

NCLEX[®] Examination Candidate Rules



Below you will find the NCLEX examination candidate rules. Please note that if you do not follow the rules or the instructions of the test administrator (TA), your examination result may be withheld or cancelled, your examination fee may not be refunded and NCSBN and your licensing board may take other action such as license revocation or criminal prosecution.

- You may not access any study materials or ask for help from any other party in answering items (in person, by phone or by e-mail) during your examination (including breaks).
- You may not tell anyone, including instructors, about the items or answers seen in your examination (this includes posting questions on the Internet).
- You may not take the examination for somebody else.
- You may not tamper with the computer or use it for any function other than taking the examination.
- You may not engage in disruptive behavior at any time while in the test center.
- The following personal items are not allowed in the testing room. Personal items not allowed include, but are not limited to:

Any electronic devices	Gloves	Purses
Bags	Gum	Scarves
Books	Hand-held computers	Study Materials
Cameras of any kind	Hats	Watches
Cellular/mobile phones	Lip Balm	Wallets
Coats	Pagers	Weapons of any kind
Food or drink	Personal Digital Assistants (PDA)	

- All personal items must be stored in your locker. Cell/mobile phones, pagers or other electronic devices must be turned off before storing them in a locker. Pearson Professional Centers are not responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced personal items.
- The TA will provide you with an erasable note board and marker before you enter the testing room. You may not remove these items from the testing room during the examination and you must return both the erasable note board and marker to the TA after the examination.
- To ensure a high level of security you will be monitored at all times. Both audio and video will be recorded.
- You will be given the opportunity to take a break after approximately two hours, and again after three and a half hours of examination testing time. Instructions will appear on your computer screen at the appropriate time. To request a break at any other time, raise your hand. If you take a break, the exam clock will NOT stop while you are away. If you elect to take a break, you must leave the testing room. You will be fingerprinted when you leave and re-enter the testing room. The TA will restart the exam for you when you return.
- Exam data is encrypted and transferred electronically to your state board of nursing. If you have questions about the examination, please contact the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.

Candidate Statement: *By providing a digital signature, I give Pearson VUE my explicit consent to retain and transmit my personal data and test responses to Pearson VUE and to the examination sponsor (either of which may be outside of the country in which I am testing). I understand the information provided above and agree to follow the Rules. If I do not follow the Rules, or I am suspected of cheating or tampering with the computer, this will be reported to Pearson VUE and the examination sponsor, my examination may be invalidated, the sponsor may take other action such as decertifying me, and I will not be refunded my examination fee.*

NCLEX® EXAMINATION HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to the Pearson Professional Centers and your NCLEX examination!

HOW THE NCLEX EXAMINATION WORKS

The NCLEX examination is a computerized adaptive test (CAT), being constructed as you take the examination. Your examination will end when:

- Your competence is estimated with a predetermined level of certainty,
- The maximum number of items has been taken, **OR**
- The time limit is reached

The computer will indicate when your NCLEX examination is finished.

It is important to understand that the length of an examination or the number of items answered is not an indication of a pass or fail result. A candidate with a relatively short examination may pass or fail just as the candidate with a long examination may pass or fail. Regardless of the examination length, each candidate has ample opportunity to demonstrate true competence and is given an examination that conforms to the NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® Test Plan.

NUMBER OF ITEMS

Minimum number of items: Maximum number of items:

NCLEX-RN = 75 NCLEX-RN = 265

NCLEX-PN = 85 NCLEX-PN = 205

Many candidates' examinations will end before the maximum number of items has been administered.

MAXIMUM TIME

The maximum time allowed is six hours for the RN exam, and five hours for the PN exam. **The exam time includes the tutorial and ALL rest breaks.** Many candidates may not need the full time to complete the examination.

Total time spent on the examination is a function of both:

- The number of items administered and
- The speed at which items are answered

Please do not be concerned if your examination finishes earlier or lasts longer than the examinations of other candidates testing in the room. The differing time lengths of candidate examinations are an illustration of the CAT methodology at work!

RESULTS REPORTING

Although the NCLEX examination is scored as the candidate completes each item, **NO RESULTS** are released at the test center. NCLEX examination results, available from your state board of nursing, will be mailed to candidates approximately one month after they take the examination.

THE PEARSON PROFESSIONAL CENTERS ADMINISTER OTHER TYPES OF EXAMINATIONS

The Pearson Professional Centers administer many computerized examinations, besides the NCLEX examination. Other candidates testing at the same time may be taking different examinations and may complete their examinations at different times.

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION PROBLEMS

If you have any problems or complaints regarding the examination or its administration, please call NCLEX Candidate Services toll free at 1-866-49NCLEX (1-866-496-2539) within two weeks of your examination.

Additional information may be found in your *NCLEX® Examination Candidate Bulletin* or on the National Council Web site at www.ncsbn.org.

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