



NCSBN's Review for the NCLEX-PN® Examination

Course Syllabus



Developed by

NCSBN Learning Extension
National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), Chicago, IL

Credits & Acknowledgments

This course would not have been possible without the contributions of many nursing faculty and e-learning professionals. A full list of contributors is available online.

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I. Course Description

Course Overview

This course was developed by NCSBN Learning Extension to help candidates prepare to take the NCLEX-PN® examination. The course provides both a comprehensive content review and “NCLEX-style” questions for practice. The contents consist of an introduction, diagnostic pretest, 8 course sections, Links to Knowledge, posttests, self-check practice questions, and interactive exercises. In addition, all learners receive access to Epocrates Rx online, A.D.A.M Illustrated Medical Encyclopedia, and Merriam-Webster’s Medical Dictionary for their entire subscription length. The course content is based on the NCLEX-PN Test Plan (effective April 2011).

Course Objectives

After completing this course, the learner will:

- Become acquainted with the “NCLEX-style” of items by taking the pretest, 8 lesson posttests, and answering self-check practice questions
- Demonstrate knowledge of key aspects of each test plan category by completing the lesson posttests with 75% accuracy
- Increase confidence by: completing the lessons, tests and exercises; utilizing relaxation techniques provided throughout the online content; and by joining the online community of student nurses

Logistics

Course type

This course is subscription-based, self-paced, and not mediated by an instructor.

Time and schedule

Learners have immediate 24-hour access to the course materials for the entire subscription period of either 3 weeks, 5 weeks, 8 weeks or 15 weeks, depending on the subscription length purchased.

The course is accessible using an Internet connection and a computer that meets the specified technical requirements.

The time required to complete the review course at a slow and thorough pace would be approximately 85 hours; however, learners determine the amount of time spent on the review. This syllabus is a guide to the amount of work to be completed. Learners should adjust the schedule to meet their individualized needs for review.

Continuing Education (CE) Credit

Continuing education credit is not given for this course.

Course Materials/Tools

Although an instructor does not facilitate this course, a virtual instructor is available to answer questions. Furthermore, learners can share their experiences with others who are preparing for the NCLEX exam using the [PN Study Hall](#) to solve problems, discuss topics, ask questions, or to form study groups.

NCSBN Learning Extension utilizes the latest technology to present the course materials. Course materials and tools are explained below.

Lesson Content

The content is arranged in an outline format. Learners can use Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary to look up unfamiliar medical terms or A.D.A.M. Illustrated Medical Encyclopedia to access detailed information on a topic. This method of presentation accommodates learners with unique content review needs. Various educational software tools and techniques are used to make the PN review material alive and engaging to users, including images and icons highlighting important information about diet, complementary and alternate therapies, medications (and high alert medications), audio, and laboratory tests. Interspersed throughout the course are quick tips to help learners remember content and prepare learners for the NCLEX exam. These techniques help provide motivation and purposeful interaction to reinforce a learner's knowledge of the content.

Pretest, Lesson Posttests, and Self-check Practice Questions

A 150-question diagnostic pretest will assess learners' performance as compared to the test plan categories. A 20-question posttest is included within every lesson (40 questions in Lesson 8). Additional self-check practice questions are available for learners to answer as often as they like. A rationale is provided for all questions, along with two resources. The questions on these tests are primarily multiple-choice in the "NCLEX-style," but there are also many types of alternate formats now found on the NCLEX, including fill-in-the-blank, multiple select, ordering, and hot spots.

Course Evaluation

NCSBN Learning Extension is always looking for ways to improve the course and feedback is extremely important in this effort. Please remember to fill out the [course evaluation form](#) after course completion.

Prerequisites

Learners should be candidates preparing to take the NCLEX-PN Examination, typically graduates of nursing programs. The course is also appropriate for non-US candidates, since access to the course is global. However, all course materials are in English; users should be able to read English fluently.

It is assumed that the learner is familiar with Internet techniques, such as navigating between pages, following hyperlinks and closing browser windows. Learners must have the appropriate hardware and software in order to fully utilize the course features.

Technology Overview

NCSBN Learning Extension online courses were designed to make learning fun and interactive. Having the appropriate software and hardware will allow the learner to utilize all of the great features of this course.

The GreenLight system requires using either Internet Explorer or Safari browsers to access courses. Pop-up blockers should be turned off and other Internet security software may need to be changed in order for the course to work properly. If necessary, review [technical requirements](#).

II. Course Policies

Terms of Use

Learners are required to read and abide by the course user agreement, which outlines policies, including the policy regarding usernames and passwords. Specifically, learners are not allowed to distribute their username and password to give others access to the course. Also included in the [end-user license agreement](#) is NCSBN's notice of ownership of copyright and the prohibition against distributing course materials to others.

Extension Policy

Extra time will not be given to complete the course. Technical problems should be resolved by contacting [Technical Support](#). Refer to the [Help](#) section for more information.

Contact Customer Service at elearning@ncsbn.org or call 312.525.3749 for questions regarding these policies.

III. Assignments & Grading

Learners complete as much or as little of the course as they choose. This course is self-paced and self-guided, which means there are no assignments to submit to an instructor. Grading and attendance tracking are done through technology. In order to provide documentation of attendance and grades, learners are expected to complete the reading assignments and tests as listed on the course schedule. A course completion certificate is available when a learner has earned an overall score of 75% on the pretest and all posttests within the course. Once it becomes available, the certificate will be located in the “My Courses” area of the learning environment. After the course expires, the certificate will remain available in the “My History” section. Though not required for a course completion certificate, learners are strongly encouraged to utilize all of the features of the course to maximize the learning experience.

Some learners may be required to provide proof of course completion to boards of nursing, schools of nursing or employers. To satisfy requirements, learners may print or save their Course Progress Report available for download from the My Grades page of the Learning Extension site.

IV. Course Schedule

Learners will complete the course materials and accompanying exercises in the order presented below. The time required to complete the total review at a slow and thorough pace would be approximately 85 hours, however, learners determine the amount of time spent on the review. NCSBN recognizes that learners have different levels of needs for NCLEX preparation. The Diagnostic Pretest assesses which areas require more focused study. After completing the pretest, the learner will have access to a scorecard that outlines each of the course’s learning objectives and how well the learner performed in each area of the Test Plan. Using the scorecard as a guide, learners can adjust their study schedule to best meet their learning needs.

Introduction A: Review the Introduction

The introduction contains information about the NCLEX examination and study tips. Contact Technical Support for problems with course access or the use of any course feature.

Introduction B: Take the Diagnostic Pretest

Complete the 150-question Diagnostic Pretest which assesses learners’ performance by answering questions related to the content for each lesson.

Assignment 1: Review Lesson 1 – Coordinated Care

- Complete the reading, average completion time of 1–2 hours
- Complete the interactive exercise
- Complete the lesson posttest

Assignment 2: Review Lesson 2 – Safety and Infection Control

- Complete the reading, average completion time of 1–2 hours
- Complete the interactive exercise
- Complete the lesson posttest

Assignment 3: Review Lesson 3 – Health Promotion and Maintenance

- Complete the reading, average completion time of 4–5 hours
- Complete the interactive exercises
- Complete the lesson posttest

Assignment 4: Review Lesson 4 – Psychosocial Integrity

- Complete the reading, average completion time of 3–4 hours
- Complete the interactive exercise
- Complete the lesson posttest

Assignment 5: Review Lesson 5 – Basic Care and Comfort

- Complete the reading, average completion time of 3–4 hours
- Complete the interactive exercise
- Complete the lesson posttest

Assignment 6: Review Lesson 6 – Pharmacological Therapies

Average completion time of 15-18 hours. This lesson contains 6 sub-lessons and most include an interactive exercise. There is only one posttest for this lesson.

I. Pharmacological Terms and Responsibilities – complete the reading

Complete the interactive exercise.

II. Classification of Medications by Body System – complete the reading

Complete the interactive exercise.

III. Classification of Medications by Health Status – complete the reading

Complete the interactive exercise.

IV. Total Parenteral Nutrition: Nursing Care of Clients – complete the reading

V. Blood Product Administration – complete the reading

VI. Dosage Calculations – complete the reading

Lesson Summary – complete the reading

Complete the lesson posttest of 20 questions

Assignment 7: Review Lesson 7 – Reduction of Risk Potential

- Complete the reading, average completion time of 6-8 hours
- Complete the interactive exercise
- Complete the lesson posttest

Assignment 8: Review Lesson 8 – Physiological Adaptation

Average completion time of 30-40 hours. Yes—this is a BIG lesson! This lesson contains 11 sub-lessons and most sections include an interactive exercise. There is only one posttest for this lesson.

A. Cardiovascular – complete the reading

Complete the three interactive exercises.

B. Respiratory – complete the reading

Complete the interactive exercise.

C. Neurological – complete the reading

Complete the two interactive exercises.

D. Gastrointestinal – complete the reading

Complete the interactive exercise.

E. Genitourinary – complete the reading
Complete the interactive exercise.

F. Endocrine – complete the reading
Complete the interactive exercise.

G. Orthopedic – complete the reading
Complete the interactive exercise.

H. Oncology – complete the reading
Complete the interactive exercise.

I. Emergency – complete the reading

J. Pediatric – complete the reading
Complete the interactive exercise.

K. Complicated Obstetrics – complete the reading

Complete the lesson posttest of 40 questions

Assignment 9: Self-check Practice Questions

With about 1,000 questions, average completion time is 4–5 hours. Grouped into numerous 20-question exercises, the learner can practice answering questions from random lessons as time allows or as desired. These questions allow review of the rationale for each answer before proceeding to the next question.

Complete the Course Evaluation

NCSBN Learning Extension is always looking for ways to improve the course and feedback is extremely important in this effort. Please remember to fill out the [course evaluation form](#) after course completion.

V. Getting Help/Office Hours

Course FAQs Check out the course [FAQs](#) page to find answers to commonly asked questions.

Technical Support Technical support is available 24/7:
Live Chat: <https://admin.instant-service.com/links/5668/21000>
E-mail: IS5668_21000@is.instant-service.com

Customer Service E-mail: elearning@ncsbn.org
Phone: 312.525.3749 (for general course related or billing questions)
Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm Central

Instructor For questions about the content of this course, e-mail: instructor@ncsbn.org