

Detailed Licensure Data As of 2020-2021

Licensure. To receive, to apply to take or to take the examination required to receive, a local, State, or Federal license, or a nongovernmental certification required as a precondition for employment, or to perform certain functions in the States in which the educational program is offered, or to meet additional conditions that the institution knows or reasonably should know are generally needed to secure employment in a recognized occupation for which the program is represented to prepare students. **Federal Regulation 34 CFR 668.50 Effective May 26, 2019**

Nursing. NCLEX-RN (ASN and BSN) and Certification (MSN and PMC). Graduates cannot work as a Registered Nurse (RN) or Nurse Practitioner (NP) without a license. Graduates must first pass an exam before receiving a license. The NCLEX goal for first-time pass rates is 90% and is set above the national average of 87%. The Certification goals for first-time takers are 90%, which is above the national average of around 85% (varies by certification exam). The national and state NCLEX-RN pass rate changes each year. The 2020 National Pass rate for 1) All programs was 86.57%; 2) Baccalaureate programs was 90.29%; and 3) Associate programs was 82.80%. The 2020 NCLEX pass rate average all programs in Louisiana was 92.77%, for Associate programs was 89.23%, and for Baccalaureate programs was 92.61%. Certification exam national averages vary by exams. However, the average is around 85%. The Louisiana State Board of Nursing is the state regulatory agency for the licensure of RNs and NPs. LSBN requires an 80% pass rate for the NCLEX and certification exams. ACEN (accreditation for our ASN program) requires an 80% pass rate for first-time candidates. CCNE (Accreditation for BSN and MSN programs) requires an 80% pass rate for first-time candidates. The ASN program averages 131 graduates taking the NCLEX-RN for the first time each year. The BSN program averages 155 graduates taking the NCLEX-RN for the first time each year. The total for the ASN and BSN programs is 286 first time candidates taking the NCLEX-RN per year.

Students usually take the NCLEX-RN or the certification exam within four months of graduation. However, they may take the exam for first-time years later. The NCLEX-RN is scheduled with Pearson VUE. The certification exams are administered by the national certifying bodies for their population. Both are administered by off-campus agencies. Graduates taking the NCLEX-RN and certification exams generally perform around the national average on all portions of the exam. ASN and BSN students take an NCLEX-RN review course while in school and take a mock NCLEX-RN test before graduation. NP students take a mock certification exam while in school. Some students also take a review course after graduation. The mock exams give the student feedback on areas of strength and weakness. Also, the programs are designed to teach content and test on the content using methods to promote success on these exams. For instance, all testing is now completed on computers because the NCLEX-RN and certification exams are all taken via computer. The composition of test questions reflects the type and difficulty of these exams.

Radiologic Sciences. While some physicians employ non-registered radiologic technologists (under their medical license), most radiologic technologists in this country are required to successfully pass the certification exam administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). The goal for the first-time pass rate for NSU's School of Allied Health is 100%. This is based on an SLO for the program. The Joint Review Committee for Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT), the national accrediting agency for radiologic technology programs, requires a five-year first-time pass rate average of 85%. Based on ARRT statistics, the

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state average for first-time pass rates in 2019 was 90.2%. Data for 2020 has not been made available yet. The JRCERT requires a rolling five-year average of 85% first-time pass rate of the ARRT exam. An average of 32 students have taken the test each year over the past five years (2015-2020). Students take the exam after completing all portions of the radiologic science program. This will occur for most students in the spring semester, meaning that students will typically take the exam in May, June, or July. It is only offered at secured testing facilities and must be scheduled. There are four content areas on the examination: radiologic science procedures, image production, patient care, and radiation safety. The image production (physics) portion has proven the most difficult portion for students. Students take a registry preparation course in their final semester. During this course, review lectures are given in each of the content areas. Students also take multiple mock registries. Beginning in the 2020 cycle, students began using additional registry prep materials. The faculty also completed an inventory of all courses to ensure that course content mirrored the content on the ARRT registry examination. Faculty have also begun to use software that will track student progress in each of the content areas by tracking questions on each exam and correlating to exam content areas. Students also have begun to take mock registries in the semesters leading up to their final semester in the program further to prepare them for the rigor of the 220-question exam.

Veterinary Technology. Students can work in the profession without licensure as a veterinary assistant, but not as a credentialed veterinary technician/technologist. The goal is a 75% pass rate meeting or exceeding the national average. The accrediting agency (AVMA-CVTEA) sets the threshold pass rate at 50% currently, with an eventual move toward meeting the national average. For the test (VTNE), the lowest passing score is 425 (range 200- 800). The most recent three-year window with available data reflects 36 students who took the exam, an average of twelve per year. The students/graduates take the examination during their last internship courses or sometime after graduation. The exam is administered by the American Association of State Veterinary Boards at testing centers around the country. There are three testing windows each calendar year, in March-April, June-July, and November- December. The windows were altered in 2020 due to COVID-19 and were March-June, July-September, and October-December. There was a regression in 2020 with 60% of first-time test takers passing the exam. While this score is within the threshold of acceptability by the AVMA-CVTEA, it is below our goal of 75%, and we will work earnestly to reverse this trend. I suspect that the changes in instruction forced upon us due to COVID-19 had an impact. The examination is divided into nine domains, with our students consistently performing best on diagnostic imaging, surgical nursing, and anesthesia assessments. Graduates testing during 2020 scored above the national average in animal care and nursing, anesthesia, and emergency medicine/critical care domains. As well, surgical nursing and laboratory procedure scores were within 1% of the national average for 2020. Pharmacy and pharmacology scores were 2.7% below the national average. Dentistry and pain management/analgesia domain scores for 2020, which are the lowest domain scores for NSU graduates, were 5% below the national average. Graduates of the four-year program are required to take VTEC 4200, a 3-credit-hour board exam review course. Materials used include a subject/domain review text and a text of 5000 review questions. Examinations in the course pull questions from these resources. A practice examination online is required for completion of the course. Graduates of the A.D. program are not required to take this course but are encouraged to take it as an elective.

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Education (PRAXIS). Students cannot work in the profession without licensure. There are provisional licenses for some to work in the field in tandem with taking coursework to earn licensure, but licensure must be attained to work in the public system. Certification of teachers is not regulated in the private school sector, so teachers could potentially work in private schools as a noncertified teacher. The pass rate goal is 100%. The reason for this goal is program completers are not employable nor eligible for a teaching license without passing the licensure test. The state average pass rate is 98%. There is not a regional average pass rate because individual states chose to use different measurement instruments for teacher licensure. For example, Texas, Georgia, and Florida use state-specific exams for the licensure of their teachers.

Passing scores (i.e., cut scores) vary across tests and are on a scale of 100-200. The Louisiana Department of Education establishes passing scores. Passing scores range between 157 and 160 on a scale of 100-200 for the following categories: Early Childhood (157), Grades K-6 (160), Grades 5-9 (160), Grades 7-12 (157). Students who do not achieve a passing score on a test may retake the test unlimited times every 21 days. The average number of students taking the exam in the past three years is 51 students per year with a 98% pass rate last year and 99% pass rate the two years prior. Students take the exam during their teaching residency teaching experience (final methods or applied coursework). The exam is administered by a private company, Educational Testing Services, traditionally at testing centers around the country. In May 2020, the testing service offered an alternate administration method of at-home testing due to statewide operating restrictions and social distancing mandates in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The tests offered for at-home administration contain the same content, format, on-screen experience and scoring as those administered in a test center. They include remote human proctoring and artificial intelligence features as measures of security in test administration for reliability of scores. At-home testing appointments are currently available 15 hours a day, seven days a week, for over 80 test titles. For test center administration, there are testing windows scheduled each calendar year, and the number of testing windows available depends on the specific content area of the test.

In November 2020, Education Testing Services announced that, in addition to the traditional administration method at testing centers around the country, the at-home testing option would remain a permanent feature of the testing service. Scores are reported to the licensing agency, the Louisiana Department of Education and NSU. Typically, students need the most support in passing the Social Studies portions of the exams. Math is also an area that has been challenging. Exam preparations are embedded directly within coursework. Additionally, the college provides independent, stand-alone test prep sessions each semester led by qualified instructors.