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Florida ranks last among states in nursing exam pass rate

The Florida Center for Nursing publishes the State of Nursing Education in Florida 2025 report

Tampa, FL – The *State of Nursing Education in Florida 2025* provides a comprehensive view of nursing education in Florida. Part One: Nursing Education Program Report AY 2023–2024 details the nursing programs’ capacity, enrollment, and graduation rates. Part Two: 2024 NCLEX Results provides a detailed analysis of Florida’s NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN first-time pass rates.

Key findings from the report:

- **NCLEX First-Time Pass Rates** – Florida NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN first-time pass rates increased since last year, closing the gap between Florida pass rates and the national averages. However, Florida test-takers continued to underperform in 2024.
 - **NCLEX-RN**
 - Florida’s 2024 first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate was 84.9%, below the national average of 91.16%.
 - Florida’s NCLEX-RN first-time pass rates ranked 52 out of 55 jurisdictions and 50 out of 50 U.S. states.
 - Over the past 10 years, the gap between Florida’s NCLEX-RN first-time pass rate and the national pass rate was widest in 2020 (17.74 percentage points) but has improved to 6.26 percentage points below the national average in 2024.
 - **NCLEX-PN**
 - Florida’s 2024 first-time NCLEX-PN pass rate was 80.78%, below the national average of 88.38%.
 - Florida’s NCLEX-PN first-time pass rates ranked 52 out of 54 jurisdictions and 50 out of 50 U.S. states.
 - Over the past 10 years, the gap between Florida’s NCLEX-PN pass rate and the national pass rate was widest in 2021 (17.05 percentage points) but has improved to 7.6 percent points below the national average in 2024.
- **Enhanced Program Capacity** – Prelicensure nursing programs reported an increase in the number of qualified applicants, accepted applicants, and new enrollees since last year.
- **Improved Retention Rates** – Retention rates for PN and ADN programs improved from the previous academic year.

Visit flcntr.org/NursingEd25 to read the full report.



Prelicensure nursing education programs serve as the foundation for the nursing workforce. It is essential for these programs to effectively prepare candidates to pass the national licensure examination and to fill both existing and new positions within the nursing field. Adequate preparation will help to balance the supply and demand of Florida's nursing workforce.

The Florida Center for Nursing will provide an in-depth presentation for the findings of *The State of Nursing Education in Florida 2025* report at the [Florida Center for Nursing \(FCN\) Education Symposium: Leading Excellence and Innovation in Florida](#) on March 7, 2025.

The FCN Education Symposium is being hosted in Gainesville, FL, in collaboration with the University of Florida College of Nursing. The event will bring together leading experts to present critical data, engage in dynamic panel discussions, and develop forward-thinking recommendations for the future of nursing education in Florida. Nursing education is the foundation of the nursing workforce. It is essential to build this strong base in order to combat the nursing shortage in the state.

The event will be offered both in person and virtually.

[Florida Center for Nursing \(FCN\) Education Symposium](#): Leading Excellence and Innovation in Florida

Time: 10am-4pm ET

Location: Hilton UF Conference Center, Gainesville, FL

Registration/More information: flcntr.org/Symposium

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The Florida Center for Nursing is established under state statute (F.S. 464.0195) to research and address issues of supply and demand for nursing, including issues of recruitment, retention, and utilization of nurse workforce resources. For more information, visit flcenterfornursing.org. The Florida Center for Nursing is headquartered at the University of South Florida.

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