

**Recommendations for Achieving Success on the
PRE-ADMISSION EXAMINATION (PAX TEST)**

The following are recommendations for achieving success on the Pre-Admission PAX Examination for those applying to the Nursing Program. The exam is also known as the PAX-RN Exam. While the exam is officially sponsored by the National League for Nursing Test Service, NONE of the questions pertain specifically to nursing. Your score on the exam is based on national performance norms and it is not determined by comparing your score with Stark State College nursing applicants.

The PAX-RN exam tests in three areas. These are 1) Verbal Ability, 2) Mathematics, and 3) Science. The Verbal Ability section consists of word knowledge and reading comprehension. The Mathematics section measures skills in basic arithmetic calculations as well as elementary algebraic and geometric concepts. Both computational exercises and word problems are included. The Science section evaluates high school level knowledge of general sciences, chemistry, biology, and physics, with particular emphasis on those areas most applicable to the Health professions.

You might find it helpful to prepare for the exam by studying one or both recommended review books especially designed to prepare students for the PAX Exam. The two books are: National League for Nursing Review Guide for RN Pre-Entrance Exam, 3rd Edition, edited by Mary McDonald and published by Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Sudbury, Massachusetts (2008) and Arco's Nursing School and Allied Health Entrance Exam, 18th Edition, by Marion Gooding and published by Peterson's a Nelnet Company (2008). Both books are available in the Stark State College Bookstore at a price of \$39.95 and \$24.00 respectively.

The NLN Review Book has five major sections. While the Introduction section discusses career options in nursing, it also presents information on proven study strategies and test-taking skills which will be helpful to any student.

Section A provides a comprehensive review of the verbal and reading comprehension vocabulary and reading skills. Section B offers an overview of math content with detailed examples. Section C reviews the science content with detailed summaries of high school biology, chemistry, and physics. Included in each of the Sections, A, B, & C, are three to four exams as a means of review of these areas. The last major section of the book is entitled "Comprehensive Practice Tests". This final section contains three comprehensive practice exams (160 questions which are actual NLN Pre-Admission exams that are no longer in use).

The Arco book has three major sections. Part One gives general information on how to use the book and information on the exam including the content and format of the examination, how to interpret test scores, and preparing for the examination itself. Part Two is a study guide with specific information on each area of the PAX Exam. It includes sample test questions. Part Three contains general information useful for review, but not necessarily geared towards this exam. Do not be concerned about the nursing focus of the book--the information is general enough so that it can be used by anyone taking the PAX Exam.

On the back of this page is a copy of an actual report received by a student. Use it to help you determine whether or not you have met the program's minimal requirement. **You must score at the 60th percentile (minimum score) or greater in the area shown under AD-Composite (see circled area on back).**

If you have further questions regarding the PAX exam, please contact your academic advisor at 330-966-5458. If you are applying to the Dental Hygiene Program contact Nichole Oocumma at ext. 4707. If you are applying to the Nursing Program contact Gloria Kline at ext. 4252.

Best wishes in your preparation for the exam!

**NOTE: PLEASE SAVE THIS PAPER SO YOU CAN DETERMINE YOUR SCORE
(SEE BACK)**



National League for Nursing

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Program Code: 337443
NLN Order Number: 65882
Report Date: 09/06/2005

Test Code: PAXPODMRN53A
Test Date: 08/26/2005

Individual Performance Report PRE-ADMISSION RN FORM 53A

Should be
40 or better.

Percentile Rank:

DI 69 AD 64 ALL 65

Summary

Examinee:
Composite Score: 108

Test	Raw Score	Percentiles		
		DI	AD	ALL
VERBAL	41 of 60	80	71	71
MATH	12 of 40	11	6	6
SCIENCE	39 of 60	85	78	77

*PERCENTILE NORMS ARE BASED ON PERFORMANCE OF:

APPLICANTS TO DIPLOMA PROGRAMS -----	INDIV.	PROG.	STATES
APPLICANTS TO ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS----	890	29	12
ALL APPLICANTS TO BASIC NURSING PROGRAMS---	22433	106	42
SCORES ON THIS EXAMINATION FORM WERE UPDATED USING A PRE-EQUATING SAMPLE OF 25,034 EXAMINEES TESTED IN 2001-2002	25034	202	49

GUIDE FOR THE INTERPRETATION OF THE TEST REPORT

SCORES The individual tests included in the examination are identified in the left-hand column of the report. Immediately to the right, in the column labeled "Score" is the raw score earned. This score is the number of test items you answered correctly. Each test contains some additional items that were included for test development purposes only. These items were not used to calculate the scores. The highest possible raw score in each test is as follows: Verbal Ability - 60; Mathematics - 40; Science - 60.

THE COMPOSITE SCORE is based on your performance on the total examination, but is not the sum of the items answered correctly. It is a standard score, i.e., a weighted combination of the scores on the individual tests. Composite scores may range from 0 to 200. The average is 100, and the standard deviation a measure of variability around this average score, is 20. Most scores range between 50 and 150.

A PERCENTILE SCORE for each test and for the composite score is reported in the column labeled "Percentile Norms." Percentiles, which range from 0-99, indicate what portion of a reference group of applicants to similar nursing programs earned raw scores lower than yours. For example, if the report shows a percentile score of 84 for a raw score of 49 on the Verbal Ability test, it means that 84% of the norms group received a raw score of 49 or less. The percentile scores do NOT indicate the percentage of items that were answered correctly.

NORMS GROUP Each norms group used in preparing this report is identified at the top of the column labeled "Percentile Norms." For the Pre-Admission Examination-PN the norms group is comprised of all applicants to practical nursing programs who took this test during the period identified at the bottom of the report. For the Pre-Admission Examination-RN three sets of norms are provided: "DI" refers to applicants to diploma programs; "AD" refers to applicants to associate degree programs; and "ALL" refers to all applicants to any of the three types of programs preparing students for registered nurse practice. The most appropriate norms group to use is the group which matches or includes the type of program to which you are applying. This allows comparisons with other applicants to similar programs. Each norms group is described in the section following the test scores.

INTERPRETING THE SCORES Percentiles substantially above the 50th percentile indicate better than average performance, percentiles ranging from about 40-60 average, and those substantially below the 50th percentile poorer than average. Areas of strength or weakness may be identified by noting those parts of the examination for which the percentiles are high or low. It should be noted that equal differences in percentiles do not indicate equal differences in ability since examinees' test scores tend to group around the average score. The further one is from the average, in either direction, the greater is the degree of ability represented by each additional percentage point. The difference between percentiles of 80 and 89 is far greater in terms of ability than the difference between 50 and 59; similarly the difference between percentiles 10 and 19 is greater than the difference between 50 and 59.

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PRE-ADMISSION EXAMINATION (PAX TEST)

REGISTRATION:

Registration for the Pre-Admission Examination (PAX Test) will be online through the National League for Nursing (NLN) website at: <https://www.nlnonline.org/pax/> **Note: When you log onto this website, it will ask what program type you are applying for, everyone (dental hygiene included) should choose Registered Nurse (RN) Program.** Please DO NOT go to Registration, Admissions, or the Cashier Office to register or pay for the examination. **If you have trouble registering, please call the Customer Service number for NLN at 1-800-732-8656.**

Test fee is \$ 80.00. Note: This is subject to change by the NLN. The fee and dates will be posted once you go online to register. If you reschedule 3 weeks or less than 3 weeks in advance of the test, NLN will charge an additional \$15 for you to reschedule. NLN will not refund your money if you cancel or do not show the day of the test.

TEST DATES: The test will start promptly at the times given below – please arrive at the testing room at least 15 minutes prior to the testing time. **Please note: There are only 24 seats in the computer lab so each testing session will be limited to 24 people.** **The testing dates through December, 2010 are as follows:**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Saturday, January 9	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, February 27	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, March 13	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, April 17	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, May 8	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, June 19	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, July 17	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, August 14	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, September 25	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, October 30	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, November 20	9:00 am	Room J200
Saturday, December 11	9:00 am	Room J200

REQUIREMENTS TO BE ADMITTED FOR TESTING ARE:

You **MUST** bring the following documents with you into the testing room or you will not be permitted to take the test:

1. **Pre-Admission Examination for RN Programs Permit** you will receive this page once you register for a class.
2. **Driver's License or your Stark State Student ID Card.**

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you need special accommodations, you must go through Kathy Bernstein in Disability Services at least 4 weeks prior to the test date and have documentation from your physician related to your special needs (required by NLN to grant approval). Please adhere to the 4 weeks prior to the test date, as final approval and special arrangements must be made through NLN as well as at the college. We cannot guarantee approval of special accommodations requested in less than 4 weeks prior to the test date.

TESTING INFORMATION:

Please allow 3 ½ hours for taking the test. The actual test is 3 hours; however, the 3 ½ hours accounts for required breaks and directions for the test. No late comers will be admitted once the test starts. Snow days will be rescheduled per NLN. There will not be a \$ 15 reschedule fee and you will not lose your money in the event of a snow day.

Also, calculators or any device that can be used to calculate will not be permitted for the test. We will provide paper for calculations, so please bring a pencil or pen with you. Cell phones, Blue tooth technology/earpieces, etc. will not be permitted. They must be turned off completely (no tone or vibrating, etc.). It is highly recommended that you take care of any personal matters with your family, etc. prior to the examination so you are not expecting a phone call during the examination. You will be dismissed from the test if you have any of these items on or on vibrate, etc. while testing. Food and drinks are not permitted in the computer labs.

Please note: If you are not successful at your first attempt, (you must be in the 60th percentile rank or greater) you can repeat the test in six (6) month intervals.