

SEVEN KEYS TO PASSING THE NCLEX ON THE FIRST ATTEMPT

1. Take the NCLEX as soon as possible

Once you're cleared to take the NCLEX, either as a graduate or challenger, your papers will be sent to the board which takes its own time in processing the papers, the time for graduates being at least 6-8 weeks, for challengers as much as 6 months or more – another reason why you should make sure that your ATI exit exam score is high enough to be endorsed as a graduate.

Once you receive your permission to take the test, you should schedule your date at the earliest, for every week, every month that goes by your chances of passing the NCLEX diminish significantly.

There's nothing you can do about the delay caused by the board, but you do not want to make things worse. We have students – almost 84 in a 12-month period – who still have not scheduled to take the NCLEX. This is inexcusable; they're throwing away the time and money they've spent in going to the school. Reasons for not moving forward are simply beyond reason: too busy with personal or family life; working at a job; not ready, need more time. What these people do not realize is that it would be all but impossible for them to pass now without further help in a substantial way. You came to the school to become an LVN; don't let anything stand in your way.

2. Attend the NCLEX review

The education you get in your vocational nursing program (1549 hours) teaches you the fundamentals of nursing and clinical skills to become a good nurse; it does not teach you how to take the test and pass the NCLEX on the first attempt.

For this, you do need to take the NCLEX review class, whether it is here at the Homestead-sponsored class or elsewhere, but you do need the review session – even if you scored exceptionally well at the ATI exit exam. You need to “seal the deal.”

The cost of the class, \$280 here, is absolutely insignificant compared to achieving your goal. In your very first week of work as an LVN you'll more than recoup this \$280. We hear complaints from some students as to why they have to pay for the class, or that they do not have the money, or that they're too busy working (often in Walmart or at the mall) to take the review. These people are missing the big picture.

3. Attend Homestead - sponsored NCLEX Review

We like to encourage our students to attend the NCLEX review conducted by Ms. Adel Blanco for some very good reasons. The best reason? Students who attend her class, whether from Homestead or from elsewhere, have a pass rate of over 95%; this includes those who had not done well on the exit exam. No one can guarantee that you'll pass the NCLEX, but this comes very close.

Her test-taking strategies and exercises in critical thinking are invaluable when it comes to taking the NCLEX. If you're not taking advantage of this important resource, you're missing out on a big scale. She charges \$280 which is worth every dollar, but this cost is lower than the cost of any other outside reviews. Once you've attended, you can come back and attend again while waiting to take the NCLEX.

Here's another good reason. The review is spread out over 12 days. Within the first week, she's able to size up individual students and their likelihood of passing on the first attempt. I regularly consult her and look at scores in her various tests. Oftentimes, we're able to process students as graduates even while they're still in the review, or change challengers to graduates based on her recommendation.

Attached is her schedule for the next review class in November. In the past you've received comments from students who have attended her class. You should read them again or personally talk to those students.

4. Talk to past students who have passed or failed

It is always helpful in your preparation of NCLEX to talk to past students who took the NCLEX and passed or failed. There's a lot to learn from them. What helped them? ATI tests? Saunders? NCLEX review? Practice questions?

You can learn a lot from those who have failed as well. In the current class run by Ms. Blanco there are several students who failed on the first attempt. Second time around it is always very difficult, but at least they're taking a step in the right direction.

5. Practice ATI, Saunders

We hear from students who successfully passed the NCLEX that ATI was of tremendous help to them. ATI questions are patterned after NCLEX and there are some 5000 questions available to you along with rationales for correct responses. You should practice 100-200 questions every day while waiting to take the NCLEX.

You were also given Saunders guide to NCLEX-PN. Many have told us that Saunders has been equally helpful. We also know of students who were overconfident only to fail at the NCLEX.

6. Pass on the first attempt

It is very important to prepare for the NCLEX in a way so that you'll pass on the first attempt. Your chances of passing the NCLEX on the first attempt are 75%; on the second attempt they shrink to 25%. These are the cold statistics published by the BVNPT.

7. Money issues

I'm fully aware that we have a number of students who have outstanding balances and they're probably using that as a reason or excuse for not taking the NCLEX. Of course, we want everyone to meet their financial obligations in a timely manner, but to spend a whole year in the school and a big chunk of money and then have nothing to show for it does not help anyone. Regardless of whether you have your license and are working as an LVN, you still have to pay back your federal student loan.

From time-to-time I've accepted promissory notes to pay the balance in installments from certain students under the right circumstances, especially if the students have shown the promise and dedication to move forward. A score of 70% or more on the ATI exit exam would sail you through these narrow straits. We're running a school which also is a business and I often have to balance the competing interests of each.

So if you're one of these students, having completed the schooling but with nothing to show for it because you owe money to the school, perhaps it's time to come out of self-denial and talk to us to see if we can help you.

So there you go. Here at Homestead our mission is to prepare each and every student to get the best training in the vocational nursing field, pass the NCLEX, get a license, and get a job as an LVN. We do everything we can to get you to realize your dream. We hope you find the above discourse useful.

Attention all graduates and friends.

2013 is almost over

Attend review classes and pass the NCLEX Now.....

NCLEX review schedule

November 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

December 2, 3, 4, 2013

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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