

FAQs (continued)

Q. How soon can I find out if I passed the examination?

A. Results may be obtained on the ASBN website within two to three business days. There is a nominal charge for obtaining the results. If the results are not available, there is no charge to the credit card. NCLEX results are usually mailed to each candidate within two (2) business days.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing is to protect the public and act as their advocate by effectively regulating the practice of nursing.

For further information on licensure by examination, visit our website, www.arsbn.org, and choose the education tab and NCLEX exam link, or contact the ASBN at 501.686.2700 or e-mail info@arsbn.org

Arkansas State Board of Nursing

University Tower Building
1123 S. University, Suite 800
Little Rock, AR 72204
501.686.2700
www.arsbn.org

Find us on Facebook 
Arkansas State Board of Nursing

Follow us on Twitter 
twitter.com/ARNursingBoard

LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

NCLEX[®]



HISTORY OF THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION



The Arkansas *Nurse Practice Act* mandates that an individual must complete program requirements from an approved nursing program, meet specific standards and pass the national licensure examination. Although the Board of Nursing was established in 1913, the first Arkansas licensure examination was not administered until 1917. At this time each state developed their own examination. This gave rise to everyone calling the examination “the State Board Examination”. In 1955, Arkansas started utilizing the National League for Nursing State Board test pool as the licensure examination. This paper and pencil examination covered the areas of medical, surgical, pediatric, obstetric and psychiatric nursing. Each section was two hours in length and the examination required two days to complete all of the sections. National Council of State Boards of Nursing was established in 1978. One of the main purposes of NCSBN was to develop the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®). NCLEX was first administered in 1983 as a paper and pencil test given twice a year until 1994. In this momentous year Computer Adaptive Testing or CAT was introduced, allowing the NCLEX to be offered year-round and up to six days a week.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT NCLEX

Q. Who is eligible to take NCLEX?

A. Individuals who have completed an approved nursing education program may take the corresponding NCLEX. Students nearing completion of an RN nursing program and graduates of an RN program who have failed the NCLEX®-RN may also be eligible to take the NCLEX®-PN examination.

Q. How do past convictions affect the licensure process?

A. ASBN staff investigates all past convictions and arrests not leading to a conviction. Submission of the required documents with the NCLEX examination application will expedite the process. For each incident, submit a copy of the court docket, proof of completing all required terms and a letter explaining the circumstances of the incident. If the incident has been expunged or sealed, include this documentation as well.

Q. How do I obtain a temporary permit?

A. A temporary permit may be issued upon submission of the ASBN examination application with the correct fee and registration for the NCLEX with the testing vendor. Temporary permits are only issued within 90 days following completion of a nursing program.

Q. What convictions may result in an applicant being ineligible for licensure in Arkansas?

A. According to the *Nurse Practice Act* (ACA §17-87-312) no person shall be eligible to receive or hold a license issued by the Board if that person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found guilty of, any of the listed offenses by any courts in the State of Arkansas, or of any similar offense by a court in another state, or of any similar offense by a federal court. Refer to the *Nurse Practice Act* for this list.

Q. How long can I work on a temporary permit?

A. The permit for new graduates is valid for 90 days or until tests. This period cannot be extended for any reason.

Q. How soon can I take NCLEX after graduation?

A. ASBN staff will make a candidate eligible to test after receiving the state application. It may take longer if there are incidents that must be investigated by the ASBN staff. Upon being made eligible, the testing vendor will send the candidate an Authorization to Test (ATT). Once this ATT is received, the candidate may schedule an appointment to test. The ATT is valid for 90 days and the examination must be taken within this time period. The 90 day time period may not be extended.

Q. What documents are acceptable forms of identification when checking into the testing center?

A. Each candidate must have the ATT letter and one form of acceptable identification when checking into the testing center. Acceptable forms of identification are: passport, drivers license, state/province ID card, national identity card, and United States military ID. All identification must be printed in English, unexpired, and include a recent photograph with a signature signed in English. Candidates will not be allowed to test if they do not have the correct documents.

Q. What is on NCLEX?

A. The test plan for the examination can be found on the website, www.ncsbn.org.

Q. How long is NCLEX?

A. The NCLEX-RN consists of a minimum of 75 questions and a maximum of 265 questions with up to six hours allotted to complete the examination. The NCLEX-PN examination has a minimum of 85 questions and a maximum of 205 questions and up to five hours are allotted for the examination.

continued