Pre-Admission Examination (PAX-RN)

Overview of the NLN Pre-Admission Exam (PAX)

The National League for Nursing Pre Admission Examination (NLN PAX) for registered nursing programs “PAX-RN” is a standardized entrance exam for potential nursing students who seek admittance into nursing schools nationwide.

Northwest State Community College is requiring students to take the pre admission exam and receive a score \( \geq 50 \text{th percentile} \) for each of the three areas tested in order to be admitted to the nursing program. It is recommended that students complete the admission requirements of Biology, Chemistry, MTH 090 and any developmental English courses needed prior to attempting the pre admission exam.

The NLN PAX-RN is comprised of three main areas: Verbal skills, which consist of both word knowledge and reading comprehension; Mathematics, which includes basic calculations, word problems, and incorporates algebra, geometry, conversions, graphs, and applied mathematics; and Science, which examines general biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science.

Each Pre-Admission Exam includes three one-hour multiple-choice tests. (Exams contain experimental items for purposes of future test development. These items are not included in the examinees’ scores.) The first section is Verbal Ability, followed by Mathematics and Science. The entire NLN PAX must be taken during one session.

Sample NLN PAX Questions  (*correct answers identified)

**Verbal Ability**
The staff inferred from the manager’s remarks that their work was performed satisfactorily. To infer means to make
A. An allusion
B. An error
C. A proposal
D. A deduction*

**Mathematics**
An equal-arm balance is leveled when 20 washers are on one side and 10 bolts are on the other. Four bolts are added to one side. How many washers must be added to the other side to maintain balance?
A. 2
B. 8*
C. 4
D. 14

Solve 2.76 x 1.04 =
A. 2.67
B. 2.87*
C. 3.04

**Science**
What type of immunity is present when the body develops antibodies after illness?
A. Natural.*
B. Inborn.
C. Passive.
D. Artificial.
Frequently Asked Questions

Who can take the NLN PAX?
The NLN PAX-RN is open to individuals applying for admission to an RN nursing program that requires the NLN PAX test score report and to interested individuals considering a career in nursing.

How can I study for the PAX-RN?
To help you study for the PAX-RN, the NLN offers the following book, *NLN Review Guide for RN Pre-Entrance Exam*, which provides an overview of the verbal, math, and science content necessary for admission to RN programs in nursing. The book contains approximately 1,000 practice questions and features three practice exams in each of the three content areas: verbal ability, math and science. The book also includes helpful tips for test preparation and for becoming a more effective learner and test taker. *The NLN Review Guide for RN Pre-Entrance Exam* is available in the Northwest State Community College bookstore or directly through Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

Registration - How much does the exam cost and are refunds given?
The cost of taking the exam at Northwest State Community College is $60.00. Starting 2015 the cost will be reduced to $37.00. You will register and pay for the exam at [www.nlnonlinetesting.org](http://www.nlnonlinetesting.org). You need to register and set up an account. Click on Create Account button to create an account. After you create an account, you must click on the Registration Store button to register for the exam. Make sure to register for the correct exam—RN Pre-Admission Exam. Please read through the exam policies on this site. The NLN does not issue refunds for this exam. **You can apply for ADA special accommodations:** see information on NLN website.

How do I pay for the exam?
Forms of payment include major credit cards such as VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express. Money orders are accepted when paying at least 10 days before the registration closes. Personal checks are NOT accepted.

Where is the NLN PAX administered?
The NLN PAX is used by many nursing schools to help determine an individual’s readiness for entry into an RN program. Test dates will be available at Northwest State Community College throughout the year. **There is limited seating (40) available for each testing period, so be sure and register in advance to assure a seat.**

Who receives the test scores and how do I know if I passed?
You can access your online exam score immediately from your testing account. Once the test is completed just refresh the welcome page and click on Review Exam. Each school sets its own admission standards. The passing standard at Northwest State Community College is > 50th percentile (relative performance > 50) on all the areas tested. The NLN is not involved in this process, nor does the NLN establish a “passing” or “failing” mark on the test. Test results show how your scores compare with those of other applicants who have taken this examination nationally.

What if I don’t pass the exam?
Students may retake the NLN pre admission exam ONE time only. You must wait six months after the original exam before retesting.

When and where is the NLN PAX to be administered at Northwest State Community College?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Last day to register</th>
<th>No Registration on Site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 24, 2014</td>
<td>1 p.m.- 5 p.m.</td>
<td>October 21, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 14, 2014</td>
<td>9 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>December 10, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20, 2015</td>
<td>1p.m.- 5 p.m.</td>
<td>February 17, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17, 2015</td>
<td>1 p.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
<td>April 14, 2015</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 19, 2015</td>
<td>9 a.m. - 1 p.m.</td>
<td>June 16, 2015</td>
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What should I bring to the exam session?
- A printed copy of your "Exam Confirmation"
- Student photo ID
- NO CALCULATORS
- Bring pencils with erasers

*It is important that you arrive at least 10 minutes prior to exam time. The testing session starts promptly with 15-20 minutes of pre-test instructions and registration information and students cannot be admitted once the session starts.*
SUGGESTED STUDY MATERIAL FOR NLN PAX NURSING PRE ADMISSION EXAM

The **NLN Review Guide for RN Pre-entrance Exam** is available in the NSCC College bookstore or online directly from Jones and Bartlett Publishers. This review book contains content review as well as practice questions to help prepare for the NLN PAX exam. It is a timed exam and calculators are not allowed, you need to be prepared to work quickly so you can complete the questions in the time allotted. Math, science and verbal (reading/vocabulary) are included on the exam.

Students are finding the verbal test very challenging. Additional resource materials to assist you in preparing for the reading and vocabulary portion of the exam will be available shortly in the NSCC library and bookstore or are now available online at Townsendpress.com or Amazon.com. The suggested workbooks are by author Sherri Nist. There are a series of three books: *Building Vocabulary Skills*, *Improving Vocabulary Skills* and *Advancing Vocabulary Skills*.

To determine which book you should start your review with, go to the website townsendpress.com/our-books/ and scroll down to the vocabulary series. Click on the title of each of the three books and review the word list for each book. If you do not know the majority of the words on the word list begin with that book for your test preparation.