

# DR. DICKISON ANSWERS 9 BURNING QUESTIONS ON THE NEXT GEN NCLEX

The NCSBN's Dr. Phil Dickison says the Next Generation NCLEX will position nurses for success in a changing healthcare system. But he knows many educators are concerned about the change.

Here, we've summarized his answers to 9 key questions educators are asking about the new test.

## 2) WILL NCSBN OFFER A SPECIAL RESEARCH SECTION TO THE NCLEX-PN?

Yes. The PN version launched in October 2020.

## 4) HOW MANY NEW TEST ITEMS WILL BE ON THE NEXT GEN NCLEX?

Not as many as you think. Most items on the minimum-length exam will be standard NCLEX items. Case studies focused on clinical judgment will be added that use new item types. New bowtie items, also focused on clinical judgment, will be added as standalone items.

## 6) WHAT SHOULD NURSE EDUCATORS FOCUS ON?

Ensure clinical judgment is part of your lessons. Incorporate iteration into assessments by continually adding new info as students attempt diagnosis or planning. Force re-evaluation throughout the process rather than waiting until the end.

## 8) HOW IS NCSBN HELPING EDUCATORS PREPARE?

A) Creating relationships with stakeholders to develop tools to help both educators and students engage in their personal roles in learning and educating.  
B) Developing a communication campaign, from speaking at events to offering item-writing seminars that include NGN, to a webinar series with regulators, and more.

## 1) WHAT DOES A NEW NCLEX MEAN FOR EDUCATORS?

It does NOT mean you need to change how you teach. The new test is a measurement tool to assess the way students think. You should use whatever mental model works best for you for teaching, whether it's the nursing process or another option.

## 3) HOW WILL NGN BE GRADED?

Using a partial-credit scoring model with levels of rightness and wrongness that better measure candidates' abilities.

## 5) HOW DID NCSBN DECIDE ON THE LAUNCH DATE OF NGN?

1) Time. Building the many new item types necessary for measuring clinical judgment takes time.

2) New technology. A new infrastructure is necessary to measure answers to the new item types.

## 7) WHAT SHOULD EDUCATORS TELL STUDENTS ABOUT THE NGN?

Don't be afraid. The new test is not designed to trick test-takers or measure whether they are master nurses yet. Its purpose is to produce more fidelity on how the graduate will act as a new nurse in real-life practice vs. simply measuring the graduate's memory-based, stand-alone knowledge.

## 9) WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP STRONGER CLINICAL JUDGMENT SKILLS?

Gaining experience with real real-life scenarios/case studies. Students need feedback on where they make mistakes even if they ultimately reach the correct decision.