



Canadian Nursing Students' Association
Association des étudiant(e)s infirmier(ère)s du Canada

CNSA NCLEX/Curriculum Survey Statement

In November 2018, CNSA released a survey with the purpose of examining student opinions with regards to the NCLEX and nursing curriculum. There were 387 student responses while the survey was open. Responses were relatively evenly divided between Atlantic, Ontario, Prairie and Western regions and from students from multiple different program structures (2-year / 3-year/ 4-year) with the greatest response from 4th year/4-year program nursing students.

Almost all students stated they plan to take the NCLEX in English, though some students discussed their apprehension about the French NCLEX due to the lack of preparatory materials available and issues with translation. The majority of nursing schools now use NCLEX style testing, and many incorporate NCLEX preparatory programs and tests into curriculum. Of these, HESI is the most widely used program. Many students who do not use these programs currently in their program would like them to be included. Many programs use the preparatory programs for graded student evaluation. Students have concerns about preparatory program scores being weighted in final course grades due to lack of relevance to what has been covered in their school's curriculum, differences in the American and Canadian content, and pricing. Many students agree the programs are helpful, but the grades should be based on participation rather than the specific grade received on the preparatory program test. However, several students agree that inclusion of these scores in course grades is motivational and if the required in program, should also be weighted in the class grade. Student rating of how prepared they would feel to write the NCLEX upon graduating based on their current knowledge was mixed, with the majority of students rating their preparedness at 5-8/10. Students provided feedback on how they would feel more supported in their programs in preparation for the NCLEX. These suggestions included an increased focus on NCLEX style practice questions, more content review sessions, increased discussion on the structure of the NCLEX.

Feedback on strengths of nursing programs were different across the country, with a diverse list of positives about their program. Areas of growth were also mixed, with some similar themes emerging throughout. Many students feel that global health and LGBTQSIA+ content was lacking, and also described concerns about the delivery of indigenous and mental health content. Several students agreed that more time should be spent on pharmacology, as well as specialties such as pediatrics and maternity. Some students would like more time spent on developing nursing skills such as assessment and documentation.

Responses to the survey were varied and insightful and CNSA would like to thank all students who completed the survey.