

Preparing for the NCLEX

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Objectives

- Discuss NCLEX and the testing process
- Discuss location of NCLEX information
- Share tips that have helped others to pass the NCLEX



Kansas Licensure History

- First examination given in December 1913
 - 10 candidates
 - 8 passed, 2 failed
 - Board of Nursing wrote and graded the examination
 - Essay question on cards
 - Wrote answers
 - Last paper and pencil exam given in 1994



Computerized Adaptive Testing

- CAT started in 1994
- Each test is tailored to the examinee
- Presents the examinee with items best for measuring ability
- Computer re-estimates ability each time a question is answered
- Ability estimate gets more precise with each question answered
- Computer selects next item to be challenging



What is NCLEX?

- The examination is designed to test:
 - Knowledge
 - Skills
 - Abilities
- Essential to the safe & effective practice of nursing at the entry level



NCLEX Development Process

- Practice analysis of entry-level nurses
- Test plan is developed using legal scope of nursing practice and practice analysis
- Item writers are practicing nurses
- Panel reviews the newly-written items
- All items on the exam have been pretested



NCLEX Test Plans

NCLEX – RN and NCLEX – PN test plans

- Serve as a guideline for examination content
- Reviewed by the NCSBN Examination Committee after job analysis
- Can be found to download at:
 - RN: www.ncsbn.org
 - New Plan effective April 2016
 - PN: www.ncsbn.org
 - Plan effective April 2017



PN Test Plan - 2017

- Safe and Effective Care Environment
 - Coordinated Care (18 – 24%)
 - Safety and Infection Control (10 – 16%)
- Health Promotion and Maintenance (6 – 12%)
- Psychosocial Integrity (9 – 15%)
- Physiological Integrity
 - Basic Care and Comfort (7 – 13%)
 - Pharmacological Therapies (10 – 16%)
 - Reduction of Risk Potential (9 – 15%)
 - Physiological Adaptation (7 – 13%)



RN Test Plan – 2016

- Safe Effective Care Environment
 - Management of Care (17 – 23%)
 - Safety and Infection Control (9 – 15%)
- Health Promotion and Maintenance (6 – 12%)
- Psychosocial Integrity (6 – 12%)
- Physiological Integrity
 - Basic Care and Comfort (6 – 12%)
 - Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies (12 – 18%)
 - Reduction of Risk Potential (9 – 15%)
 - Physiological Adaptation (11 – 17%)



Passing Standards

- Re-evaluated every 3 years
- Criterion used to set passing standards
 - Minimum amount of knowledge, skills and ability required for safe and effective entry-level nursing practice
- Passing Standard for RN NCLEX was not changed starting April 1, 2016



Pass or Fail Decision Rules

- Governed by three different scenarios:
 - 95% confidence interval rule
 - Maximum length exam
 - Run-out-of-time rule



Innovative Questions

- Multiple responses
- Fill in the blank calculation
- Ordered response
- Hot spots
- All item types may include multimedia (charts, table, graphics, sound and video)



Guessing

- Rapid guessing can drastically lower your score
 - Effect of giving the candidate easier items
 - Answer wrong
- Best advice
 - Reasonable pace (spend no more than one to two minutes on each item)
 - Read and consider each item before answering



NCLEX RN

- 75 to 265 items
- 15 pretest items
- Time limit is six hours
 - Tutorial
 - Sample items
 - All breaks
 - Examination



NCLEX PN

- 85 to 205 items
- 25 pretest items
- Time limit is five hours
 - Tutorial
 - Sample items
 - All breaks
 - Examination



NCLEX Accommodations

- Requests for testing accommodations must be submitted to KSBN within 15 calendar days of the licensure application being submitted
- List of required documentation available on www.ksbn.org
- Do NOT schedule NCLEX testing time until you have received written confirmation of your accommodations
- Candidates with accommodations CANNOT schedule their appointment through NCLEX candidate website



NCLEX Registration Overview

- Register for the NCLEX with Pearson Vue
- Submit initial licensure application to KSBN
- Meet all of KSBN's eligibility requirements to take the NCLEX
- Receive NCLEX registration acknowledgement email from Pearson Vue
- KSBN makes you eligible to take the NCLEX
- Receive Authorization to Test (ATT) email from Pearson VUE
- Schedule your exam with Pearson VUE



Registration Process

- Follow Candidate Bulletin
- Register for NCLEX via internet or telephone
- Email address is required
- All correspondence from Pearson VUE will arrive only by email
- Pearson VUE registration valid for 365 days, KSBN for 6 months



Rescheduling/Unscheduled

- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday appointments must be changed 24 hours in advance of the original date and time
- Saturday, Sunday or Monday appointments must be changed no later than the Friday 24 hours before the original date and time



Testing & Sites

- Sites
 - Topeka, Wichita, Hays & Overland Park
- You are guaranteed a time to test within 30 days of when you request a time
 - If you have difficulty, call KSBN
- Can take the exam at any approved center in the U.S.



NCLEX Pass Rates

- What are the average NCLEX pass rates for Kansas nursing programs for 2017??
 - RN:
 - PN:
- National average:
 - RN:
 - PN:



ID Requirements

- Acceptable identification
 - U.S. driver's license
 - Learner's permit or temporary ID are NOT acceptable
 - U.S. state identification
 - Passport
 - U.S. military identification
- Identification must be in English and signed in English
- Must be valid and not expired with signature and photograph



Your Name

- First and last name on ID must match exactly the first and last name you registered with
- If first and last names do not match you will be turned away and required to re-register and pay another examination fee
- All documentation must be in English and original



Test Rules and Regulations

- Printed in Candidate Bulletin (www.ncsbn.org)
- Will be followed strictly – review before testing
- NCSBN may cancel or withhold your results if there is a basis to question the validity of your exam results



Eligibility to Test

- KSBN makes candidate eligible to test
- NCLEX issues Authorization to Test
- Applicant schedules exam (online or telephone)



Day of the Exam

- Arrive at least 30 minutes before scheduled testing time
- Must present valid acceptable ID
- Provide the following:
 - Digital signature
 - Palm vein scan
 - Photograph
- Required to place all electronic devices in Pearson Vue provided sealable bag to be stored in your locker



Breaks

- First is offered after two hours
- Second is offered after three and one half hours
- Must leave during breaks
- Palm vein before and after break
- Not allowed to access any of the prohibited personal items
- All personal items accessed (including purses, wallets, etc) may be inspected by the TA
- Count against testing time



Your Tools

- Computer
- Computer mouse
- Drop down calculator on computer
- Dry erase board and marker



What You Can't Do

- Skip questions
- Review questions
- Change answers once submitted



Preparing for the Exam

- Begin with a positive mental attitude. Don't have a defeated feeling.
- Decide if you study best by yourself or with a study buddy – everyone studies differently
- Don't neglect your body – good nutrition and exercise
- What you put in is what you get out



Preparing for the Exam

- Go through 4,000 to 6,000 practice questions
 - Questions with rationales are best
- NCLEX Review Courses
- Take the test as soon as you can, but be well prepared
- Take advantage of resources available in your nursing program



Preparing for the Exam

- If you are a visual learner, use multimedia, graphics and the internet
- If you are an auditory learner, use audiobooks, mp3 players, etc
- If you learn best by interacting try to study with a buddy or a group
- There is a wealth of apps and lessons available – you can still study when you are not in front of the computer



Preparing for the Exam

- Develop a good study plan
- If you need a structured study program, a review course is good
- Determine the number of days until your exam date and then plan the number of hours you need to study each day
- Most concentrate best for a two hour period with a ten minute break



Preparing for the Exam

- It is important to establish a routine for studying
- Know the NCLEX test plan categories and percentages
- Deep breathing, visualization, muscle relaxation and positive self-talk are all effective ways of controlling test anxiety



Locating NCLEX Information

- National Council of State Boards of Nursing website (www.ncsbn.org)
 - Application and Registration
 - Before the Exam
 - Exam Day
 - Testing locations
 - FAQs



Results Reporting

- Every NCLEX is scored twice
 - Once by the computer at the test center
 - Result is verified after the exam record has been transmitted

- Examination results are available only from the board of nursing



Exam Results

- Results will not be released by phone or in person
- Typical turnaround time
 - Results received via web day of exam
 - Results downloaded to KSBN
 - Successful candidates
 - Pass results printed next business day
 - License card printed and mailed
 - Unsuccessful candidates will receive
 - Candidate Performance Report



Candidate Performance Report

- If candidate fails to pass, KSBN sends a Candidate Performance Report
 - Identifies the areas failed
 - Provides the number of items administered to the candidate
 - Summary of the candidate's strengths and weaknesses based on the test plan
- Intended to guide the candidate with their study before retaking the exam



Retaking NCLEX

- Can retest every 45 days
- Resubmit an initial licensure application to KSBN
- Register with Pearson VUE and pay fee each attempt
- When it has been more than 24 months after graduation must petition KSBN



Review & Challenge

- Only failure candidates can review the exam
- Can review only incorrectly answered questions
- NCSBN fees for reviewing the examination:
 - \$400 to schedule
 - \$200 for each item challenged
- KSBN fees
 - Time
 - Expenses



Graduation Trivia

- How many students graduated from nursing programs in Kansas between 7/1/16 – 6/30/17 ??
 - BSN:
 - ADN:
 - PN:



Important Reminder

- Where is one place you can go to find most of your answers about NCLEX?
 - Nursing Faculty
 - Kansas Board of Nursing
 - Internet
 - Candidate Bulletin



Questions ??

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www.ksbn.org