Detailed Licensure Data
Assessment Cycle 2024-2025

Nursing. NCLEX-RN licensure (ASN and BSN) and Certification (MSN, PMC, and DNP). Graduates cannot work as a Registered Nurse (RN), Nurse Practitioner (NP), or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) without a license and/or certification. Therefore, graduates must first pass an exam before receiving a licensure and/or certification.

The NCLEX-RN pass rate goal is that 80% of first-time test takers pass the NCLEX-RN exam on the first attempt. The 2023-2024 NCLEX-RN pass rate for first-time test takers was 99% for ASN and 99% for BSN, with a combined average of 99%, which exceeded the national average of 93% and the state average of 95%. For academic years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024, trended data indicates that the ASN and BSN programs continuously exceed the goal with NCLEX-RN pass rates from 90-99%.

The certification pass rate goal for the MSN/PMC program is that 80% of first-time test takers pass a national certification exam on the first attempt. This goal is based on standards that meet national certification pass rates ranging from 83-90%, which are certification exams and certifying organization dependent. In 2023-2024, the MSN/PMC program's certification pass rate for first-time test takers was 83%, thus meeting the goal. Trended data indicates that the MSN/PMC program continuously meets the goal. The certification pass rate goal for DNP- Nurse Anesthesia (DNP-NA) program is that 80% of first-time test takers pass the National Certification Exam (NCE) on the first attempt. The goal aligns with standards set forth by accrediting agencies. In 2024, 79% of first-time test takers passed the NCE Exam on the first attempt. While the first-time pass rate in 2024 was 79% for first-time test takers, the program complies with the accreditation agency (Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs) second method for calculating pass rate requirements (average over a three-year period exceeds 80%). Over a three-year period, the program's first-time pass rate is calculated at 84%.

The minimum threshold of acceptability for all programs aligns with the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, the state regulatory agency for the licensure of RNs, NPs, and CRNAs. The LSBN requires an 80% pass rate for the NCLEX-RN and certification exams. The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), the accrediting body for the ASN program, requires an 80% pass rate for first-time candidates. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the accrediting body for the BSN, MSN, and DNP programs, requires an 80% pass rate for first-time candidates. The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), the accrediting body for the DNP-NA program, requires an 80% pass rate for first-time candidates. The ASN program averages 100 graduates taking the NCLEX-RN for the first time each year. The BSN program averages 170 graduates taking the NCLEX-RN for the first time each year. The total average for the ASN and BSN programs is 270 first-time candidates taking the NCLEX-RN per year. The MSN program graduates, on average, 75 students per year. The first graduating cohort (N=17) in the DNP-NA program was in 2023. In 2024, the second cohort graduated 14 students for an average of 16 first-time candidates taking the CNE exam.

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Most graduates take the NCLEX-RN or a certification exam within four months of graduation. However, they may take the exam for the first-time years later. The NCLEX-RN is scheduled with Pearson VUE. The certification exams are administered by the national certifying bodies for their population. Both are administered by off-campus agencies. Graduates taking the NLCEX-RN and certification exams generally perform around the national average on all portions of the exam. ASN and BSN students take an NCLEX-RN review course while in school and take a mock NCLEX-RN test before graduation. NP and DNP-NA students take a mock certification exam while in school. The mock exams give the student feedback on areas of strength and weakness. Some graduates also take a review course after graduation. Also, the programs are designed to teach content and test the content using methods to promote success on these exams. For instance, all testing is now completed on computers because the NCLEX-RN and certification exams are all taken via computer. The composition of test questions reflects the type and difficulty of these exams.

Radiologic Sciences. While some physicians employ non-registered radiologic technologists (under their medical license), most radiologic technologists must pass the certification exam administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) to work in the field. The goal for the first-time pass rate for Northwestern's School of Allied Health is 100%. The Joint Review Committee for Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT), the national accrediting agency for radiologic technology programs, requires a five-year first-time pass rate average of 75%. It serves as the minimum threshold of acceptability as it promotes student achievement and aligns with an SLO for the program.

Based on the most recent ARRT statistics available, the state average for first-time pass rates in 2023 was 94.1% (see pg. 14 on the ([ARRT Annual Report of Examinations](#)). The JRCERT standards for programmatic effectiveness require a rolling five-year average of 75% first-time pass rate of the ARRT exam (see [JCERT Standards, pg. 45, Objective 6.1)](#). One hundred eighty two students have taken the ARRT exam during the past five years, and 160 have passed on the first attempt, yielding a five-year average of 87.9% (see [NSU Radiography Program Effectiveness Data](#)).

Students take the exam after completing all portions of the radiologic science program. Students are usually tested in the spring semester, meaning that students will typically take the exam in May, June, or July. It is only offered at secure testing facilities and must be scheduled. The examination has four content areas: radiologic science procedures, image production, patient care, and radiation safety. The image production (physics) portion has proven the most difficult for students. Students take a registry preparation course in their final semester. During this course, review lectures are given in each content area. Students also take multiple mock registries. Beginning in the 2020 cycle, students began using additional registry prep materials. The faculty also completed an inventory of all courses to ensure that course content mirrored the content on the ARRT registry examination. Faculty have also begun using software to track student progress in each content area by tracking questions on each exam and correlating them to exam content areas. Students also take mock registries in the semesters leading up to their final semester in the program to further prepare them for the rigor of the 230-question exam.

Veterinary Technology. Veterinary Technology. Students can work in the veterinary

profession without licensure as a veterinary assistant but not as a credentialed veterinary technician/technologist. The program's goal is a 75% initial pass rate meeting or exceeding the national average. In 2024, NSU Veterinary Technology students had a 47% first-time pass rate. The national average was 61.9% this year. The accrediting agency (AVMA-CVTEA) currently sets the minimum threshold (3-year pass rate) to maintain accreditation at 50% with an eventual move toward meeting the national average. The current 3-year pass rate of graduates of NSU Veterinary Technology is 66.7%. The most recent three-year window with available data reflects 33 students who took the exam, an average of 11 per year. For the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE), the minimum passing score is 425 (range 200-800). The students/graduates take the examination during their last internship courses or sometime after graduation. The exam is administered by the American Association of State Veterinary Boards (AAVSB) at testing centers around the country. There have been three testing windows each calendar year, in March-April, July-August, and November-December, but the testing periods will be expanded to four windows in 2025.

There was substantial regression in 2024 compared to 2023, with only 47% of students passing the exam on the initial try. There was a significant increase in the total number of students from the program who took the exam this year. While the program does not control when students elect to take the exam, several of the students taking the exam in 2024 have had substantial time pass since graduation. These students do not generally perform as well on the VTNE as the didactic knowledge from the coursework is no longer fresh in their memory. The 2024 annual pass rate is just below the threshold of acceptability set by the AVMA-CVTEA (50%) and substantially below the program's goal of 75%. However, the AVMA uses the 3-year average as the threshold of acceptability for accreditation, and the program's 66.7% first-time pass rate still exceeds this threshold. Graduates testing during 2024 scored above the national average on the surgical nursing, laboratory procedures, emergency medicine/critical care domains. The program will continue to strive to educate students that can achieve 100% first-time pass rates. Graduates of the four-year program are required to take VTEC 4200, a 3-credit-hour board exam review course with examinations that mimic the VTNE, and associate degree students are strongly encouraged to take it as an elective. Current faculty are also integrating sample VTNE questions into other courses and exams to expose all students to the types of questions they can expect on the VTNE throughout the curriculum.

Education (PRAXIS). Teachers must earn Louisiana certification to work in the profession. The licensure test required for Louisiana certification, Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT), is administered by ETS (Educational Testing Services). The Louisiana Department of Education has established passing scores for the licensure tests. Passing scores are: Early Childhood PK-3 – 157; Elementary Grades 1-5 – 160; Secondary Grades 6-12 – 157. Students who do not earn a passing score on a test may retake the test unlimited times every 21 days. Students take the exam during their pre-residency courses (methods) and must pass the test to enroll in the two-semester Residency. The pass rate goal is 100% because program completers are not employable nor eligible for a teaching license without passing the licensure test. The minimum threshold of acceptability is the state average pass rate of 98%. The average number of students taking the test in the past 2-years is 63 students with an average 100% pass rate. There is no regional average pass rate because

individual states have chosen different measurement instruments for teacher licensure. For example, Texas, Georgia, and Florida use state-specific exams for the licensure of their teachers.

Students take the exam during their teaching residency teaching experience (final methods or applied coursework). The exam is administered by a private company, Educational Testing Services, traditionally at testing centers around the country. In May 2020, the testing service offered an alternate method of at-home testing due to statewide operating restrictions and social distancing mandates in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The tests offered for at-home administration contain the same content, format, on-screen experience, and scoring as those administered in a test center. They include remote human proctoring and artificial intelligence features as security measures in test administration for the reliability of scores. At-home testing appointments are available 15 hours a day, seven days a week, for over 80 test titles. For test center administration, there are testing windows scheduled each calendar year, and the number of testing windows available depends on the specific content area of the test.