

Summer 2026

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Education Communiqué

Greetings Program Directors

As we move forward into a new season, we are grateful for your continued commitment to excellence in nursing education. Your leadership and dedication play a vital role in preparing the next generation of nurses to meet the evolving needs of healthcare.

The Education Department remains committed to supporting you with timely updates, helpful resources, and relevant information to assist in your role as program director. We encourage you to share applicable information with your faculty and to reach out to our team with any questions or needs.

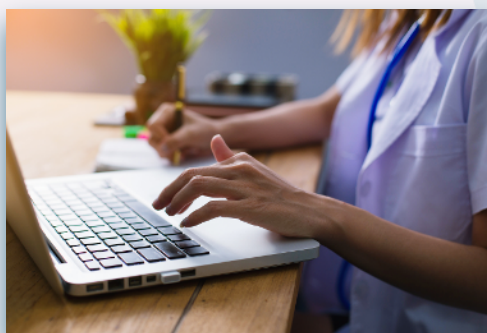
Annual Report

In collaboration with the North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON), the National Council of States Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) assist with administering the Annual Report for pre-licensure nursing education programs. Program directors can access a copy of the Annual Report and FAQ document located in the Resources and Downloads section of the Program Director Portal. These materials are intended to guide you in completing the report. Consistent with 21 NCAC 36 .0323(e), access to the Annual Report will be provided on October 1, with submissions due by 11:59 pm on October 31.

The National Nursing Education Database, an initiative of NCSBN, compiles annual report data from nursing education programs across the U.S. This comprehensive resource provides detailed statistical analyses to support insights into trends and outcomes in nursing education. The most recent data, covering the 2023-2024 reporting cycle, is available for review [here](#).

Program Director Document Uploads

The Education Department utilizes the Laserfiche document management platform for all document submissions. Please use the following link to upload any documents - [LASERFICHE](#).



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Next Generation **NCLEX**® Click here to view NCLEX Pass Rates

NCLEX Pass Rates

The NCLEX pass rates are sent directly to program directors from NCSBN as an encrypted email message on the 10th day of the month following each quarter. Please ensure your IT department has whitelisted emails from: **pearsonvuebidistribution@pearson.com**. NCBON will continue to post quarterly reports on our website. Contact education@ncbon.com or (919) 782-3211 with any questions.

NCLEX Standard – Single Year

All NCBON approved pre-licensure nursing education programs will be reviewed in 2025 pursuant to 21 NCAC 36 .0320(c), a program shall maintain an NCLEX examination pass rate that meets or exceeds 90 percent of the national pass rate for licensure level on first writing of the licensure examination for calendar years ending December 31. If you have questions, contact your assigned consultant.

NCLEX Candidate Reports

NCLEX candidate reports are distributed via email within six weeks of the candidate's examination date. Program directors are automatically copied on the email distribution. A detailed program performance report can also be provided upon request. The report includes first time and repeat test takers identifying pass or fail candidate status. Contact the Exam Department at examdept@ncbon.com for assistance.

NCSBN NCLEX Examinations

NCSBN hosts a variety of resources to assist candidates prepare for the NCLEX exam. [Click here](#) to view the resources.

NCSBN Resources

NCLEX Frequently Asked Questions

Looking for answers to common NCLEX questions? NCSBN offers a variety of helpful student resources, [available here](#).

2026 NCLEX Virtual Conference

Register for the [2026 NCLEX Virtual Conference](#) offered by NCSBN, to hear the latest NCLEX program updates from the experts who develop and administer the exam.



[Click here](#) to subscribe to the NCSBN mailing list.

Receive the latest in Nursing Regulatory news delivered directly to your inbox.

Nursing Education Rules Corner

Welcome to the Rules Corner! This resource is designed to assist program directors in understanding and navigating the Education Rules. Our first highlighted rule focuses on notification of a program director change, an essential requirement to ensure the NCBON is informed of any updates that may impact program operations.

21 NCAC 36 .0323(i) Programs must notify the NCBON of any change in program directors at least 10 business days prior to the effective date of the change, ensuring timely communication and continuity of oversight.

- The official notification may be submitted by the immediate supervisor or higher-level administrator.
- Notification may be submitted at any time in advance of the 10 business day requirement. For example, if a change is known 60 days ahead, early submission is encouraged.
- The notification should identify the proposed candidate and include the effective date, as well as the candidate's email and phone number. A copy of the candidate's CV and/or a faculty vitae is also needed.
- The NCBON will notify the program regarding whether qualifications have been met or if additional information is needed to determine compliance. If the proposed candidate does not meet qualifications, the program may submit an alternative candidate for review.

The second highlighted rule concerns the program maximum enrollment.

21 NCAC 36 .0302(h) The NCBON establishes a maximum student enrollment and implementation date for each program at the time initial approval is granted, based on the program's available resources. This approval is specific to each program type and may not be applied across different program types.

For example, if an institution offers BSN, ADN, and PN programs, each program must adhere to its individually approved maximum enrollment. The approved maximum enrollment for a BSN program cannot be used for ADN or PN programs. Each program type undergoes a separate application process and is assigned a maximum enrollment specific to that program.

The last highlighted rule concerns external standardized examinations.

21 NCAC 36 .0321(q) A nursing education program may not require a student or graduate to achieve a benchmark score on an external standardized examination as a condition of progression, graduation, endorsement, or release to pursue NCLEX-related processes. External assessments may be used; however, they must not account for more than 10 percent of the final course grade or total points. Any policy or practice that makes such a score determinative of advancement is inconsistent with 21 NCAC 36 .0321(q).

NCBON Event Calender

Administrative Hearing

July 29
September 30

Education & Practice Committee

August 11

Labor Day

Office Closed
September 7

Board Business Meeting

October 1

Nursing Education Rules Corner

What is the compliance issue with the rule concerning external standardized examinations?

A program is not in compliance with this rule if it uses an external standardized examination as a gatekeeping mechanism for progression, graduation, or post-graduation access to the licensure process. Once a student has successfully completed all faculty-established academic and clinical requirements and has been awarded program completion, the program may not delay, condition, or withhold the individual's ability to proceed toward licensure based on a predictor or NCLEX readiness examination score.

This determination is not affected by the number of testing opportunities provided or the length of any delay imposed. Whether a student is given one attempt, multiple attempts, remediation, or a temporary hold of several days or weeks, the practice remains noncompliant if the student is unable to move forward until a benchmark score is achieved. In such cases, the examination functions as a condition of progression or completion, rather than as a supplemental assessment tool.

NCBON Faculty Listserv

The NCBON seeks to communicate directly with nursing faculty regarding education-related updates, regulatory guidance, and available resources. A brief, voluntary survey is available for nursing faculty who wish to receive email communications from the NCBON.

[Access here](#) or scan QR code

NCBON Faculty Listserv



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Education Program Director Orientation

The Education Program Director Orientation is available online. All program directors new to the role will receive registration details for this on-demand educational offering. The modules provide an overview of the functions of the NCBON and guidance on maintaining compliance with the North Carolina Administrative Code Rule. If you have completed the modules and obtained CE hours but would like a refresher, email education@ncbon.com to request access.

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