



Past Event: 2025 NCSBN Annual Meeting - Exam Committee/Test Plans Forum **Video Transcript**

Event

2025 NCSBN Annual Meeting

More info: <https://www.ncsbn.org/events/2025-nlc-annual-meeting>

Presenter

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Great, thank you. And what a pleasure it is to be the chair of the NCLEX Examination Committee, or what we refer to as NEC. My other job is I'm the CEO of the North Carolina Board of Nursing, or the place where Tony Graham works in that state.

Seems like everyone knows Tony or wants to have photos, so we joke with Tony all the time. So, NEC is one of two standing committees for NCSBN. Begin on the right place here. So, we just heard from one standing committee, which was the Finance Committee, and the other standing is NEC.

And like I said, it's been a highlight of my career to be able to chair that committee and work with such great folks. So, I would like to highlight for you the hard work that the NEC has done over the past year. You can see, but I'll have you pay attention to bullet points five and six, because I think this is what we're all here for today for delicate assembly.

It is a proposed '26 RN and PN NCLEX test plans. So, if I haven't learned anything since I started as a regulator in 2010, when I started NEC back in 2014... Two things that you learn, one, it's psychometrically sound, and two, it's legally defensible.

And I can't tell you how many times I use that, so be sure that you take that away. So, NEC, we monitor all aspects of the NCLEX examination, which is a huge responsibility. And we always ensure that the NCLEX is psychometrically sound and legally defensible. So, you know, the committee is only good as the members, so I'd like to take a moment to have the committee members of NEC to please stand when I call your name.

Then you can sit back down and we can hold the applause. I would like to thank... I like to call her Ms. New Jersey. I'd like to thank Barbara Blozen for being our board liaison for NEC and all the hard work she does for us. So, first, I don't know, Caryl Mountain from California, Tammy Buchholz from North Dakota, JaCinda Downs, Minnesota, Kristin Benton, Texas, Vicki Lavender, Alabama, Salvatore Diaz, Connecticut, Christine Penny, British Columbia.

So, thank you all for serving on the NEC. And I tell you, I can't thank the NCSBN exam staff enough. They just make our work so incredibly easy.

And it's wonderful that the psychometricians, man, they can break it down for us like 101 so we understand. So, thank you for all the hard work that you do. So, now, if you've never served on an NIRSC meeting, you need to. Because this is a wild three days of going over up to 1,200 NCLEX questions.

So, we have 22 members, and they do three-day rotations when they come to Chicago. It is one NCLEX question after the other. And I think at the end of the three days, you're a little brain-fried, but you certainly get exposed to a lot.

And certainly, we're looking at it from our board's perspective to make sure it doesn't conflict with our Nursing Practice Act. So, I'd like to introduce these members. You get to the right there. Amy Ackerson, Missouri. And please stand, and you can sit back down once I call your name.

Cynthia Arpin, Connecticut. Jackie Barber, Iowa. Sarah Bear, Washington. Hansella Caines Robson, Massachusetts. Kristina Deaver, North Carolina. Diana Forst, Florida. Georgina Howard, New York.

Grace Jecek, Michigan. Ken Johnson, Texas. Rhonda Johnson, Minnesota. Randall Mangrum, Virginia. Judith McLeod, California. Ann Marie Milner, North Carolina. Victoria Record, New York.

Rhonda Scott, Maryland. Beverly Skloss, Texas. Sarah Spangler, Montana. Maceo Tanner, Georgia. Stacey Rollins Thompson, North Carolina. Sherri Trujillo, Wyoming. Terry Ward, North Carolina.

So, this past year, some of the accomplishments that we have achieved at NEC, we have reviewed the NCLEX policies, we've looked at NCLEX items and case reports, and we've had a lot of strategic discussion about which direction the NCLEX should go in the future. We've also published the '24 RN Practice Analysis and the PN Knowledge Survey reports and also, published the RN and PN Knowledge Survey reports.

We have reviewed and approved the 2025 NCLEX-RN and PN panel of judges and approved the '26 NCLEX-RN PN test plans for the proposed recommendation to the assembly, and this is something that you will vote on.

So, periodically, we perform the practice analysis to assist in evaluating the validity of the test and content distribution for the future NCLEX. So, the recommendations to the delegate assembly will be to adopt the proposed 2026 NCLEX-RN and PN test plans.

You have this in your business book, you have a clean and an underlined copy as well of the changes. So, how do we make these recommendations? Well, recommendations are based on the 2024 RN and PN practice analysis, panelist expert judgment, and feedback from the member boards.

So, our NCLEX test plan journey. So, as we look at the analysis, data was analyzed and we have a draft of the NCLEX test plan.

It looks at the category structure, the percentages, and the activity statements. And once again, this is what you will vote on. And it has gone to the regulatory bodies did receive feedback and also to the board of directors for their review. So, in a nutshell, there are going not be any changes to the test plan.

It's going to remain the same percentages as of 2023. One thing that you will notice is that we did change one of the categories from safety and infection control to safety and infection prevention and control.

Because we know the goal is to prevent infection. So, here you will see a comparison chart between 2023 and 2026 of the NCLEX-RN test plan. And you can see the percentages remain the same. As well as the NCLEX-PN test plan comparisons percentages again, are the same.

So, what does the timeline look like for the future? We're in July so the panel of judges met to recommend the 2026 NCLEX-RN passing standard. Now, in August, we're at delicate assembly and the RN and PN test plans will be submitted to the delicate assembly for action and a vote.

In September 2025 panel of judges meets to recommend the 2026 NCLEX-PN passing standard. And in December it's what all the nursing education programs are waiting on for NCSBN to post it on their website. And the board of directors will bless it as well. But in December is when the programs will find out that the percentages will remain the same and be published on the website.

And then when does it become effective? It becomes effective April 1st of 2026. So, future activities. NEC, we will continue to monitor all aspects of the NCLEX program, evaluate all aspects of the additional quality insurance processes as needed, and look at informational initiatives such as the NCLEX conferences, regional workshops, and other presentations.

Please mark it on your calendar. September the 10th will be the 2025 NCLEX conference that will be virtual. We will conduct the 2026 NCLEX-PN standard setting. Also, communicate to disseminate original and collaborative research outcomes at professional and academic conferences on the clinical judgment.

We'll also explore future uses of the clinical judgment measurement model and disseminate that information. And then the last bullet looks like just a small bullet, but I guarantee it's not. It's continue to develop and test remote proctoring using AI security technology. We want to make sure that we have a secure, valid, reliable entry-level assessment exam that can be done in a remote setting.

So, again, it's been a wonderful ride on NEC, and I've been delighted to be your chair. And it's been fun to watch the NGN come to fruition, and now, to see where we're going with AI as well and remote proctoring. So, thank you for your time.