

Southcal Educational Institute



School Catalog (English Version)

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Founder/Director of Nursing

Susie Chen, BSN, MA, MN, RN

Education Background

- ✓ **Master in Nursing**, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), California
- ✓ **Master of Art in Teaching**, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- ✓ **Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing**, Kaohsiung Medical College, Taiwan
- ✓ **Associate Degree**, National Taipei College of Nursing, Taiwan.
- ✓ **Lifetime Nursing Instructor Credential**, Nursing, National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan

Work Experience

- ✓ **Tenured Nursing Professor** in a California community college. More than 20 years teaching experience in both U.S. and overseas. Have been teaching different levels of nursing educations, including BSN, ADN, LVN, and CNA in subjects of Fundamental Nursing, Medical-Surgical Nursing, Pharmacology, Oncology Nursing, Critical Care Nursing, and Pediatric Nursing.
- ✓ **Director of Education** in a California acute hospital
- ✓ **Director of Staff Development** in a California long-term care facility
- ✓ **Charge nurse, staff nurse, and float-pool nurse** in the units of Telemetry, Medical/Surgical, Orthopedic, Well Baby, and Post Partum.

Certificate and Teaching Credential

- ✓ **Certificate** of Authorization for Service as the **Director**, Bureau for Private Post-secondary and Vocational Education
- ✓ **BVNPE approval Director** for VN Program, California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
- ✓ **Statewide Certificate** as the **Director of Staff Development (DSD)**, Department of Health Service, California
- ✓ **BRN approved Nursing Instructor**, California Board of Registered Nursing
- ✓ **BVNPE approved nursing instructor**, California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
- ✓ **Certificate** of Authorization for Service as the **Instructor**, Bureau for Private Post-secondary and Vocational Education
- ✓ **Lifetime Nursing Instructor Credential**, Taiwan

History

Established in 1990, Southcal Education Institute is a nurse-own school specialized in NCLEX review and refresher courses and continuing education courses. For more than fourteen years, Southcal Educational Institute has developed unique curriculum and strategies to help RN/LVN candidates, especially foreign educated nurses, pass the NCLEX licensure exam to pursue their nursing career U.S.

Unlike other agencies whose courses were simply to provide crash courses to help passing the licensure exam, our solid NCLEX review and refresher courses are designed to help nurses not only pass the NCLEX-RN/LVN licensure exam but also adapt the American health system and become able to function productively in different health care settings.

Goals

1. To help nurses pass NCLEX-RN and/or NCLEX-VN licensure examinations.
2. To help nurses adapt American health system and enter nursing in America.
3. To bridge the medical systems between western and eastern countries and shorten their differences.
4. To help nurses strive for excellency in their career.

Missions

We believe that education is a continuous process for everyone who is striving for excellency and improvement. For nurses, this is especially true because they need to face dynamic challenges every day. Thus, we provide wide varieties of educational and consulting services for nurses, from NCLEX review and refresher courses to various continuing education courses, in order to help them gain a wide range of required knowledge to overcome their daily challenges and achieve their career goals.

We believe that nursing is a highly professional job requiring abundant knowledge and critical thinking to make independent judgments. For that, we elevate our curriculum to the highest level we can in order to educate nurses effective critical thinking skills and enable them to make correct clinical reasoning and judgment so that they can work productively within the interdisciplinary team to promote health and prevent diseases.

We believe that nursing is not simply a job but also a service that helps precious human lives everyday. Hence, we develop our courses not only to help nurses learn nursing cognitively but also to nurture them affectively to become accountable and responsible with good integrity to comply with the scope of nursing practice and the policies and procedures set by health care agencies and regulatory agencies.

Government Recognition

- ✓ Southcal Educational Institute is a registered school by California Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE), School Code 1943331.
- ✓ Southcal Educational Institute is an approved CE provider, Provider Number 13866, issued by California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN).
- ✓ Southcal Educational Institute is an approved CE provider, Provider Number V-10470-1, issued by California and Board of Vocational Nursing (BVN).
- ✓ Southcal Educational Institute is an approved IV and Phlebotomy Certificate programs provider, Provider Number I1984 and IB2238, issued by California Board of Vocational Nursing (BVN).
- ✓ Southcal Educational Institute is a registered incorporation in the State of California.

Faculty Pool

1. **Susie Chou**, BSN, MA, MN, RN
2. **Stephanie Chen**, BSN, MSN, RN
3. **Flora Y. F. Hsieh**, BSN, MSN(c), RN
4. **Jing Huang**, BSN, MSN, RN, FNP
5. **Shih-Shun Lin**, BSN, MSN, RN
6. **Shih-Ting Lin**, BSN, MSN, RN, ACNP
7. **Terry Pai**, BSN, MSN, RN
8. **Rae Weng**, BSN, MSN, RN, CCRN



Faculties' Credentials and Specialties

- ✓ Most of our faculty are master prepared RNs
- ✓ All of our faculty are certified by Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education as Instructors to teach nursing
- ✓ Our faculty have years of teaching experience in nursing schools in California
- ✓ Our faculty have years of clinical experience in hospitals and different health care agencies in U.S.
- ✓ Most of our faculty graduated from both foreign nursing schools and American nursing schools. These enable them to understand the needs of both foreign educated nurses and American educated nurses.

High Quality Education and Outstanding Outcomes

- ✓ Since 1990, we have helped more than a thousand nurses, both domestic and foreign educated, pass nursing licensure examination in America.
- ✓ In the past 14 years, our alumni have entered various health care agencies in U.S. and become very successful in their nursing career. Their current positions in nursing varies from nurse administrators, directors of nursing, nurse managers, nurse supervisors, charge nurses, to clinical nurses.
- ✓ In Los Angeles, a great percentage of Chinese nurses are graduates of Southcal Educational Institute.
- ✓ The successful stories of our alumni are proof of our high quality education. Any one of them will be able witness our high pass rate and share with you their successful experience when studying in our school.

Students Testimonies

The followings are some of our students' testimonies. All of them passed the RN and/or VN licenses in California already:

- ✓ "The lecture and curriculum are very organized. It enhanced my understanding of basic concepts and nursing process. The instructor's enthusiasm gave me lots of encouragement and confidence." ... Gina
- ✓ "Because the instructor is also teaching clinical in college, the information she gave was very clear and accurate. All key points have been brought to us during lecture. It helps us a lot for the licensure exam." ... Lifeng Yee
- ✓ "Anyone can pass the licensure exam as long as she completes Southcal's courses and follows the instructor's instruction. Southcal's curriculum is definitely on the right track" ... Beefong Chen
- ✓ "The content is excellent and very organized. When explaining the rationale of mock test, the instructor has made it very easy for us to understand the problematic areas and the appropriate test taking strategies. The clinical scenario discussion were great, which enhancing our learning a lot." ... Deborah
- ✓ "I have left nursing for 20 years. But this three months of learning in Southcal has made it all back, and is even better than the 3-year in my nursing school." ... Eva
- ✓ "I enjoyed the using of different teaching aids and equipments, such as transparencies, videotapes, pictures, and models. In here, not only that the teacher is great, the warm and caring surrounding also made me feel like a family here." ... Weizing Chen
- ✓ "Teacher is very knowledgeable. She has made it easy for us to understand. I also like her sense of humor which ease a lot of stress for me." Yuzing Low
- ✓ "Teacher is very knowledgeable, content is from simple to complex. Teaching methods are vivid and diversified, which help me learn a lot." ... Singzu Ku
- ✓ "Ms. Chen is a teacher who teaches us from her heart." ... Annie
- ✓ "Using anatomy as foundation to learn pathophysiology, plus all figures provided, has made me connect all the concepts together. " ... May Tseng

There are three levels of nursing jobs in United States. They are, from the most professional level, (1) Registered Nurse, (2) Licensed Practical Nurse (also known as Licensed Vocational Nurse in California), and (3) Certified Nursing Assistant. Their roles and responsibilities are:

Registered Nurse - RN

Registered Nurse (RN) is roughly equivalent to the "professional nurse" in China or Taiwan. However, RN's roles and responsibilities in U.S. are much higher than that of a professional nurse in China or Taiwan. RN is a profession who needs to be in charge of every aspect of the nursing process. Starting the first contact with patients, RNs will need to use various nursing skills to collect both objective and subjective data from the patients to perform the initial assessment. While collecting the information, they'll need to carry out the analysis and provide correct nursing diagnosis and appropriate nurse planning. Then, they'll lead the licensed vocational nurses and certified nursing assistants to implement necessary nursing tasks. And, at last, based on the results of the implementation, RNs will perform evaluation to determine whether modification of the nursing process is needed in order to resolve any nursing problems. In U.S.A., an RN needs to be absolutely familiar with every aspects of the nursing process.

Most hospitals in United States do not have in-site physicians. The patients are brought in by the attending physicians from clinics outside. Most of the time, the attending physicians will not be in the hospitals. Whenever something happens to the patient, RN will need to make the diagnosis and judgment immediately and to discuss with the attending physicians over the phone to obtain a solution. Therefore, RNs require independent diagnostic ability to make safe and correct decision in various clinical situations. RNs also require good English communication skills to communicate effectively with doctors, patients, family and other staffs.

RN require passing a licensure examination to obtain state license before practicing in U.S.

Licensed Practical Nurse or Licensed Vocational Nurse - LPN or LVN

An LPN (or LVN in California) stands for a Licensed Practical Nurse (Licensed Vocational Nurse). They are equivalent to a "nurse" in China or Taiwan and have similar job responsibilities. An LPN, under the supervision and guidance of an RN, uses basic safe and effective nursing knowledge and skills to carry out and complete the nursing plan as decided by the RN. The responsibilities of an LPN are more skills based such as wound management, aseptic technique, and medication administration. LVNs are not permitted to carry out assessments and analyses skills, nor to give intravenous medications.

Like RNs, LVNs also required passing the licensure examination to obtain state licenses.

Certified Nursing Assistant – CNA

CNA, which stands for Certified Nursing Assistant, is also known as Nurse Aide. It is equivalent to "nurse worker" in China or "nurse assistant" in Taiwan. Their jobs focus mostly on the patient's daily personal care and hygienic nursing tasks such as bed bath, oral care, bed making, turning and reposition patients, and taking vital signed, etc. Under the law, CNAs are not permitted to give medication or injections nor anything involved with aseptic technique.

CNA do not require licenses. They only require passing a simple nursing skills exam to obtain certificates before they can commence work.

Required Qualification to Apply for NCLEX Licensure Examination

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Each State has its own regulation and criteria to determine the eligibility of nurses who wish to become RN/VN in that state. Some states also require foreign educated nurses to have CGFNS score when they apply for the NCLEX-RN exam. California is one of the fewer states that do not require CGFNS before NCLEX-RN. Because of that, many foreign educated nurses have chosen to come to California to apply for the NCLEX licensure exam without CGFNS.

Below information is provided for you only as general guidelines of the required qualification to apply for RN or LVN in California. To further verify your eligibility to take the NCLEX examination, please contact the Boards or visit their websites.

Board of Registered Nursing
P. O. Box 944210
Sacramento, CA 94244 – 2100
(916) 322 – 3350
<http://www.rn.ca.gov>

Board of Vocational Nursing
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Ste. 205
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-7800
<http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov/factvn.htm>

Qualification of NCLEX-RN in California

California Board of Registered Nursing requires that RN applicants must have satisfactory completed instruction in accredited school(s) of professional nursing that meets California's educational requirements. As a general guideline for foreign educated nurse, if you graduated from a professional nursing college that is equivalent to the RN colleges in California, it's likely that you might be eligible for the NCLEX in California. However, if there are certain courses required by the Board that you haven't taken before, you will be informed by the Board after you submit your application. Then you will need to take the courses in an accredited RN college and submit the course completion certificate to the Board before you will be qualified.

Qualification of NCLEX-VN in California

The curriculum requirement, set by California Board of Vocational Nursing, is a minimum of 1,530 Total Hours, with at least 576 hours in Theory, including 54 hours of pharmacology, and at least 954 hours in Clinical practice. Most likely, if you graduated from an accredited nursing school, domestic or foreign, that required more than two years to graduate, you should be eligible to take NCLEX-LVN unless there are certain required courses, such as pharmacology, that you haven't taken before.

California BVN may also accept your work experience as another method to qualify you for the NCLEX-VN exam. The minimum requirements are at least 51 months of paid bedside nursing experience, 54 hours of Pharmacology, and verification of skill proficiency. If you think you might be eligible for NCLEX-VN using this method, please contact BVN or visit its web site for more detail information.

Overview

The NCLEX Licensure Review Course is a series of nursing refresher and review course that is conducted in English language or bilingual in Mandarin and English. Students have the options to choose courses conducted either by English or bilingual on their needs.

The bilingual course is specially designed for foreign educated Chinese nurses that English is their secondary language. Mandarin helps students' immediate understanding, increase learning effectiveness and speed of absorption. And English enables students to become immersed in an English language environment, become familiar with medical terms and improve their English reading comprehension for sitting the licensure examination.

After attending this complete refresher and review course, students should be able to take various nursing licensure examinations including RN and LVN/LPN and CGFNS.

Course Goals

1. Overcome obstacles in English for nursing.
2. Adjust to the different nursing cultures.
3. Understand the difference of an American nursing education.
4. Use American critical thinking styles to carry out clinical deductive reasoning.
5. Develop examination strategies and test taking skills.
6. Pass the American nursing licensure examination, including RN, LVN/LPN, and CGFNS.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Overcome obstacles in English for nursing and medical terminologies.
2. Recognize the differences between the Chinese and American nursing education systems.
3. Distinguish between the different roles of the different levels of nurses in America and their responsibilities under the law and within their scope of practice.
4. Adjust to the differences between Chinese and American nursing culture and philosophy.
5. Correctly carry out clinical nursing skills required in U.S.
6. Be familiar with the nursing theory and knowledge examined in the licensure examination, including pharmacology.
7. Improve clinical critical thinking, clinical reasoning and become an independent thinker.
8. Advance ability of setting priority and make accurate nursing clinical judgments.
9. Discuss different clinical scenarios in U.S. hospital setting and establish and/or implement the interdisciplinary care plan.
10. Develop test taking strategies and clinical reasoning when answering licensure examination questions.
11. Pass the RN, LVN/LPN license exam, or CGFNS.

Course Content

The course comprises a total of **180** hours and the content is developed based on the latest NCLEX test plan. It includes the following subjects:

1. Basic skills and principles used in clinical nursing

In addition to onsite teaching by a Board approval nursing professor, there are practical demonstrations and viewing of videos used by U.S. nursing colleges for the instruction of standard nursing skills. Not only is such teaching of assistance in passing the licensure examination but will also be of great importance to later clinical use.

2. Systematic comprehensive review

The theoretical aspects of medical, surgical, obstetric/pediatric, and psychiatric nursing are all reviewed systematically. Areas covered include but not limited to the nursing process; geriatric nursing; fluid, electrolyte and acid-base balance; critical care; peri-operative nursing; oncology nursing; and the physiology and pathology of all bodily systems and their nursing care. Additional topics include the female reproductive system and fetal development, the physiological changes of each stage of pregnancy and their nursing management, pre and postpartum complications, the delivery process, obstetric anesthesiology and surgery, neonatology nursing, gynecological nursing and family planning. Classes also cover child growth and development, genetics, and pediatric physiology and pathology of all systems and their nursing management. Types of psychiatric nursing and their application, theories of psychological development, therapeutic nurse-client relationships, communication skills, drug legislation, medical therapy of psychiatric disorders such as anxiety disorders, organic brain disease, psycho-affective disorders and social maladjustment, the nursing management of delusional patients, controlling behavior and patients with addictions, various kinds of abuses and domestic violence are also covered.

3. Comprehensive review discussion based on individual needs in different clinical scenarios.

At the completion of reviewing each system, there will be a discussion of representative clinical scenario relevant to that system. Through the 18 clinical scenarios, the use of the nursing process will be taught via discussion of the physical, psychological and sociocultural needs on patients of different age groups. Classes are based on the NCLEX Test Plan and by practicing mock exam questions emphasize skills in both critical thinking and the acquisition of high scores.

4. Current pharmacological theory and associated mock examination questions.

The pharmacology component of the licensure examination increases every year. The main reason is that medication administration is one of the most important tasks of the clinical nurse. Nursing staff need to have a clear understanding of the clinical indications and adverse effects of commonly used medications and important nursing managements. The classes discuss different drug classifications with drug action, indication, common adverse effect and its common nursing implication. The prototype of each drug class is discusses as well. In addition, mock exam questions are practiced to help students to grasp the important key points in regard to pharmacology in NCLEX licensure exam.

5. Nurse management, scope of practices and relevant regulations, the law and Bills of Rights
Both RNs and LVNs need to have an understanding of the extent of their responsibilities within scope of practice and under the law. As a result, nurse management is a field that is gradually becoming more important in the licensure examination. Nursing staff need to have a grounding in nurse management so that they may carry out rational distribution of patient related work and have the ability to prioritize the nursing intervention and delegation. These classes discuss such issues in detail.
6. Classes on geriatric and palliative care nursing
In recent times the age range of patients encountered by nursing staff have become older. As a result, topics related to geriatric nursing have increased. These classes provide instruction in the physiology changes of aging process, the psychosocial changes of aging, common diseases and pathology among elderly. Rehabilitative and palliative care nursing is also extensively discussed.
7. Practice of licensure mock examination questions and establish test taking strategies
Repeated practice of NCLEX mock examination questions enables students to become accustomed to the testing environment and to decrease their anxiety levels. It also enables nurses to demonstrate fully their critical thinking and clinical judgment in the clinical situation. Explanations and analyses of each mock exam question are conducted after each test. During the explanation, test-taking strategies are teaching. The class will train nurses to think quickly, improve their clinical reasoning and judgment, and help them make inferences, grasp the principles of correctly answering questions, locate key words in a question, and improve critical thinking skills. During the explanation, the differences in roles between RNs and LVNs are also discussed along with differences in legally bounded responsibilities . From this, students will learn how standard answers change according to the different roles of the nurses involved.

What's So Special about our NCLEX Review Course....

1. Classes are taught by Board certified and approved nursing professors who are experts in nursing education.
2. The professional nursing materials used in the course are:
 - a. A standardize NCLEX review textbook written by Susie Chen, RN, MN, MA, a U.S. tenured nursing professor. This almost 1000 page textbook is compiled by Professor Chen who has more than 15 years of NCLEX teaching experience and with reference to more than ten standardize nursing texts used in U.S. nursing education. Main points have been refined so that only the required essentials of the exam are contained. You won't be able to find nor purchase this outstanding textbook from any book store in the world.
 - b. Standardized textbook of pharmacology written by Professor Susie Chen, RN, MN, MA.
3. During class, educational videotapes used by U.S. nursing colleges are used to assist student learning and provide greater depth of understanding. In addition, a wide variety of multimedia computer software is used to aid student learning.
4. The most updated NCLEX mock exam questions to increase student success licensure exam passing rates.

NCLEX-CAT National Council Licensure Examination, State Boards of Nursing, and National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)

The United States operates on a federal system with every state having its own independent laws. The acceptance of applications for the licensing examination, academic requirements, assessment of qualifications, awarding of licensure after passing the examination, licensure renewal every 2 years and license endorsement when moving interstate all come under the control of the relevant State Nursing Board. Therefore, the first step involved in obtaining a RN or LVN nursing license is to apply to the State Nursing Board for permission to take the examination, after which examination enrolment may commence.

However, in order to maintain a unified standard of nursing throughout the United States and to avoid the difficulties involved in every state arranging their own examinations and nurses having to change licenses when moving interstate, the National Council of State Boards of nursing, known as NCSBN, was formed by representatives from every state nursing board. From 1987 this organization has jointly run the national nursing licensure examinations known as NCLEX. These examinations have been computerized since 1994. The examination for Registered Nurses is called the NCLEX-RN and that for Licensed Vocational Nurses is called the NCLEX-PN.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), is the authority responsible for the National Council Licensure Examination or NCLEX. This organization conducts extensive research each year including a practice analysis about the workplaces, scope of work and job responsibilities of recently graduated RNs or LPN/LVNs. Based on the information gathered, they can formulate the focus of topics for the American nursing licensure examination to form the NCLEX Test Plan. As a result, the questions in the NCLEX reflect the clinical practice experiences of American nurses. In addition, they set the standard required to pass the licensure exam. The focus of the examination questions and the standard required to pass are revised every 3 years. The NCSBN is also responsible for setting the specific questions for the nursing licensure examination. They select expert nursing educators from around the United States and meet at regular intervals in Chicago to formulate the exam questions. After an examination question is written, it generally passes through testing before being put into use. The NCSBN subcontracts a company to carry out the computerized examinations. The computerized American nursing licensure examinations are then carried out in examination centers contracted by this company.

NCLEX-CAT Computerized Examination

From April 1, 1994, the U.S, nursing licensure examinations have been carried out using computerized testing know as the Computerized Adaptive Test or the NCLEX- CAT. This is an interactive examination process between the computer and the examination participant. The computer can select questions of different levels of difficulty depending on the candidate's response to the questions. If the candidate answers correctly, the computer will increase the level of difficulty of the questions. If the candidate answers incorrectly on the other hand, the computer will decrease the level of difficulty of the questions. The final examination result is

based on the level of difficulty of the correctly answered questions and the number of incorrectly answered questions. If the level of difficulty of the correctly answered questions surpasses that required to pass the examination, after the number of answered questions has reached a minimum number the computer will automatically shutdown and the candidate is not required to continue. Alternatively, if the level of difficulty of the exam questions correctly answered by the candidate is not up to passing standard, once the candidate has again answered the minimum number of questions the computer will again automatically shutdown. However, if the number of questions correctly answered by the candidate is on the borderline, the computer requires further questions to determine whether or not the candidate is of passing standard. The minimum number of questions is 75 for the RN and 85 for the LVN examination. Out of this minimum number, only 60 questions are actually counted as the others are experimental questions. The computer does not let the candidate know which questions are the uncounted experimental questions. The maximum number of questions that can be answered is 265 for the RN examination and 205 for the LVN examination.

This includes 15 experimental questions in the RN examination and 25 experimental questions in the LVN examination.

In 2004 the standard required for a pass in American nursing licensure examination has been changed from -0.35 to -0.28 for the RN exam and -0.47 for the LPN/LVN exam. This means that if an RN exam candidate has a ratio of correctly answered questions of more than -0.28 they have passed and the computer will automatically shutdown after completing 75 questions. The same applies for the LPN exam. In general, when a first time candidate sits the examination there is a total of 3000 questions available in the computer for the candidate to use. The computer can select questions of different levels of difficulty for the candidate to answer.

The computerized adaptive examination method of the American nursing licensure examination does not required candidates to have any knowledge of computers. The only two keys used on the computer keyboard are the space bar and the enter key. Candidates use the space bar to move position and the enter key to enter the correct answer. With the addition of a computer mouse, use of the computer is even more convenient. Before the official start of the examination, 3 sample questions are used to teach candidates how to operate the computer. After confirming that candidates understand how to use the computer, the official examination will appear. During the examination, only one question appears on the computer screen at a time. Every question must be answered before moving on to the next question, otherwise the next question will not be displayed. It is not possible to view again or change questions that have already been answered.

NCLEX-CAT Examination Time

The American nursing licensure examination runs for a total of 6 hours. Candidates can answer questions at their own pace and there are no time limits per question such as answering one question per minute. Candidates are allowed to take the break as needed, however, the break time is counted within these 6 hours. In general candidates can choose to start the examination on any day from Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m., 12:00 midday, or 5:00 p.m. It is best to arrive 30 minutes before the examination. The start of the 6 hours commences from when the candidates are given the sample questions, therefore it is recommended that candidates to not spend too much time on these sample questions. The time will appear on the computer screen so candidates can ascertain how much time remains. If unfortunately the candidate fails to complete the maximum number of questions required within the 6 hours allotted, which is 265 questions for the RN examination or 205 questions for the LVN examination, at this point the computer

will use the last 60 rule. This means that the last 60 questions answered by the candidate will be used to assess the quality of the candidate's responses.

NCLEX-CAT Examination Centers

From April 1, 1994 the National Council of State Boards of Nursing has employed the Chauncey Group International and Thomson Prometric to run the computerized American nursing licensure examination. The computerized examinations have been held at the Sylvan Technology Center or the Sylvan Center contracted to this company.

The contract between the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the Chauncey Group International and Thomson Prometric ended on September 30, 2002. From October 1, 2002 the company responsibility for running the NCLEX-CAT computerized examination changed to the VUE, NCS Pearson Company. This company provides more online services, which is more convenient for examination participants.

NCLEX-CAT Examination Results

The computer center does not inform candidates of their results immediately after the end of the examination, however, the results are sent immediately to the nursing board. The nursing board will inform you of your results within about 2 weeks time. The Californian Board of Nursing currently also provides an online service for candidates, enabling them to look up their results online less than one week after completion of the examination. As the examination is graded on a Pass/Fail basis, candidates will not be informed of their actual score. In the event of failure, the nursing board will attach a registration form for repeat examination. Candidates are able to re-sit the examination, however, they have to wait 3 months before doing so and the total amount of times they are allowed to take the exam is determined by the respective state nursing board. The nursing license obtained from passing the examination is recognized throughout the entire United States. Therefore, successful candidates are not required to sit another examination in another state. They are only required to undergo the formality of license endorsement.

NCLEX-CAT Method of Questioning

The questions in the American nursing licensure examination, no matter whether it is the RN or LVN examination, are not divided into clinical categories but are general questions that involve an integration of content from several specialties. They are based on the clinical practice areas of general medical and surgical nursing, pediatric nursing, obstetrics and gynecology nursing, and psychiatric nursing. Every question uses a clinical situation and integrates the various specialties to formulate a question based on total client needs. An example could be a 12-year-old pregnant girl who also has Type 1 diabetes and the smokes marijuana. Her age of 12 years means the case involves pediatrics, her pregnancy involves obstetrics, her Type 1 diabetes involves general medical and surgical nursing, and her marijuana use involves psychiatry. Just like this case example, when nurses are providing care it is impossible to break one patient into 4 parts to divide the problems into different specialties. Care must be carried out from the perspective of the patient's needs.

As a result, the questions in the American nursing licensure examination come from the viewpoint of patient needs. The examination content is based on what a recent graduate from an American nursing school will encounter in their first clinical job as a newly licensed entry level

registered nurse. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing releases a research report every three years on which the focus of the examination questions for the licensure examination, known as the NCLEX Test Plan, is based.

NCLEX-RN Test Plan

The current RN NCLEX Test Plan has been in effect since April 1, 2004. This test plan is based on the 2002 Practice Analysis of Newly Licensed Registered Nurses in the U.S. by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

The exam questions are organized into 4 categories and 10 subcategories of client needs with a distribution as follows:

Four Categories of Client Needs	Ten Subcategories	% Marks
Safety, Effective care environment	Management of care	13 – 19%
	Safety and infection control	8 – 14%
Health Promotion and maintenance		6 – 12%
Psychosocial integrity		6 – 12%
Physiological integrity	Basic care and comfort	6 – 12%
	Pharmacological/parenteral therapy	13 – 19%
	Reduction of risk potential	13 – 19%
	Physiological adaptation	11-17%

NCLEX-PN/VN Test Plan

The current most recent PN/VN NCLEX test plan has been in effect since April 1, 2005. This test plan is based on the year 2003 Job Analysis Study of Newly Licensed Entry-Level Practical/Vocational Nurses by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

The exam questions organized into 4 categories and 10 subcategories of client needs with a distribution as follows:

Four Categories of Client Needs	Ten Subcategories	% Marks
Safety, Effective care environment	Management of care	11 – 17%
	Safety and infection control	8 – 14%
Health Promotion and maintenance		7 – 13%
Psychosocial integrity		8 – 14%
Physiological integrity	Basic care and comfort	11 – 17%
	Pharmacological/parenteral therapy	9 – 15 %
	Reduction of risk potential	10 – 16%
	Physiological adaptation	12 – 18%

Q: If I don't pass the licensing examination, how long do I have to wait before I can sit in again? Are there any time restrictions?

A: In the unfortunate circumstance that you do not pass the licensing examination, the California Nursing Board requires that you wait for three months before re-applying to take the next examination. Therefore the maximum amount of times that you may take the examination in one year is three to four (most students would not need to take the exam more than two or three times to pass). The California Nursing Board gives applicants a maximum time limit of 2 years to take the exam again. If applicants do not apply to re-sit the examination within this time period, their information on file will no longer be kept by the Nursing Board. This means that if afterwards the applicant wishes to take the examination, they will need to re-apply completely.

Q: To what extent is there a shortage of nurses in America?

A: The shortage of American nurses is predominantly due to the phenomenon of the baby boomers following the Second World War. This group are now already entering their old age and there are insufficient young nurses to replace them. According to research, California alone will have a shortage of nurses of more than 80,000 by the year 2006. In addition, the number of nurses trained by nursing schools in this state is less than half that number. As a result, nurses have better pay conditions and special benefits for immigration application compared to other professions. This situation is a great opportunity for Chinese nurses.

Q: I have a nursing diploma. Am I qualified to take the American licensure examination?

A: Nurses who have a diploma from a course of at least 2 years of duration from a government approved nursing school in Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong or another country or region are eligible to take the American nursing licensure examination. As to which type of nursing licensure examination you can apply for, for more detailed information please visit the part of the website about applying for the American nursing licensure examination.

Q: I am not in California. Can I apply for the Californian licensure examination? Do I need to go to California to take the exam?

A: As long as you meet the qualifying criteria you can apply for the Californian nurse licensure examination no matter where you are. The Californian State Nursing Board will first evaluate whether or not you qualify for the exam. After applying (and passing the evaluation of qualifications) you are not required to go to California for the examination. You are only required to go to a nearby NCLEX computer center in an American territory to register for the examination. After the examination this computer center will send your results to the Californian Nursing Bureau, after which they will inform you of your examination results. American territories include America's 50 states, Washington DC, and the 5 dependencies of Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

Q: My relatives are still in Mainland China (or Taiwan). Can they apply for the American nursing licensure examination?

A: The answer to this question is very similar to that of the above question. Basically, if the applicant meets the application criteria for the Californian nurse licensure examination, they can directly apply for the examination no matter where they are. However, the problem is whether or not they will be able to obtain a suitable visa to enter the United States as it is currently only possible to take the examination in NCLEX computer centers located in American territories. If the applicant is able to obtain an appropriate American visa, then directly applying for the Californian nursing licensure examination is the most efficient method. However, if they are unable to obtain an appropriate visa to enter the United States (but they have the academic qualifications to take the RN exam) we suggest that they can apply for the CGFNS examination. This examination can be taken in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Beijing. Once this examination has been passed, our company can search for an American employer for them directly and arrange their immigration application. They can then enter the United States on an Immigrant Visa, after which we can help them to take the official nurse licensure examination. As this entire process is quite complicated, please ask our school for further information if required.

Remark: Starting January 2005, NCLEX exam can be taken overseas at Seoul, South Korea; London, England; and Hong Kong.

Q: Is there any age restriction for applying for the nursing licensure examination?

A: No. Academic qualifications are the only restriction.

Q: I graduated from a medical school in Mainland China. Am I qualified to directly take the nursing licensure examination?

A: According to the Nurse Practice Act of State of Californian, applicants need to graduate from a government approval nursing school as well as a transcript of results. In addition, the number of study hours spent on theoretical and practical training must meet the criteria set by the Californian State Board of Nursing before being able to qualify to take the nursing licensure examination. Applicants who only have academic qualifications in medicine or pharmacy are not qualified to take the NCLEX nursing licensure examination. However, if the applicant has at least 5 years of nursing work experience in the last 10 years, as well as a hospital or organization that is willing to provide evidence of such, this experience may be used to apply for the LVN examination. However, if the applicant has no past nursing background there is no need to give up. As long as you are determined to become a nurse, we can provide consultation to help you entering different nursing programs in U.S.

Q: Can I take the examination in Chinese?

A: The American NCLEX nursing licensure examination can only be taken in English, however it only tests English reading ability, no writing or listening comprehension.

Q: My English isn't very good. What can I do?

A: Generally speaking, the majority of nurses from Mainland China and Taiwan have a poor level of English at the beginning of the application process. However, due to our specialized coaching methods and unique combined Mandarin and English instruction specifically aimed at the cultural and language problems faced by Chinese nurses, students taking our classes are usually able to obtain their nursing license with ease. Basically, our technique and strategy for coaching students is based on a three-stage nurse licensure examination plan. The first stage is to qualify to take the exam. This stage is actually the most important step as if an applicant does not qualify for the examination there is no point in continuing further. However, during this stage not a lot of English ability is required. After qualifying for the exam, the applicant enters the second stage, which is preparing for the examination. Candidates can attend our elaborately designed nurse license review course. At this point only English reading ability is required. During class our nursing professors provide instruction about how to improve your English reading ability and will help you overcome difficulties encountered when reading English, in addition to coaching students about knowledge required for the nursing license. After the applicant has passed the examination, the third stage involves finding a job with a suitable employer and arranging your immigration application. In this stage spoken English ability is required. However, as you have already obtained your nurse license, your English reading ability will have reached a definite basic level so that it will not be as difficult to strengthen your spoken English ability. We also provide English conversation classes for nurses and training classes for entering the workforce to help you strengthen your English. Most importantly, you do not want to be anxious about issues to be faced in the third stage when you are in the first stage. This will only cause panic and will make you too nervous to move forward.

Q: How much time is required from applying for the exam, obtaining the license, applying for immigration and starting work?

A: Generally speaking, approval of examination application after sending the documents to the Nursing Board takes about 6 to 8 months for LVNs and 4 to 6 months for RNs. However, this time does not have to be wasted as you can begin to attend our general review course during this time. Our review course usually lasts for 3 months. Together with your own study of 3 to 4 months this should be sufficient preparation for the examination. Most students take about 4 to 6 months to complete the application process, attend classes and obtain their license. After you have a license, with our assistance in finding an employer and applying for immigration, a green card should be obtained after about one to one and a half years. At the start of the immigration application you are not permitted to work. However, after several months when the second stage of the legal immigration application process is reached you may begin working. You do not have to wait until the immigration interview before you start working. (The above is for reference only. The actual time required will depend on the individual case.)