



# The University of North Carolina

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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North Carolina  
at Pembroke

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at Wilmington

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: Alan Mabe

DATE: June 2, 2010

SUBJECT: Report on Licensure Passing Rates, Enrollment, and Degrees  
Awarded in Nursing

**Background:** Nursing programs in North Carolina are under the jurisdiction of the NC Board of Nursing and the public four-year programs are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Governors. Just as the Board of Governors must approve a new degree program in nursing, the State Board of Nursing must sanction the program and approve an upper limit for the program's enrollment. The Board of Nursing does a yearly review of programs primarily based on their students' pass rates on the licensure exam for the RN, and General Administration does a parallel review on behalf of the Board of Governors.

**Jurisdictional Authority:** The Board of Nursing is empowered by the General Assembly to perform its oversight role, and the Board of Governors has established a standard for review:

A requirement that the President will consider, jointly with the Chancellor, an evaluation of the leadership, faculty, admissions policies, and the curriculum of any program whose graduates do not achieve for two consecutive years an annual passing rate of 85% for first-time writers, and a requirement that the President will ask the Board to initiate program termination procedures for any program having a first-time passing rate of less than 75% for two consecutive years.

**Issues Involved:** The Board of Nursing reports the results of the NCLEX RN licensing exam on a calendar year basis. UNC adds enrollment and degrees awarded to the report on licensure. All campuses are in accord with the relevant standards.

**Recommended Action:** No action necessary.

## **UNC Nursing Exam Results for 2009 and Nursing Enrollment and Degrees Conferred Report**

### **UNC Board of Governors' Policy and Annual Reporting Requirements**

In May 1990, the University of North Carolina Board of Governors adopted the following policy and performance standards for UNC nursing programs:

A requirement that the President will consider, jointly with the Chancellor, an evaluation of the leadership, faculty, admissions policies and the curriculum of any program whose graduates do not achieve for two consecutive years an annual passing rate of 85% for first-time writers, and, a requirement that the President will ask the Board to initiate program termination procedures for any program having a first-time passing rate of less than 75% for two consecutive years.

This report on enrollment and passing rates for licensure for the UNC nursing programs is prepared annually in accord with this Board policy. The UNC nursing students who took the NCLEX-RN exam for the first time in 2009 passed at an average rate of 92%. The state-wide passing rate was 88%. Six UNC campuses had passing rates at or above 90% (ECU, UNC-CH, UNCG, UNCW, WCU, and WSSU) and four were at or above 95% (ECU, UNC-CH, UNCG, and WCU). UNC Chapel Hill had the highest pass rate at 97% followed closely by ECU which had a rate of 96%. ECU produced the most students who were successful on the NCLEX, 248, followed by UNC-CH with 174.

All campuses are in compliance with the Board of Governors' standard.

### **NC Board of Nursing Standards**

The Board of Nursing has revised its standard for NCLEX passing rates for Nursing Programs. Previously the standard had been at 75%. If a program fell below that rate it was put on warning and was required to prepare and file with the Board of Nursing a plan to address the factors in the program that needed to be improved to bring the passing rate to the required level.

The Board of Nursing has adopted a new standard that requires NCLEX passing rates for first-time writers be at 95% of the national pass rate or greater based on a rolling three-year average. The Board is in the process of implementing this plan. For 2009, the requirement was 95% of the national pass rate or greater, using a three-year average pass rate for calendar years 2007, 2008, and 2009. That standard for 2009 writers was 83%.

In the case of FSU, the Chancellor suspended new enrollment in the Nursing program in 2009. Those taking the NCLEX in 2009 had an 88% pass rate.

The Board of Nursing in its review of UNCP, which had a 88% pass rate in 2009, decided it was making good progress and did not place the program on warning.

So in effect all UNC programs are in compliance with Board of Nursing Standards.

### **Nursing Programs**

The Board of Governors approved a new program in Nursing at ASU for 2010. It is starting up in the summer of 2010 bringing the total number of pre-licensure programs in the system to 12. (FSU has suspended new admissions to its program but has a senior class for 2010-11 to teach out.)

According to the North Carolina Board of Nursing, the total number of students taking the NCLEX exam in 2009 from UNC programs was 1,077.

### **UNC Nursing Enrollment**

Following a statewide taskforce on nursing, the Board of Governors formed a Board Committee to review the recommendations of the task force and make recommendations for expanding the production of nursing graduates at various levels. Key among those recommendations was to set in motion the doubling of the number of pre-licensure nurses produced by UNC, the expansion of the Master of Nursing in Nursing Education to provide faculty for community colleges so they can expand their programs to produce more nurses, increase the level of education of nurses with an expansion of RN to BSN programs, and expansion of the production of doctorates in nursing to replenish the faculty ranks at UNC and where needed in the community colleges.

In the past five years, undergraduate enrollment in nursing programs has grown from 2,571 to 2,977, an increase of 16%; masters-level enrollment has grown from 924 to 1,465 or an increase of 59%; doctoral enrollment has grown from 66 to 118, an increase of 79%.

### **UNC Nursing Degrees Conferred**

Overall all degree production has been on a definite upswing. At all levels, UNC institutions produced 1,178 nursing graduates in 2002-03, the base year for nursing expansion. That number increased to 2,116 in 2008-09, which was an increase of 79.6% over the base year. Pre-licensure nursing production has grown to 1,109 from 686 in the base year an increase of 61.7%. RN to BSN programs which increase the educational level of nurses has grown from 302 in the base year to 583 in 2008-09 an increase of 93%. Masters programs in nursing provide advance practice nurses and nursing faculty. There the growth has been quite incredible from 183 in the base year to 391 in 2008-09 an increase of 114%. The economic climate may slow these increases, but UNC campuses have responded to the Nursing Task Force's call to increase nursing production by 25% by going well beyond that. UNC programs are prepared to expand further to meet the need for nursing graduates at all levels in NC.

### **Expanding Nursing Education in UNC.**

The North Carolina Institute of Medicine issued its report on Nursing, *Task Force on the North Carolina Nursing Workforce Report* in May 2004. The Board established a Committee on the Future of Nursing which made its report to the Board in November 2004. Both reports document the need for increasing the number of nurses in North Carolina and increasing the educational level of nurses. UNC campuses are well along in their enrollment expansion to achieve the ambitious goals approved by the Board of Governors to increase the production of nurses at every level.

## Nursing Degree Credit Headcount Enrollment, 1997 - 2009

Institution	Level	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ASU	B											28	41	36
ECU	B	423	432	437	450	420	382	483	497	500	532	576	622	616
	M	102	121	92	105	92	73	123	211	290	355	413	482	485
	D						2	10	15	19	21	23	27	30
FSU	B	28	44	35	26	17	13	23	49	49	85	207	95	74
NCA&T	B	163	155	139	137	153	176	220	220	220	167	136	118	123
NCCU	B	163	157	126	140	113	95	91	134	109	95	121	128	103
UNC-CH	B	305	295	300	297	334	307	311	328	331	346	358	387	409
	M	146	169	142	152	168	159	149	163	179	168	171	166	202
	D	27	36	39	42	50	51	52	51	57	56	61	59	55
UNCC	B	173	234	217	191	218	216	224	206	187	221	299	296	287
	M	161	149	159	152	172	174	176	172	158	166	189	201	210
UNCG	B	319	355	371	341	289	295	323	314	318	329	341	340	307
	M	230	243	290	307	238	240	247	258	281	304	313	288	311
	D									12	21	26	32	33
UNCP	B	47	58	49	56	52	46	44	54	99	148	151	132	107
UNCW	B	165	162	150	137	127	122	132	151	163	176	197	207	219
	M		20	28	30	25	19	21	19	14	20	46	52	62
WCU	B	149	157	137	122	116	119	67	133	134	192	156	216	237
	M			30	27	41	15	29	41	49	56	73	83	92
WSSU	B	362	252	270	212	216	201	385	485	664	554	568	545	459
	M							50	60	63	83	110	119	103
UNC Total	B	2,297	2,301	2,231	2,109	2,055	1,972	2,303	2,571	2,774	2,845	3,138	3,127	2,977
	M	639	702	741	773	736	680	795	924	1,034	1,152	1,315	1,391	1,465
	D	27	36	39	42	50	53	62	66	88	98	110	118	118

Source: SDF.PR009C

Note: Enrollment includes Upper-division undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and intermediate/specialist enrollment in the fall of each year.

B = Bachelor's Degree, including post-baccalaureate certificates at UNC-C and UNC-G

M = Master's Degree, including intermediate/specialist degrees at ECU, UNC-C, and UNC-G

D = Doctorate Degree

## APPENDIX T

## Degrees Conferred in Nursing Programs

			2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Other	ECU	Intermediate/Specialist	0	0	4	3	4	7
	UNCC	Post-Baccalaureate Certificate	0	0	7	11	12	9
		Intermediate/Specialist	0	0	1	2	2	0
	UNCG	Post-Baccalaureate Certificate	0	0	0	0	0	2
		Intermediate/Specialist	0	0	0	2	1	4
	Total		0	0	12	18	19	22
BSN	ASU	Bachelor's	0	0	0	0	4	0
	ECU	Bachelor's	147	167	187	203	217	232
	FSU	Bachelor's	0	0	2	8	74	37
	NCA&T	Bachelor's	42	61	46	59	56	57
	NCCU	Bachelor's	50	36	42	41	42	59
	UNC-CH	Bachelor's	164	174	171	202	220	222
	UNCC	Bachelor's	90	86	88	57	89	105
	UNCG	Bachelor's	103	94	101	87	110	101
	UNCP	Bachelor's	0	0	0	35	28	35
	UNCW	Bachelor's	49	51	69	66	90	90
	WCU	Bachelor's	43	42	54	54	48	53
	WSSU	Bachelor's	100	118	148	292	147	118
	Total		788	829	908	1,104	1,125	1,109
MSN	ECU	Master's	11	24	42	60	76	111
	UNC-CH	Master's	50	46	67	60	57	55
	UNCC	Master's	60	48	62	56	79	40
	UNCG	Master's	121	93	88	70	107	92
	UNCW	Master's	6	9	9	2	8	19
	WCU	Master's	0	11	2	13	28	29
	WSSU	Master's	0	13	11	1	37	45
	Total		248	244	281	262	392	391
PhD	ECU	Doctorate	0	1	0	5	1	1
	UNC-CH	Doctorate	8	6	10	6	8	6
	UNCG	Doctorate	0	0	0	0	1	4
	Total		8	7	10	11	10	11
RN to BSN	ASU	Bachelor's	0	0	0	0	5	34
	ECU	Bachelor's	36	58	39	47	21	44
		Master's	4	9	14	16	4	0
	FSU	Bachelor's	6	19	8	6	12	4
	NCA&T	Bachelor's	5	0	2	0	0	0
	NCCU	Bachelor's	4	5	0	7	4	5
	UNC-CH	Bachelor's	2	0	1	0	0	0
	UNCC	Bachelor's	52	33	23	38	73	89
	UNCG	Bachelor's	50	57	58	63	55	53
	UNCP	Bachelor's	26	13	27	21	19	21
	UNCW	Bachelor's	16	8	14	7	7	11
	WCU	Bachelor's	10	18	20	6	33	37
	WSSU	Bachelor's	81	65	169	1	231	285
		Master's	0	13	0	16	12	0
	Total		292	298	375	228	476	583
UNC Total			1,336	1,378	1,586	1,623	2,022	2,116

Source: SDF.ER020b

Nursing selected as CIP 5116

RN to BSN = Students coded RN on the SDF

BSN = Students coded Generic or AHEC on the SDF

MSN = Students coded Generic or AHEC with Degree Intent of Masters

PhD = Students with Degree Intent of PhD

## The University of North Carolina Nursing Examination (NCLEX-RN) Results, 1990 to 2009 (First-Time Test Takers Only)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>East Carolina</b>																				
Number Tested	61	70	88	130	117	131	136	165	111	127	120	147	165	134	161	181	194	220	248	257
Number Passed	61	64	85	118	106	126	115	153	104	118	109	136	160	109	134	170	192	209	237	248
% Passed	100%	91%	97%	91%	91%	96%	85%	93%	94%	93%	91%	93%	97%	81%	83%	94%	99%	95%	96%	96%
<b>Fayetteville State</b>																				
Number Tested	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	22	61	40
Number Passed	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	14	24	35
% Passed	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	64%	39%	88%
<b>N.C. A and T</b>																				
Number Tested	7	11	31	33	39	45	81	62	56	53	48	37	56	52	43	67	54	51	54	57
Number Passed	7	10	27	28	30	39	64	48	48	44	37	29	43	39	35	46	37	43	49	50
% Passed	100%	91%	87%	85%	77%	87%	79%	77%	86%	83%	77%	78%	77%	75%	81%	69%	69%	84%	91%	88%
<b>N.C. Central</b>																				
Number Tested	6	16	9	27	17	50	31	45	49	47	32	36	38	37	37	40	38	43	40	55
Number Passed	5	15	9	22	14	48	28	37	39	31	30	29	31	30	24	26	31	39	36	48
% Passed	83%	94%	100%	81%	82%	96%	90%	82%	80%	66%	94%	81%	82%	81%	65%	65%	82%	91%	90%	87%
<b>UNC-Chapel Hill</b>																				
Number Tested	58	84	107	117	112	110	119	114	134	123	123	134	161	160	152	160	155	178	187	179
Number Passed	57	78	104	104	106	107	113	109	129	110	114	126	151	149	147	150	152	166	182	174
% Passed	98%	93%	97%	89%	95%	97%	95%	96%	96%	89%	93%	94%	94%	93%	97%	94%	98%	93%	97%	97%
<b>UNC-Charlotte</b>																				
Number Tested	51	75	97	120	110	101	103	105	73	77	92	71	76	83	88	88	87	58	90	102
Number Passed	48	69	92	96	90	96	95	95	64	71	76	67	65	74	63	68	84	55	82	82
% Passed	94%	92%	95%	80%	82%	95%	92%	90%	88%	92%	83%	94%	86%	89%	72%	77%	97%	95%	91%	80%
<b>UNC-Greensboro</b>																				
Number Tested	65	73	89	85	102	79	77	91	78	95	91	84	80	75	80	87	86	84	93	91
Number Passed	58	67	84	75	91	76	71	88	68	85	75	77	78	71	64	81	80	77	83	86
% Passed	89%	92%	94%	88%	89%	96%	92%	97%	87%	89%	82%	92%	98%	95%	80%	93%	93%	92%	89%	95%
<b>UNC-Pembroke</b>																				
Number Tested	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	37	30	41
Number Passed	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	25	24	36
% Passed	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	68%	80%	88%
<b>UNC-Wilmington</b>																				
Number Tested	21	21	30	38	58	47	69	51	62	45	56	54	51	38	47	53	70	69	100	81
Number Passed	21	20	30	37	50	46	59	45	53	38	44	49	46	34	35	50	67	61	90	75
% Passed	100%	95%	100%	97%	86%	98%	86%	88%	85%	84%	79%	91%	90%	89%	74%	94%	96%	88%	90%	93%
<b>Western Carolina</b>																				
Number Tested	35	31	30	39	34	39	33	43	32	39	45	43	41	42	42	41	55	53	54	58
Number Passed	31	28	28	39	33	38	32	33	29	37	39	41	36	30	37	36	47	41	50	55
% Passed	89%	90%	93%	100%	97%	97%	97%	77%	91%	95%	87%	95%	88%	71%	88%	88%	85%	77%	93%	95%
<b>Winston-Salem</b>																				
Number Tested	20	9	50	52	71	64	88	73	121	60	92	63	44	34	99	113	122	105	148	116
Number Passed	14	8	48	44	61	58	78	64	90	55	83	53	41	32	96	98	101	98	127	106
% Passed	70%	89%	96%	85%	86%	91%	89%	88%	74%	92%	90%	84%	93%	94%	97%	87%	83%	93%	86%	91%
<b>Total UNC Test Takers</b>																				
Number Tested	324	390	531	641	660	666	737	749	716	666	699	669	712	655	749	830	861	920	1105	1077
Number Passed	302	359	507	563	581	634	655	672	624	589	607	607	651	568	635	725	791	828	984	995
% Passed	93%	92%	95%	88%	88%	95%	89%	90%	87%	88%	87%	91%	91%	87%	85%	87%	92%	90%	89%	92%