

# NCLEX® Candidate Rules

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Si vous voulez lire les règles en français, veuillez en faire la demande à l'administrateur de l'examen.

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Below you will find the NCLEX® Candidate Rules. You must thoroughly read this document prior to being seated for the examination.

Violations of the NCLEX® Candidate Rules or not following the instructions of the Test Administrator (TA), may result in your examination result being withheld and/or cancelled, your examination fee will not be refunded and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and your nursing regulatory body may take other action, up to and including license revocation and criminal prosecution.

**Candidate Statement:** *By providing a digital signature, I give Pearson VUE my explicit consent to retain and transmit my personal data and test responses to Pearson VUE, my nursing regulatory body, and to NCSBN (any of which may be outside of the country in which I am testing). I also agree to the terms and conditions of the NCSBN Biometric Data Policy outlined on pages 3 through 6. I understand the information provided and agree to follow the NCLEX® Candidate Rules. I agree to cooperate with the Test Administrator's investigation of any suspected irregular behavior, including the surrender of any suspected test preparation or study materials. Any incident of suspected irregular behavior, such as, but not limited to, falsifying my identification, tampering with the computer, engaging in disruptive behavior (including disclosure of examination content), will be reported to Pearson VUE, NCSBN, and my nursing regulatory body. In the event NCSBN and/or Pearson VUE determines that I have engaged in irregular behavior, my examination may be invalidated and the nursing regulatory body may take other action and I will not be refunded my examination fee.*

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Examples of prohibited, irregular behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

## Personal Items

- All personal items must be stored in your locker
- All electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, MP3 players, fitness bands, etc.) must be placed inside a Pearson VUE provided plastic bag
- Pearson Professional Centers are not responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced items

Candidates who refuse to store their cell/mobile/smart phones, pagers or other electronic devices in the Pearson VUE provided plastic bag upon check-in will not be allowed to test. They will be required to reregister and pay another exam fee for any additional NCLEX appointments.

After the exam, you must return your unopened, Pearson VUE bag to the administration desk to be opened and examined by the TA. Any tampering of the bag before check-out will result in a case.

The following items **may not be accessed** at all during your examination appointment (**including breaks and until you leave the test center at the conclusion of your exam**):

- Any educational, test preparation or study materials
- Cell/mobile/smart phones, smart watches, MP3 players, fitness bands, pagers, jump drives, cameras or any other electronic devices
- Weapons of any kind

The following items are **not allowed in the testing room**, but may be accessed while on break:

Bags/purses/wallets/watches	Medical aids/devices	Lip balm
Coats/hats	Food or drink, gum/candy	Scarves

For any questions regarding what you can and cannot access outside the testing room, ask the TA.

## Confidentiality

- You may not disclose or discuss with anyone, including instructors, information about the items or answers seen in your examination (this includes posting or discussing questions on the Internet and social media websites).
- You may not reconstruct exam items using your memory of your exam or the memory of others
- You may not seek help from any other party in answering items (in person, by phone, text or by email) during your examination (including breaks).

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- You may not remove examination items and/or responses (in any format) or notes about the examination from the testing room.
- You may not copy or reconstruct exam items during or following your exam for any reason.
- You will comply with any investigation that needs to be conducted.
- Note: If you witness any of the above behavior, or any irregular behavior that is in violation of the NCLEX Candidate Rules, you are required to report it to NCSBN and comply with any follow up investigation.

## Test Administration

- You may not take the examination for somebody else.
- You may not tamper with the computer or use it for any function other than taking the examination.
- You may not engage in disruptive behavior at any time while in the test center.
- The TA will provide you with an erasable note board and marker before you enter the testing room.
- You may not use the note board to cover any part of the screen during your examination.
- A clean note board can be requested during your examination by **raising your hand**. The erasable note board and marker may not be removed from the testing room during the examination except by the TA, and these items must be returned to the TA after the examination.
- Writing on any materials other than the note board is strictly prohibited and will result in a case and results will be placed on hold.
- If you experience hardware or software problems during the examination, notify the TA immediately by **raising your hand**.
- Earplugs are available from the TA upon request; it is not acceptable to bring your own earplugs.

## Break Procedures

- You will be given the opportunity to take a "scheduled" break after approximately two hours, and again after approximately three and a half hours of examination testing time. Instructions will appear on your computer screen at the appropriate times.
- To request a break, or to exit the testing room for any other reason, **raise your hand** for the TA and wait to be escorted out of the testing room. A palm vein scan will be taken when you leave, and again when you re-enter the testing room. The TA will resume the exam for you upon your return. The exam clock will not stop while you are on a scheduled or unscheduled break.
- Exam data is encrypted and transferred electronically to your nursing regulatory body. Please refrain from asking the TA about exam content and/or results. If you have questions about the examination, please contact NCSBN.

## NCLEX® HIGHLIGHTS:

**It is important to understand that the length of an examination or the number of items answered is not an indication of a pass or fail result.** A candidate with a relatively short examination may pass or fail just as a candidate with a long examination may pass or fail. Regardless of the examination length, each candidate has ample opportunity to demonstrate true competence and is given an examination that conforms to the NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® Test Plan.

## NUMBER OF ITEMS

Exam Type	Minimum # of Items	Maximum # of Items
RN and PN	75	145

Many candidates' examinations will end before the maximum number of items has been administered.

## MAXIMUM TIME

The maximum time allowed is five hours for the RN and PN exams. **The exam time includes all breaks.** Many candidates may not need the full time to complete the examination.

Total time spent on the examination is a function of both:

- The number of items administered and
- The speed at which items are answered

Please do not be concerned if your examination finishes earlier or lasts longer than the examinations of other candidates testing in the room. The differing time lengths of candidate examinations are an illustration of the CAT methodology at work!

## EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION PROBLEMS:

If you have any problems or complaints regarding the examination or its administration, please call NCLEX Candidate Services toll free at 1-866-49NCLEX (1-866-496-2539), or email [nclexinfo@ncsbn.org](mailto:nclexinfo@ncsbn.org), within 14 days of your examination. Additional information may be found on the NCSBN Website at [www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm](http://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm)