

Frequently Asked Question About International NCLEX[®] Administration

1. What Is International NCLEX Administration?

International NCLEX administration is the delivery of NCLEX-RN and -PN examinations in Pearson Professional Testing Centers located outside state board of nursing (also known as NCSBN Member Board jurisdictions), for purposes of licensure within Member Board jurisdictions. No part of the international NCLEX administration process will contradict or circumvent any current Member Board licensure processes or requirements. Alternatively stated, ALL current state licensure requirements will still apply. International administration does not address the administration or modification of the NCLEX examinations for purposes of licensure, or any other purpose, for Boards of Nursing, or any similar regulatory body, outside current Member Board jurisdictions.

2. Why Is The NCLEX Going To Be Administered Internationally?

The potential benefits of international administration to NCLEX candidates have been summarized as follows:

- Public Protection
International testing allows qualified and competent nurses to practice sooner than is possible under the current NCLEX administration model due to the reduction in time it takes candidates to travel testing centers. The international testing initiative may influence the current nursing shortage, however, candidates will still need to be made eligible by a Member Board before an examination can be administered.
- Maintain Fair and Rigorous Entry-Level Nurse Licensure Standards
The proposed plan for international testing helps to maintain current state licensure processes. International NCLEX administration affords convenience to candidates while demonstrating NCSBN Member Board commitment, individually and collectively, to a clear, unambiguous standard for entry-level nurse competency assessment. This is achieved by utilizing psychometrically sound and legally defensible examinations based on U.S. nursing practice.
- Removal of Barriers for Nurse Licensure
International NCLEX administration is designed to make the process for foreign educated candidates to take the NCLEX examination more efficient. Much like NCSBN's state-of-the-art move to Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) in 1994, international testing seeks to provide convenience to candidates without sacrificing standards, while significantly minimizing the time required and overall cost to candidates to become licensed in the United States.
- Facilitation of Self-Determination of Employment
International NCLEX administration does not change jurisdictional requirements or make it easier to become a nurse in the United States; it only assists to alleviate the economic impact of traveling to the United States each time they must test.

- Establish An International Presence Commensurate With the NCSBN Mission and Vision
International NCLEX administration is consistent with NCSBN's organizational mission and vision statements and provides a common framework to establish multi-lateral relationships with nurse regulatory bodies outside the United States.

3. Will The NCLEX Examination Administered Internationally Be The Same As The Examinations Administered Domestically?

Yes. The test plans, examination items, and passing standards will be the same for all NCLEX examinations administered globally. Utilizing all current NCLEX administration policies and procedures, including security requirements, the NCLEX examinations will be administered in Pearson Professional Testing Centers that are approved by the NCSBN Examination Committee and meet NCLEX contract specifications. The administration environment requirements are summarized as follows:

- All locations will be Pearson owned and operated centers
- Pearson centers will be built in accordance with standards in the test services contract
- Pearson centers will always be staffed by at least two certified test center administrators, who are Pearson employees
- The same secured technology and file server security will be utilized as in U.S. based centers
- Candidate identification procedure will be the same
- All centers will have the same video/audio recording technology as U.S. based centers
- All the same digital fingerprint, photograph and signature technology (including back-up technology), as used in U.S. based centers will be employed
- All examination registration, scheduling and examination proctoring procedures, including incident reports and investigations will be the same as in U.S. centers

4. Who Will Be Administering The NCLEX Examination Internationally?

The NCLEX examinations will be administered in Pearson Professional Testing Centers that are approved by NCSBN.

5. When Will International Testing For NCLEX Occur?

International NCLEX administration will occur no sooner than January 1, 2005.

6. How Will International Testing Center Locations Be Chosen?

The NCSBN Board of Directors, regarding the selection of international administration locations for the NCLEX examinations, has approved the following criteria. The Examination Committee will use the approved criteria below to evaluate locations for initial international administration of the NCLEX examinations:

- National Security
The Examination Committee will only consider locations that have favorable reports regarding security and economic climate from the U.S Department of State (www.state.gov).

- Examination Security (Replication of Current Pearson Professional Centers)
Because of the high security and administration standards required for the NCLEX examination, only locations where Pearson VUE can build, staff and replicate current Pearson Professional Centers (the same as in current member board jurisdictions) will be considered.
- Similarity with U.S. Intellectual Property and Copyright Laws
The Examination Committee will select countries for initial consideration that are generally regarded by the U.S. government and industry as areas that minimize risk for new business ventures.
- Pearson Locations with High Stakes Testing
The Examination Committee will consider the experiences of other high stakes testing programs and test service in international markets.
- Numbers and Locations of Internationally Educated Nurses
The Examination Committee will consider individual countries and regions with traditionally high NCLEX candidate volume.
- Regional Accessibility
The Examination Committee will chose initial center locations that will serve broad, regional candidate volume needs. Not all countries with high candidate volume can be considered for initial launch due to the inability to rate highly on all criteria, hence the need for convenient alternative regional locations.
- Number of U.S. Military Personnel and Dependents
The Examination Committee will consider potential demand for NCLEX examination administration by US Military personnel and dependents as part of the administration locations decisions.
- Similarity to U.S. Nursing Educational Systems
The Examination Committee will consider locations with educational systems that have similarities in preparation of candidates parallel to US educational systems.

7. Where Will The Examination Be Administered?

Utilizing all current NCLEX administration policies and procedures, including security procedures, NCLEX Member Board Manual and the NCSBN-Pearson NCLEX contract, the NCLEX examinations will be administered in Pearson Professional Testing Centers that are approved by the Examination Committee and meet NCLEX contract specifications.

8. How Many International Testing Centers Will There Be?

Three or fewer centers will be utilized as the initial set of international administration locations to pilot the initiative.

9. When Will The Center Locations Be Chosen?

Specific country and city locations will be chosen in 2004 and published in the *2005 NCLEX Candidate Bulletin*. Initial international locations to select from will be selected because they rate highly across all criteria under consideration (Listed in FAQ #6).

10. Can I Deliver NCLEX Examinations For NCSBN?

No. NCSBN will utilize Pearson VUE as the exclusive provider for NCLEX examinations.

11. Who Can I Contact To Give My Input On Locations For International NCLEX Administration?

To provide input on potential NCLEX international administration locations, please send written correspondences using one of the following three methods:

U.S. Mail:

NCSBN Testing Services
Attn: International NCLEX Administration Locations
111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 2900
Chicago, Illinois 60601-4277

Email:

nclexinfo@ncsbn.org

Use 'International NCLEX administration Locations' in the subject line to ensure proper receipt

Fax:

312.279.1036

Please note: Information on center location will not be accepted by phone

12. How Can I Apply To Take The Examination In An International Test Center?

It is expected that in late Fall 2004, the *2005 NCLEX Candidate Bulletins* will be published. These bulletins will contain ALL the information necessary to register for the NCLEX domestically and internationally. NCSBN will publicize in 2004 when the *NCLEX Candidate Bulletins* are available.

13. How Much Will It Cost To Take The NCLEX Examination Internationally?

Candidate examination fees for NCLEX examination administrations outside Member Board jurisdictions will be set to reflect the costs of the examination administration in the specific international jurisdiction. Domestic NCLEX candidate fees will not be increased to accommodate costs associated with international administration.

14. Who Can I Talk To If I Have More Questions About International NCLEX Administration?

Please contact NCSBN Testing Services through either of the following options:

Email:

nclexinfo@ncsbn.org

Phone:

1.866.293.9600