

The Board Needs You!

Volunteers are always needed as NCLEX Panel Members. Nurses are selected to write and/or review test items for the licensure examinations for RNs and LPNs. Colorado is under-represented on these panels due to a lack of volunteers. The Board of Nursing would like to see Colorado's participation increased.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing depends on nurses to assist in the NCLEX item development process by being item writers, item reviewers, or panel judges. By participating in the item development process, nurses will:

- Learn how the nurse licensure examinations are developed from job analysis through results reporting, and
- Have input in the process through item writing, item reviewing, or recommending a passing standard.

How do I know if I qualify?

Item writers create the multiple-choice questions, or items, used for the NCLEX. To qualify as an item writer, you must be:

- Currently licensed and approved by the Board of Nursing
- An RN with a master's or higher degree in nursing or another discipline (for NCLEX-RN) or an LPN or RN (for NCLEX-PN).
- Responsible for teaching basic/undergraduate students in the clinical area or currently employed in clinical nursing practice.
- Knowledgeable about the scope of entry-level nursing practice.

Item reviewers review the questions that are created by item writers. To qualify as an item reviewer, you must be:

- Currently licensed and approved by the Board of Nursing.
- An RN (for NCLEX-RN) or an LPN or RN (for NCLEX-PN).
- Currently employed in clinical nursing practice giving patient care and working directly with nurses who entered nursing practice during the past 12 months.

The Panel of Judges recommends the NCLEX passing standard to the National Council Board of Directors. To qualify, you must be:

- Currently licensed and approved by the Board of Nursing.
- An RN (for NCLEX-RN) or an LPN or RN (for NCLEX-PN).

- Currently employed in clinical nursing practice giving patient care and working directly with nurses who entered nursing practice during the past 12 months. A basic/undergraduate faculty member will be on the panel, as will a newly licensed nurse.

How do I apply?

Applying to be an NCLEX Panel Member is easy. Applications are available from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

To obtain an application, simply visit the National Council website at <http://www.ncsbn.org>, or call the National Council Item Development Hot Line at (312) 787-6555, ext. 496, and leave your name and address.

What happens if I'm selected?

If selected as an item writer or reviewer, you will participate in one three- to five-day session. Sessions are held throughout the year in a convenient location. Attending a session may require travel; however, all expenses are paid by the National Council or its testing service. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

What are the benefits of participating?

NCLEX panel participants receive many benefits, including:

- continuing education units
- a chance to exchange ideas with their peers from across the United States and five U.S. territories, and
- an opportunity to acquire new skills useful in their work settings.

Participation in the process of item development by Colorado nurses is critical because nurses from other states may not adequately represent the current practice reflected in Colorado. The Board of Nursing encourages your participation.