

State Final Examination

Frequently Asked Questions

Does Nursing Council require candidates to complete an English Language test at the completion of their qualification?

The completion of an English Language test is not a requirement for domestic or international nursing students who have achieved their qualifications through a programme in New Zealand that is accredited by the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ).

If I haven't received my Ministry of Justice (MOJ) criminal record check report before examination applications close or before the examination, does this mean I can't sit the examination?

We do not require your MOJ report to be submitted by the application due date or the date of the examination. However, failure to submit a MOJ report before results are released will result in a delay in your registration (if you have passed the examination).

I have already submitted a Ministry of Justice (MOJ) report for a previous exam, do I need to submit another one?

Nursing Council does not carry over MOJ reports from previous examinations. All candidates are required to submit a MOJ report dated less than three months prior the examination being applied for. This is because your MOJ report must be current when you are registered as a nurse.

How can I apply for extra time?

During your application for the State Final Examination, you can request extra time for the examination.

Please ensure you have discussed this with your Head of School.

The Council's policy regarding extra time in the examination is:

In exceptional circumstances a candidate may request extra time to complete the examination paper. Up to 25 minutes may be granted, subject to the following criteria:

- *medical evidence must be provided for any temporary incapacity (e.g. a broken arm)*
- *the request must be made by and supported in writing by the Head of Nursing and include evidence of the candidate's requirement for extra time in internal examinations/tests (and the support provided by the school throughout the programme).*

The request for extra time must come from your Head of School, please contact them regarding this and they can send the request and relevant evidence to us.

Can I use a reader/writer?

In exceptional circumstances a candidate may request a reader/writer. The request may be granted subject to the following criteria:

- medical evidence or evidence of the candidate's requirement for a reader/writer
- the request must be made by and supported in writing by the Head of Nursing.

Note: The Council does not normally approve a reader/writer for State Final Examinations as nurses in all practice settings are required to be able to read, write, think, and act under pressure in a manner similar to that which may be experienced by candidates sitting the examination.

An exception that may be considered would be where a candidate is experiencing a temporary incapacity. For example, a broken arm and therefore incapable of using their other arm to complete the examination.

What happens if I can't sit my exam after completing my application?

If you are unable to sit the examination after you applied for it, you will need to contact the Nursing Council and your education provider.

Nursing Council can refund examination fees or hold the fees and apply these to your next examination application.

When will I get my admission slip?

Examination admission slips are sent out during the week prior to the exam. This will be sent to the email address that you provided to Nursing Council during your application for the examination.

Do I need to get 100% on my drug calculations to pass the exam?

There is no required pass rate per category of the examination. The examination is graded on an overall percentage.

How soon can I start working as a RN or EN after I pass?

Once a pass mark has been distributed to candidates via email, and if you have no outstanding requirements (for example providing a MOJ report) you are able to apply for an Annual Practising Certificate (APC).

All information on how to apply for an APC is in your examination results email. You can commence work as a RN or EN as soon as you receive confirmation of your APC.

Can I work as a healthcare assistant/caregiver once I am registered as a RN or EN?

You can work as a Healthcare Assistant once you have gained registration and have an APC. A RN or EN who wants to work as Healthcare Assistant is an employment matter and not something that the Nursing Council needs to be notified of.

However, as a RN or EN you need to be very careful that you only take on the Healthcare Assistant role if that is what you are employed as. This means ensuring that you are not taking on additional responsibilities that would ordinarily be part of the role of a RN or EN.

The RN or EN also needs to be aware that they may be held accountable under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act), because they are on the nursing register. It is not a requirement that a nurse holds a current Annual Practising Certificate for charges of professional misconduct to be brought under the Act.

It is also important to note that RNs or ENs working as Healthcare Assistants are not maintaining competence through professional development and are not being measured against the Nursing Council competencies for the RN or EN scope of practice. This also means for example, that Healthcare Assistant

'clinical' hours do not count towards practice hours when applying for an APC and similarly professional development is unlikely to count either.

What happens if I don't pass?

Candidates have three attempts to pass the State Final Examination. Candidates will be emailed by Nursing Council when the next examination application opens. Please note you do not have to sit the next available examination; however, we strongly recommend you do not leave a big gap between examination attempts.

Can I get my results back?

Results analysis' are available for candidates who have been unsuccessful in their examination attempt and will be sent to them in the days following the distribution of their results.

This is a breakdown of marks in each examination category and will highlight the parts of the exam that require more focus when studying for their next attempt.

This is not available to students who have been successful in their examination and no further feedback will be provided by Nursing Council.

For any further questions please contact education@nursingcouncil.org.nz