
 - Domestic test center locations include all centers within Canadian Provinces/Territories and the mainland U.S.
 - Permanent test centers located within Canada and the U.S. are available for year-round scheduling
 - Temporary Test Centers (TTC) have specific dates during the designated event windows in February, June and October that can be found here: www.pearsonvue.com/nclex/2015_Testing%20Locations.pdf
 - The examination can be taken at any available test center
- Schedule an appointment for the NCLEX online at the Pearson VUE website or by calling NCLEX Candidate Services.
 - Additional scheduling information can be found here: www.ncsbn.org/1217.htm

5. Before the Exam

- Download, read, and be familiar with the NCLEX Candidate Bulletin www.ncsbn.org/1213.htm (available in English and French). All exam-pertinent information can be found within the bulletin
- Review the NCLEX-RN test plan www.ncsbn.org/1287.htm. The test plan serves as a blue print to outline the content to be tested and guide the item writing process
- Be familiar with Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) www.ncsbn.org/1216.htm.

- CAT is a method for administering exams that merges computer technology with modern measurement theory to increase the efficiency of the exam process.
- Subjects such as how the computer selects each item, the pass/fail rules for the NCLEX, and a video demonstrating how CAT works can be found on this page.
- Download the “Online Tutorial for the NCLEX” www.pearsonvue.com/nclex (available in English and French)
 - Experience the look and feel of the NCLEX
 - Preview the different item types on the exam.
- Take a virtual tour of a permanent test center: www.pearsonvue.com/ppc/

6. Exam Day

- Read and understand the NCLEX Candidate Rules before taking the exam www.ncsbn.org/1268.htm including information on personal items brought to the test center, confidentiality, test administration, etc.
- Ensure that you have the correct identification with the first and last name that matches the first and last name with which you registered for the NCLEX.
 - There are various additional ID requirements, so please visit www.ncsbn.org/1221.htm

7. After the Exam

- Official results will be forwarded to you from your regulatory body up to six weeks after writing the www.ncsbn.org/2917.htm
 - If you fail, you will be allowed to retake the exam 45 days after your previous appointment.
 - You are encouraged to contact your regulatory body for the policy regarding NCLEX retakes, prior to registering with Pearson VUE again and paying another exam fee.

Additional Exam Resources

- You can get the most up-to-date information about the Canadian transition to the NCLEX-RN by accessing the NCLEX Communiqué: www.ncsbn.org/5029.htm
- For additional questions on the NCLEX, there are multiple FAQs covering administration, CAT, candidate issues, etc. as well as questions specific to Canadian students available here: www.ncsbn.org/1201.htm
- NCSBN performs a job (practice) analysis study on the NCLEX-RN every three years. This study is used as the basis for the development of the NCLEX-RN and can be found here: www.ncsbn.org/1235.htm
- Follow NCLEX on twitter (www.twitter.com/nclexinfo) and Like NCLEX on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NCSBNNCLEX) for timely NCLEX information and updates.
- Email NCSBN nclexinfo@ncsbn.org or call 866.293.9600 if you have any questions about the NCLEX.