

January 2025

NCSBN's Annual Report Program

What is it? This is a win-win situation!

- We collect core nursing education program data from the participating nursing regulatory bodies (NRBs), clean and verify the data, and then provide the NRB with a final report – decreasing their workload. One NRB said participation decreased their workload on their annual reports by 80%!
- We analyze the aggregate data annually, creating the first-ever national nursing education database.

How many NRBs are currently participating?

1. As of January 2025, there are 35 NRBs participating.
2. We are working with other NRBs to join the program.
3. Associate members have also expressed interest in participating, and it is our goal to open the database to associate members in the future.

How does this work?

1. From NCSBN's groundbreaking [2020 metrics and outcomes study](#), of nursing education, core questions (only 50 questions) were developed to be answered consistently across all programs.
2. NRBs can add any of their own additional questions.
3. NCSBN sends the NRB Qualtrics survey link and PDF, and the NRB then sends this to their programs for entering data.
4. NCSBN sends NRBs a PDF of the survey so that programs can use it to collect their data and then enter the data into the Qualtrics survey at a later time.
5. An introduction, detailed directions and definitions are included on the survey.
6. NCSBN provides an email address for any questions the programs might ask. NCSBN will answer all program questions, though NCSBN may ask NRBs for clarification related to their additional questions.
7. Because this is a core survey, all questions must be answered before the respondent can move on to the next question.
8. Once the program submits their survey, they can print out their submission and can use it for next year's survey.
9. NCSBN closes the survey after conferring with the NRB. Once closed:
 - a. NCSBN cleans the data (for multiple submissions by one program, etc.).
 - b. NCSBN verifies unreasonable answers on the core survey with the program (such as graduation rates calculated to be over 100%, etc.). However, we will leave it to the NRBs to verify any questionable data in their additional questions.
 - c. NCSBN sends the NRB a final report which includes:
 - i. Responses to the core questions and the NRB's additional questions.
 - ii. Colorful graphs and matrix tables.
 - iii. Identification of quality indicators that are not met by individual programs.
 - iv. Calculation of graduation rates for a snapshot in time.

- v. NRBs will receive the final report three weeks after the survey is closed – *as long as the programs are prompt in getting back to NCSBN with questions about data verification.*
 - vi. The raw data via Excel.
10. Annually NCSBN's Research Department analyzes all the aggregate data from this core nursing education database. It should be noted that the NRBs' additional questions are not included in this aggregate data analysis since those questions are not consistent across NRBs.

How do NRBs participate?

1. To get started: Send NCSBN your NRB's logo and permission to use it. That, along with NCSBN's logo, will adorn the survey NRBs send to their programs.
2. Send NCSBN any additional questions that your NRB would like to ask.
 - a. Additional questions are *not* required.
 - b. If the NRB wishes to include additional questions, here are a few suggestions, based on NCSBN's experience:
 - i. Be mindful of the purpose of the additional question: Will the NRB use those data? The fewer and simpler the questions, the more likely respondents will answer them reliably and in a timely manner.
 - ii. Please coordinate with the NCSBN core survey to avoid redundancy between the NCSBN and the NRB questions. Answering the same questions twice confuses faculty and does not engender confidence in the structure of the survey.
 - iii. Invite a peer to review additional questions for clarity. The NCSBN questions went through several robust reviews.
 - iv. The shorter the question, the better. Long involved questions are confusing to faculty.
3. Send NCSBN a list of all the programs in the jurisdiction so that NCSBN will know which programs need to submit a survey.
4. NCSBN designs the survey for the NRB, though the NRB will review it before it is sent.
5. The NRB will then send the survey out, along with the PDF for the programs to use when collecting data.
6. During data collection, NCSBN will periodically send the NRB a notice about which programs have submitted their surveys. The NRB may want to remind programs that are close to or past the deadline.

When are these sent out?

1. Those using the academic year send them out Sept. 1st. Those using the calendar year send them out Jan. 1st. However, NCSBN is flexible with these dates.
2. NCSBN's process is to give the programs 30 days to submit their surveys. However, some NRBs have chosen to increase that timeframe, and that is fine.