

You've completed the **NCLEX®**  
but you still have questions...



## NCLEX® FAQs

### How are the results processed?

As part of the quality control process, every NCLEX® is scored twice: once by the computer at the test center and again after the examination record has been transmitted to Pearson VUE.

Candidate results are transmitted electronically to the nursing regulatory body (NRB) in the jurisdiction where the candidate has applied for licensure/registration. Each NRB has developed its own procedure for distributing results to candidates. It can take up to six weeks to receive your official results. Do not call Pearson VUE, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN®) or your NRB for the results as they will not be released over the telephone.

### What does the number of items I answered tell me about my results?

It is important to understand that the length of your NCLEX or the number of items answered is not an indication of a specific pass or fail result. A candidate with a relatively short examination may pass or fail just as a candidate with a long examination may pass or fail.

Each candidate, regardless of the length of their examination, has ample opportunity to demonstrate their true ability and is given an examination that conforms to the NCLEX Test Plans. Many candidates' examinations will end before the maximum number of items has been administered.

Please do not be concerned if your examination finishes earlier or lasts longer than other candidates. The length of your examination is determined solely by your performance on the examination. The differing lengths of each candidate's examination are an illustration of computerized adaptive testing (CAT) at work.

### What if I ran out of time?

If the candidate runs out of time before reaching the maximum number of items, the computer has not been able to decide whether the candidate passed or failed with 95% certainty. Therefore, an alternate rule must be used:

- If the candidate has not answered the minimum number of items, the result will be a failing exam.
- If the candidate has answered the minimum number of items, then the exam is scored by using the final ability estimate computed from responses to all completed items.
- If the final ability estimate is above the passing standard, the candidate passes.
- If the final ability estimate is at or below the passing standard, the candidate fails.

### What if I did not pass?

Candidates who do not pass the NCLEX will receive a Candidate Performance Report (CPR), which shows their areas of relative strength and weakness in the content areas of the NCLEX Test Plans. This report is provided to help candidates prepare for their next examination.

There must be at least 45 test free days between each examination. This period of time is determined by each individual NRB and NCSBN.

Contact your NRB to obtain the necessary forms and information to reregister at any time. However, once declared eligible by your NRB, your new Authorization to Test (ATT) will not be valid until the required number of days between examinations elapses.

# NCLEX® FAQs con't...

## Is there an opportunity to challenge an item?

Some NRBs of nursing have laws or regulations that allow failing NCLEX candidates to review the actual test items answered incorrectly, and challenge the accuracy of items and answers. More specific information about review, challenge and fees for this service and whether your NRB participates in this service must be obtained from your NRB.

## What should I do about NCLEX administration problems?

If you have any problems or complaints regarding the NCLEX or its administration, please contact NCSBN within two weeks of your examination. Contact information is provided on the last page of this document.

For general information and frequently asked questions regarding the NCLEX, visit the [NCLEX website](#).

## NCLEX Confidentiality

Candidates should be aware and understand that the disclosure of examination items before, during or after the examination is a violation of law. Violations of confidentiality and/or candidates' rules can result in criminal prosecution or civil liability and/or disciplinary actions by the licensing agency, including the denial of licensure/registration.

If you are aware of, or have observed, an attempt to compromise the NCLEX process, please report it to the NCLEX Test Security group.

Candidates may report any suspicious behavior in the following ways:

- **Call** NCSBN at 1.866.293.9600; or
- **Email** [examssecurity@ncsbn.org](mailto:examssecurity@ncsbn.org).



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866.293.9600 Examinations Department Toll-Free

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## NCLEX® Quick Results Service

Many nursing regulatory bodies participate in the quick results service. Results are unofficial and are available 48 business hours after your appointment. Only your licensing nursing regulatory body can issue your official results. To access your quick results, go to your account with Pearson VUE. The cost is \$7.95, payable by credit, debit or prepaid card. Contact Pearson VUE at 1.866.496.2539 if you are unable to locate your user name and password.

Quick results are not available in all U.S. states and are not available for candidates seeking licensure/registration in Canada and Australia.