NCLEX
EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW....

.....BUT WERE TOO AFRAID TO ASK

NCLEX
National Council Licensure Examination
- Passing demonstrates that you have the minimal level of knowledge or competency
- A legal requirement
- Allows you to be registered as a professional nurse
- Is a CAT exam – Computerized Adaptive Test

CAT - COMPUTERIZED ADAPTIVE TEST
- How does it work?
- Every time the examinee answers a question, the computer re-estimates the examinee’s ability.
- With every additional answer, the ability estimate gets more precise.
- Based upon the most recent, revised ability estimate, the computer selects the next item to be presented, such that the examinee will find it challenging. (Not too hard, Not too easy)

CAT
- This way an adaptive test presents the examinee with the items that will be the most informative for measuring ability.
- Each test is tailored to the examinee.
- Reduces the number of easy items that high-ability examinees receive.
  - Easy items tell little about a high performer's ability
- Reduces the number of difficult items that low-ability people receive.
  - People guess on items that are too difficult for them.

EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE A DIFFERENT, TAILORED EXAM
- As a direct result of the exam being a CAT, your exam will be different in both content and length
- The NCLEX has a minimum and maximum number of items that can be asked.
  - RN: 75 – 265
- The test ends when the computer determines with 95% certainty that the examinee’s ability is either above or below the passing standard, or when the maximum time ends (6 hours), or when all 265 questions are asked. A message appears on the candidate’s computer screen “Examination is ended”.

EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE A DIFFERENT, TAILORED EXAM
- In more than 90% of cases, it is the 95% certainty rule that applies.
- That is, very few test takers run out of time or answer all 265 questions.
  - For UW – Madison students, the average test time was 118 minutes (remember, you are allowed 360 minutes)
  - For UW – Madison students, the average number of questions was 96 (out of 265)
- Speed of answering is not really a concern, so take your time, but do not get “stuck” on one question.
TIME…..

- Although speed is not a dominant factor, it is not entirely irrelevant either. In actual practice, nurses do not have an unlimited amount of time to make decisions in a clinical setting. Therefore, it is inappropriate to give examinees extraordinary amounts of time to make comparable decisions on examination.

FACT OR FALLACY?

- If you finish early you must have failed (or passed).
- If you finish late, you must have failed (or passed).
- Neither is true. Remember, since it is a CAT, the test is tailored to your responses.

SO WHAT DOES THE NCLEX COVER?

- There are four major content areas
  1. Safe and effective care
     - Management of Care 13-19%
     - Safety and Infection Control 8-14%
     - Sub Total 21-33%
  2. Health Promotion and Maintenance 6-12%
  3. Psychosocial Integrity 6-12%
  4. Physiological Integrity
     - Basic Care and Comfort 6-12%
     - Pharmacology 13-19%
     - Reduction of risk potential 13-19%
     - Physiological Adaptation 11-17%
     - Sub Total 43-67%

#1 SAFE AND EFFECTIVE CARE

- These questions deal with overt safety issues such as use of restraints, medication administration, safety measures (side rails, etc.), infection prevention, isolations procedures, safety needs of specialized populations such as pediatrics, the elderly, and those with psychiatric conditions.
- Also includes questions about lab tests, results and nursing actions associated with them. Legal/ethical issues. A small number of management and QA issues (delegation, staffing, etc.)

#2 PHYSIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

- This category comprises the largest number of questions.
- These questions include adult med/surg, pediatrics, and gerontology. Common conditions including:
  - Diabetes
  - Cardiovascular disorders
  - Neuro
  - Renal
  - Respiratory
  - Trauma
  - Immune disorders
  - Skin and infective disorders

#2 PHYSIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY (Peds)

- Pediatric conditions usually include significant number of questions about:
  - Growth and development
  - Congenital abnormalities
  - Child abuse and neglect
  - Burns and trauma
  - Fractures, and cast care/traction care
  - Childhood infectious diseases
#3 PSYCHOSOCIAL INTEGRITY
- Includes questions that revolve around the patient with psychiatric conditions, as well as patients that do not have psychiatric conditions but are experiencing stress and coping issues associated with illness, trauma, or life threatening conditions.
- Common questions:
  - Eating disorders
  - Personality disorders
  - Anxiety disorders
  - Depression
  - Schizophrenia
  - Organic mental disorders
  - As well as therapeutic communication, crisis intervention, and substance abuse.

#4 HEALTH PROMOTION AND MAINTENANCE
- Life span growth and development
- Prevention and early detection of illness/disease
- Questions include:
  - Birth control measures
  - Pregnancy/labor/delivery
  - Care of the newborn
  - Growth and development
  - Contagious diseases, particularly STDs
  - Patient teaching and counseling including knowledge of diet, signs and symptoms of complications, fetal development, and testing used during pregnancy.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY OF QUESTIONS
- Three levels
  - Level 1 – knowledge and comprehension: Less than 10% of questions
  - Level 2 – analysis/interpretation/application
  - Level 3 – synthesis/judgment/evaluation: More than 90% of questions are level 2 or 3.

EXAMPLES
- Level 1
  - List normal lab values
  - Identify growth and development milestones
- Level 2
  - Given an abnormal finding, what does it mean?
- Level 3
  - And then, apply rules, methods, principles or theories to a situation and then, make a decision about patient care.

QUESTION FORMAT
- Most questions are multiple choice with only one right answer. There might be more than one answer that appears correct, but you must identify the “best” answer.
- Multiple answer questions
- Alternative format questions include fill in the blank (commonly used for pharm and math questions)
- Sequencing questions, you must prioritize your care/actions
- Identify the hotspot
- Chart/exhibit items
- Examples can be found at www.ncsbn.org/testing.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING
WWW.NCSBN.ORG
HOT SPOT ITEM

Organize Files
Don’t throw Away
Make a plan...
Begin answering questions (cards, books, CD’s...)
Take NCLEX within a short time of graduation

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

REVIEW 2000 QUESTIONS.....

NCLEX STUDY REFERENCES

Saunders Comprehensive Review for the NCLEX-RN Examination: Text with CD-ROM for Macintosh and Windows
Silvestri, Linda Anne MSN List Price: $56.95

Lippincott’s Q&A Review for NCLEX-RN, Text with CD-ROM for Windows Billings, Diane M. RN, EdD, FAAN List Price: $42.95

Mosby’s Comprehensive Review of Nursing for the NCLEX-RN Examination Package: Includes Textbook and Internet Access Code for eBook Download Saxton, Dolores F. RN List Price: $78.95

NCLEX-RN Review Made Incredibly Easy: Text with CD-ROM for Windows Springhouse List Price: $42.95

NCLEX-RN; Medications You Need to Know for the Exam Kaplan List Price: $16.95

TEST PREPARATION TO REDUCE ANXIETY

Be prepared!
Avoid thinking you need to cram just before exam
Avoid speaking with any fellow students who have not prepared, who express negativity, who will distract your preparation
Try to forget Outside pressures
A program of exercise is said to sharpen the mind
Get a good night’s sleep the night before the exam
Don’t go to the exam with an empty stomach
Fresh fruits and vegetables are often recommended to reduce stress.
AT THE TESTING CENTER
- Plan to arrive at the Pearson Professional Center at least 30 minutes before your scheduled testing time.
- If you arrive more than 30 minutes after your scheduled appointment, you may be required to forfeit your NCLEX examination appointment.

AT THE TESTING CENTER
- Palm Vein Pattern Recognition for the NCLEX® Examination (scanning of palm vein) Since Oct. 2009
- Digital Finger Printing

DURING THE TEST:
- Read the directions/questions carefully.
- Budget your test taking time (6 hrs).
- Change positions to help you relax.
- Relax; you are in control. Take slow, deep breaths.
- Use positive reinforcement for yourself: Acknowledge that you have done, and are doing, your best.
- Expect some anxiety…... It’s a reminder that you want to do your best and can provide energy. Just keep it manageable.

NCLEX QUICK RESULTS SERVICE
- Your “unofficial” results will be available two business days after taking your examination.
  - Via the web ($7.95) - Go to www.pearsonvue.com/nclex
  - Via the phone ($9.95) - Call the NCLEX Quick Results line at 1.900.776.2539
- Examination results are available ONLY from a candidate’s board of nursing and will be mailed approximately one month after taking the examination. DO NOT CALL the board of nursing, NCLEX Candidate Services, the Pearson Professional Centers or NCSBN for examination results.

Graduation and Licensing Information
What You Can Do Now
End of the Year Process

What Can You Do Now
Be sure that you have indicated your graduation term in your MyUW account. This will put you “on the list” of those that intend to graduate this Spring or Summer. This list is used for things like graduation ceremony information and final graduation checks at the end of the semester.

Meet with your advisor to complete a final graduation check or you can run your own DARS through your MyUW. Details are on the StudentNet.

http://academic.uowisconsin.edu/studentnet/docs/running%20_son_dars.pdf
End of the Semester Process
Graduation and Convocation Ceremonies are Saturday, May 15th at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Academic Programs then has to verify all requirements (after final grades are submitted and posted) for all students that have indicated graduation. This process takes about 2 weeks.

Academic Programs then sends final lists to both the Registrar and the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

Final lists will be confirmed June 1st.

What Can Delay Your Graduation?
Courses/Credits not yet posted to your record (Transfer, Study Abroad, Extension).
We recommend that you meet with an Advisor to make sure the credits are posted. If they are not posted, they need to be posted to your record through the Office of Admissions. It can take 4-6 weeks to finalize getting your credits posted.
All courses must be completed and posted to your record before we can verify graduation.

Licensing Information
We will send graduation information to the DRL on June 1st. It could take 15-20 days (or more) for the DRL to complete your application.

If you plan on working right after the semester, we encourage you to speak with your employer about the positions (Student Nurse, etc) that are available to you until you receive your temporary license (which could be the latter part of June). Education must be verified by the School of Nursing.

Temporary licenses are good for 90 days you pass the NCLEX.

Follow Up
The Academic Programs Office will be sending you additional licensing information in February. It is important that you apply for graduation through your MyUW to ensure that you are on our list of expected graduates.

We will be outlining the process and forms that are required for Wisconsin licensure. Students should contact other states if they intend to be licensed outside of WI.
All licensing questions should be directed to the Board of Nursing that you are applying to.