

# NCLEX

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# Kansas Licensure History

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- First examination given in December 1913
  - 10 candidates took the examination
    - 8 passed, 2 failed
    - Passing Score = 80%
  - Board of Nursing wrote the examination
    - Examination essay questions on cards
    - Wrote answers in blue books
  - 2 Board members graded each examination

# Examination History

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- State Board Test Pool
  - 1978 – July 1982
  - Score reported in 5 parts
  - Last used April 1982
- NCLEX-RN
  - 1982 - Change of name from SBTPE to NCLEX

# CAT

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- September 1982 – BOD directed staff to develop proposal to enable testing an electronic system of the administration of examinations.
- May 1985 – BOD directed staff develop grant proposal for funding for research and development of CAT
- 1994 - Last paper & pencil test
- 1994 - CAT in all states & territories

# What is NCLEX

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The examination is designed to test:

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Abilities

Essential to the safe & effective practice of nursing at the entry level.

NCSBN

# NCLEX<sup>®</sup> Development Process

**SCOPE OF  
NURSING PRACTICE**

**Practice Analysis/Job Analysis**

**Test Plan**

**ITEM WRITING**

**Item Review**

**Editorial Review**

**Sensitivity Review**

**BON Review**

**PRE-TESTING**

**DIF Panel Review**

**E.C. Review**

**EXAMINATION  
ADMINISTRATION**

# Test Plans

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- NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN test plans:
  - Serve as a guideline for examination content
  - Reviewed by the NCSBN Examination Committee after incumbent job analysis
  - Can be found to download at:
    - RN
      - <https://www.ncsbn.org>
        - Plan effective April 2010
    - PN
      - <https://www.ncsbn.org>
        - Plan effective April 2011

# Test Plans are Developed Using:

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- Practice analysis
- Legal scope of practice

# PN Test Plan – New April 2011

- Safe and Effective Care Environment
  - Coordinated Care – (13-19%)
  - Safety and Infection Control – (11-17%)
- Health Promotion and Maintenance – (7-13%)
- Psychosocial Integrity – (7-13%)
- Physiological Integrity
  - Basic Care and Comfort – (9-15%)
  - Pharmacological Therapies – (11-17%)
  - Reduction of Risk Potential – (9-15%)
  - Physiological adaptation – (9-15%)

# RN Test Plan - 2010

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- Safe Effective Care Environment
  - Management of Care – (16-22%)
  - Safety and Infection Control – (8-14%)
- Health Promotion and Maintenance – (6-12%)
- Psychosocial Integrity – ( 6-12%)
- Physiological Integrity
  - Basic Care and Comfort – (6-12%)
  - Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies – (13-19%)
  - Reduction of Risk Potential – (10-16%)
  - Physiological Adaptation – (11-17%)

# Who Develops the Questions

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- Item writers are practicing nurses
- Second expert panel of practicing nurses reviews items

# Passing Standards

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- Passing standards are re-evaluated every 3 years by NCSBN Board of Directors
- Criterion used to set passing standards:
  - The minimum amount of knowledge, skills, and ability required for safe and effective entry-level nursing practice

# What is Computerized Adaptive Testing?

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

- Items are selected from a large pool of items using three criteria

#### Criteria 1:

- Any item seen in the last year is excluded.

#### Criteria 2:

- Best match to test plan percentages
- Enough questions from each content area to match test plan

#### Criteria 3

- Challenging item selected by computer

# Innovative Questions

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- Multiple responses
- Fill in the blank
- Hot spot
- Chart/Exhibit
- Drag-and-drop



# Pretest Items (Not yet in Test)

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- Determines degree of difficulty of an item
- Not included when estimating the candidate's ability or making pass-fail decisions
- NCLEX-RN - 15 items (75 minimum)
- NCLEX-PN - 25 items (85 minimum)

# Your Tools

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- Computer
- Computer mouse
- Drop down calculator on computer
- NCLEX Examination Tutorial
  - Can be reviewed at the NCSBN Web site at [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org).
  - Click on testing services and follow the links to the tutorial.



# When is the Test Over

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- Minimum and maximum number of items that can be asked.
  - RN: 75-265
  - PN: 85-205
- Computer determines if ability is either above or below passing standard
- Run out of time

# Testing Time & Questions

## NCLEX-RN

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NCLEX-RN

6 Hours

75-265 Items

2010 Test Plan

(April 2010)

(-0.16 logits)

# Testing Time & Questions

## NCLEX - PN

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NCLEX – PN

5 Hours

85-205 Items

2011 Test Plan

(April 2011)

(-0.37 logits)

# Registration Process

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- Follow Candidate Bulletin
- If email address used when registering, **ALL** correspondence from Pearson VUE will arrive **ONLY** by email
- Register via Web, Mail, Phone, or Electronic Scan
- Pearson VUE registration valid for 365 days, Board of Nursing for 6 months

# Electronic Scan Form Option Begins January 2009

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- Accessible via NCLEX Candidate website
- Can pay by cashier's check, money order or certified check
- Prevents incomplete scan forms from reaching Pearson VUE (delays registration)
- Once submitted – print confirmation
- Mail confirmation and payment promptly

# Testing & Sites

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- Topeka
- Wichita
- Hays
- You are guaranteed a time to test within 30 days of when you request a time.  
(45 for retest)
- If you have difficulty – call the Board of Nursing
- Arrive at least 30 minutes before scheduled testing time

# Accommodations for Testing

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- Allow more time for processing
- Required information is on web site
- Must be approved by Board of Nursing
- Documentation must be sent to NCSBN along with Board approval
- Must be approved by NCSBN

# Guidelines for Documentation

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- Includes reports, test results, evaluations and assessments of need for accommodations due to a disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. (Mental & Physical)
- Within the last 5 years

# Admission to Test Site

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## Strict candidate identification requirements

- Valid Picture ID with signature in English and
- Authorization to Test

If you arrive without these materials,

- Must register again
- Pay exam fee of \$200.00
- Pay state fees      RN-\$75, PN-\$50 (If more than 6 months)

(More information in Candidate Bulletin)

# Name Change

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If name has changed since application to test, must bring legal name documentation on day of test.

Only acceptable forms of legal documentation:

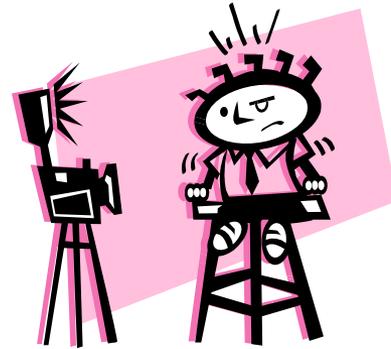
- Marriage license,
- Divorce decree and/or
- Court action legal name change document

**All documents must be in English and  
must be the original document**

# Security Measures

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- Digital fingerprint
- Signature
- Photograph
- Palm vein scan



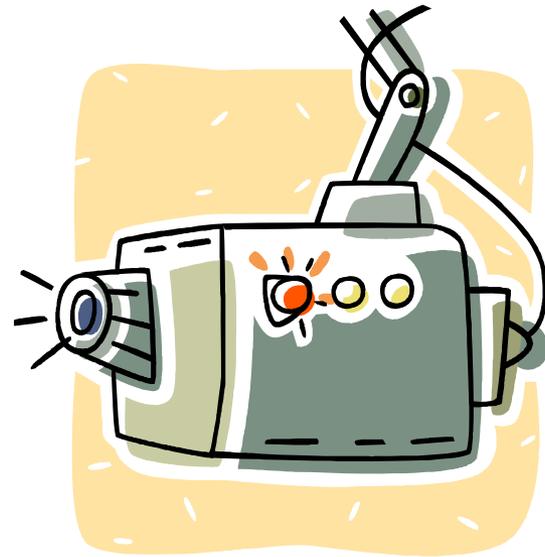
Accompanies the examination result.



# Security Measures

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- Candidates observed at all times during examination.
  - direct observation
  - video and audio recording



# Security Measures

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- Divulging any aspect of the licensure examination content by faculty or students is unethical.
- NCLEX Confidentiality Agreement
  - Any violation may be grounds for disciplinary action and denial of licensure

# Reportable Incidents

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## “Examination Irregularity”

Reports are completed for:

- Examinee misconduct or problems
- Hardware problems
- Software Problems

# Results

- Examination results processed within 3-5 working days after receipt.
- **If Pass:**
  - Notification of passing OR
  - When all requirements met, license is sent
- **If Fail:**
  - Candidate Performance Report,
  - Packet of applications and instructions



# Candidate Performance Report

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- Provided to those who fail
- Gives number of items administered
- Includes summary of relative strengths and weaknesses based on the test plan

# Review & Challenge

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

# Retesting

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- Exam can be retaken in 45 days
  - reapply and resubmit fees to KSBN and NCSBN
  - includes picture
  - fingerprints if over six months since last fingerprint check
- If not successful within 24 months
  - petition KSBN to retake the examination (petition is on [www.ksbn.org](http://www.ksbn.org))

# Problems & Questions

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- Candidate Bulletin contains problem list and telephone numbers
- Keep the Candidate Bulletin until results are received