



## Kentucky Board of Nursing

# Programs of Nursing Update

February 2007

Questions? Contact: Patty Spurr, Education Consultant @ 502-429-3333; Patricia.Spurr@ky.gov

## NCLEX-RN® Examination Passing Standard Revised for Public Safety

NCSBN voted at its Dec. 5-7, 2006, meeting to raise the passing standard for the NCLEX-RN® examination, the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

The new passing standard is -0.2100 logits on the NCLEX-RN logistic scale, 0.070 logits higher than the previous standard of -0.2800. The new passing standard will take effect on April 1, 2007, in conjunction with the *2007 NCLEX-RN® Test Plan*.

After consideration of all available information, the NCSBN Board of Directors determined that safe and effective entry-level RN practice requires a greater level of knowledge, skills, and abilities than was required in 2004, when NCSBN established the current standard.

The passing standard was increased in response to changes in U.S. health care delivery and nursing practice that have resulted in the greater acuity of clients seen by entry-level RNs.

The Board of Directors used multiple sources of information to guide its evaluation and discussion regarding the change in passing standard. As part of this process, NCSBN convened an expert panel of 11 nurses to perform a criterion-referenced standard setting procedure.

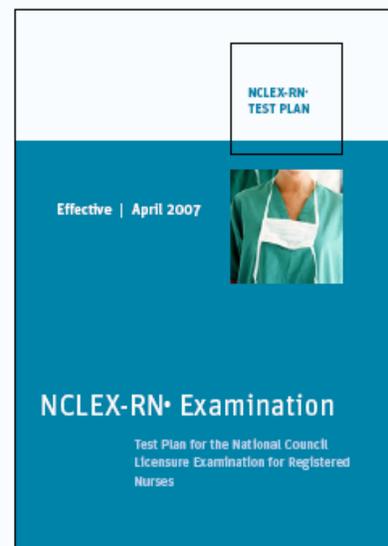
The panel's findings supported the creation of a higher passing standard. NCSBN also considered the results of a national survey of nursing professionals including nursing educators, directors of nursing in acute care settings and administrators of long-term care facilities.

In accordance with a motion adopted by the 1989 NCSBN Delegate Assembly, the NCSBN Board of Directors evaluates the passing standard for the NCLEX-RN examination every three years to protect the public by ensuring minimal competence for entry-level RNs.

NCSBN coordinates the passing standard analysis with the three-

year cycle of test plan content evaluation, conducted using a practice analysis of entry-level RNs.

This three-year cycle was developed to keep the test content and passing standard current with entry-level practice. A PDF of the *2007 NCLEX-RN® Test Plan* is available free of charge from the NCSBN Web site ([https://www.ncsbn.org/RN\\_Test\\_Plan\\_2007\\_Web.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/RN_Test_Plan_2007_Web.pdf)).



## **Back Issues Of the Updates Are Available on the Internet**

This should be your first issue that you did not receive in hard copy but an e-mail with a link to the current issue. <http://www.kbn.ky.gov/education/pon/ponresources.htm>

Here you will find all the past Program Updates in PDF format. My goal is for faculty to be able to access this information as well as program administrators. I sincerely hope that when you get the e-mail that you will forward the link to your entire nursing faculty.

## **Integrated Practicum: Placement and Credit in the Curriculum & Use of Preceptors**

### *Placement and Credit in the Curriculum:*

Recently I have had some communication with programs regarding the Integrated Practicum and students that are not successful in the last semester of their program. For example, a student takes a course that includes the Integrated Practicum or completes the practicum as a separate course. But unfortunately, the student is not successful in another course within this last semester and does not graduate. What happens to their success in the integrated course?

The regulation states that the Integrated Practicum is 120 hours completed over a seven week period of time within the last semester or quarter of the program. In the situation above, the student would have to re-take the integrated practicum the next semester or quarter. Some programs have begun to look at their policies to re-phrase so that the student understands that they will have to re-take the Integrated Practicum.

### *Use of Preceptors:*

Please remember that no where in the law does it state that preceptors are required for the pre-graduation Integrated Practicum. The Integrated Practicum has a specific hour component but there is no designation as to where the clinical should be completed or in what mode of instruction. Very often at meetings I hear it quoted that this is a requirement of the board—it is not—it is a choice that the program has selected for the implementation of the practicum.

## **Excelsior Lawsuit—Interesting Case**

Article attached.

## **Nurse Faculty/Clinical Instructor Forms**

As each of you are aware, each program of nursing is required to send a Nurse Faculty/Clinical Instructor Record within 30 days of the appointment of an individual. We are getting a large percentage of forms that are sent in that are incomplete, with one or more pieces of information missing. Items missing include:

- No appointment date;
- No level of appointment indicated (either faculty or clinical instructor); and/or
- Submitted more than 30 days past the appointment date

This is resulting in Lila having to do a great deal of follow-up with the programs prior to being able to process the information. For example, in a recent review of 50 forms—58% had at least one piece of information missing. Please look over these forms carefully before sending to make sure these are complete.

# NLN Excellence Model for Nursing Education

If you have not seen it, the National League for Nursing (NLN) has released a wonderful model for nursing education. The *Excellence in Nursing Education Model*<sup>®</sup> depicts eight core elements required to achieve and sustain this excellence as well as many of the components relevant to each:

- Clear Program Standards and Hallmarks that Raise Expectations
- Well-prepared Faculty
- Qualified Students
- Well-prepared Educational Administrators
- Evidence-based Programs and Teaching/Evaluation Methods
- Quality and Adequate Resources
- Student-centered, Interactive, and Innovative Programs and Curricula
- Recognition of Expertise

Below is the link that will take you to the place on the NLN website for more information: <http://www.nln.org/excellence/model/index.htm> This model shows the complexity of the faculty role and the scope of preparation that is needed beyond basic nursing knowledge. I am also including an order for a copy; though I realize that many of you are not accredited by NLN, I am confident that you are institutional members of NLN and thus so are your faculty. This is a wonderful model to share with your administrators.

Here is a small version of the model (though I realize that you will not be able to read it) at least you know what you are looking for.



## Education Program Summary Reports

For those who have had graduates July 1 forward who have taken NCLEX, Lila will be mailing the program summaries separate from this Update.

## Excelsior Wins \$7.8M For Stolen Exam Questions

By **Jesse Greenspan**, [jesse.greenspan@portfoliomedia.com](mailto:jesse.greenspan@portfoliomedia.com)

*Tuesday, December 12, 2006* --- A federal jury has awarded \$7.8 million to Excelsior College, which had accused a test preparation service of misappropriating its copyrights and trade secrets in regards to a series of nursing exams and content guides.

The verdict was one of the largest ever reached for the infringement of test questions, according to David Miranda, a partner with Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C., who represented the college in the case.

"We are extremely pleased by the jury's verdict, and believe that it is reflective of the value placed on intellectual property by institutions of higher learning," Miranda said.

Albany, N.Y.-based Excelsior is one of three main colleges in the country that allows students to earn a degree through credit-by-examination testing. In its nursing department, students must pass seven examinations, which are offered at testing sites throughout the country, before they can take their clinical nursing exam and get a degree.

According to the complaint, which was originally filed in March 2004 before the U.S. District Court in San Diego, test preparation service Professional Development Systems School of Health Sciences had their own employees take Excelsior's nursing exams and also encouraged other test takers to tell them whatever questions they could remember.

The company and its owner, Charles M. Frye, then used that information to sell compilations of the exams, the complaint said.

"These exams were kept secret," Miranda said. "The only time anyone had access to them was for the purpose of taking the examination."

Once Excelsior became aware of the alleged infringement, it pulled all seven examinations and revised them at what it described as substantial cost.

"The purpose of the lawsuit was to cover those costs and make sure this type of conduct wouldn't occur again," Miranda said.

In the suit, Excelsior also accused Professional Development Systems School of Health Sciences of directly copying three content guides and then using that material to apply for approval to award degrees.

After a two-week trial, the jury ruled on Nov. 14 that the test preparation service had infringed all seven nursing exams, that the exams were legally protected trade secrets, and that the materials had been misappropriated for the defendant's own benefit.

Excelsior is represented in the case by Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C. and Gordon & Rees LLP.

The case is Excelsior College v. Frye et al, case number 04-cv-00535, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.



National League *for* Nursing

**EXCELLENCE IN NURSING EDUCATION MODEL** ©  
**ORDER FORM**

Please complete this form and mail or fax it to the National League for Nursing along with the appropriate payment. We will process requests within **2-3 weeks** of receiving the order and payment. If you wish this material to be shipped to multiple locations, please complete the Shipping Information portion of this form for each separate location and submit all pages simultaneously.

**SHIPPING INFORMATION**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Name/Credentials    |  |
| School/Agency       |  |
| Street Address      |  |
| City/State/Zip Code |  |
| Daytime Phone       |  |
| E-Mail Address      |  |
| NLN Membership #    |  |

**NUMBER OF COPIES ORDERED**

| NLN MEMBERSHIP STATUS | QTY | CHARGE PER COPY (INCLUDES SHIPPING & HANDLING) | TOTAL CHARGE |
|-----------------------|-----|--|--------------|
| NLN Member            | 1   | N/A  | N/A          |
| NLN Member            |     | \$1.00   |              |
| Non-NLN Member        |     | \$1.00   |              |

**PAYMENT**

- Check (made payable to National League for Nursing) enclosed in the amount of \$
- Credit Card to be charged in the amount of \$
  - American Express     Discover
  - Master Charge         Visa

Name as it appears on the credit card:  
Credit Card Number:  
Credit Card Expiration Date:

**NOTE:** PO's (Purchase Orders) are not accepted.

**RETURN POLICY:** The National League for Nursing does not accept returns for refunds or credit

**SUBMISSION OF ORDER**

Ms. Gabrielle Lambert  
Professional Development Coordinator  
National League for Nursing  
61 Broadway, 33<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10006  
glamberti@nlm.org  
212-812-0391