

Detailed Licensure Data Assessment Cycle 2025-2026

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 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 2024-2025 (CY 2025) NCLEX-RN pass rate for first-time test takers was 95% for ASN and 91% for BSN, with a combined average of 99%, which exceeded the national average of 87% and the state average of 90%. For academic years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024, trended data indicate 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 of 83-90%, which vary by exam and certifying organization. In 2024-2025 (CY 2025), the MSN/PMC program's certification pass rate for first-time test takers was 86%, thus meeting the goal. Trended data indicate that the MSN/PMC program continuously meets the goal. The certification pass rate goal for the 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 2025, 75% of first-time test takers passed the NCE on the first attempt. While the first-time pass rate in 2025 was 75% for first-time test takers, the program complies with the nurse anesthesia-specific 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 80%.

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 110 graduates taking the NCLEX-RN for the first time each year. The BSN program averages 180 graduates taking the NCLEX-RN for the first time each year. The total average for the ASN and BSN programs is 290 first-time NCLEX-RN candidates per year. The MSN program graduates an average of 85 students per year. The DNP-NA program graduated its first cohort in 2023 and, over a three-year period, averaged 17 graduates per cohort.

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 NCLEX-RN and certification exams generally perform at or above the national average across all exam sections.

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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 during their programs. The mock exams provide students with feedback on their strengths and weaknesses. Some graduates also take a review course after graduation. Also, the programs are designed to teach the content and test it using methods that 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 radiography concentration 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 2024 was 90.5% (see pg. 7 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-six students have taken the ARRT exam during the past five years, and 162 have passed on the first attempt, yielding a five-year average of 87.09% (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 they typically take the ARRT 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 matched the ARRT registry examination. Faculty have also begun using software to track student progress in each content area by recording questions on each exam and correlating them to the exam's 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. 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 2025, NSU Veterinary Technology students had a 67% first-time pass rate. The national average was 67.97% 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 62.2%. The most recent three-year window with available data reflects 26

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students who took the exam, an average of 9 per year. For the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE), the minimum passing score is 425 (range: 200-800).

Students/graduates take the examination during their last internship courses or, sometimes, after graduation. The exam is administered by the American Association of State Veterinary Boards (AAVSB) at testing centers around the country. The exam is administered four times per year, Feb 15-Apr 15, May 15-July 15, Aug 15- Oct 15, and Nov 15- Jan 15.

In 2025, updated data indicate a marked improvement, with the first-time pass rate increasing from 47% in 2024 to 67%. This positive trend suggests that recent programmatic adjustments and student support efforts are contributing to improved outcomes and moving the program closer to both accreditation benchmarks and internal performance goals. We did not meet our program's 75% goal; however, the AVMA uses the 3-year average as the accreditation threshold, and the program's 62.2% first-time pass rate still exceeds it. Graduates who tested in 2025 scored above the national average in the surgical nursing, dentistry, laboratory procedures, animal care and nursing, emergency medicine/critical care, and pain management/analgesia domains (6/10). The program will continue to strive to educate students who 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 a 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 it an unlimited number of times within 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 or 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 over the past 2 years is 67, with an average pass rate of 100%. 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 to license their teachers.

Students take the exam during their teaching residency experience (final methods or applied coursework). The exam is administered by the private company Educational Testing Services and is typically held at testing centers across the country. In May 2020, the testing service offered an alternative at-home testing option 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 to enhance the reliability of test scores. At-home testing appointments are available 15 hours a day, seven days a

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week, for over 80 test titles. For test center administration, testing windows are scheduled each calendar year, and the number available varies by test content area.