



MEMORANDUM

August 28, 2020

TO: Dr. Christy England
Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs

FROM: Dr. George Ellenberg
Provost and Senior Vice President

SUBJECT: Update on NCLEX Preparation

Pursuant to the request from the Board of Governors, please find the attached update on the efforts that the University of West Florida has undertaken to address the NCLEX examination passage rates.

Please let me know if you need additional information related to this matter.

cc: Dr. Steve Brown, Interim Dean, Usha M. Kundu MD College of Health
Dr. Kimberly McCorkle, Vice Provost

UWF Remediation/NCLEX Score Improvement Steps

We requested the confidential NCSBN report and found that of all BSN students who failed NCLEX on first attempt for calendar year January 1- December 31, 2019, all but one passed upon repeat exam. The one student had not tested when the report was requested. We did not achieve our goal of 100% first time pass rates (91.45%); however, we exceed the CCNE benchmark of first time pass rate of 80% or higher for first time pass rates for the calendar year and also exceed the CCNE benchmark of 80% or higher for all takers (first time and repeaters). Our current first time pass rate for January 1 – June 30, 2020, is 97.14%.

The common reasons for students who failed NCLEX on first attempt include:

- Lack of follow through on the individualized Virtual ATI coaching program post-graduation;
- Lack of follow through on remediation plans and focused review; and
- Low scores on pharmacology content

In order to address these, we developed a comprehensive plan for improving scores that includes:

- A pilot remediation program in 2019 and a formal remediation process for 1st year students in 2020
- ATI Test-taking strategies as bookends at the beginning and end of the student's program of study to prepare them for NCLEX style questions.
- ATI Live review on campus
- ATI Comprehensive Predictor Examination
- Integrated ATI Pharmacology content within nursing courses
- ATI Complete program is available to students throughout the program, the ATI Capstone is provided during the final semester, and an individualized Virtual ATI coaching program is available up to 8 weeks post-graduation.

Continuous improvement plan:

- Our remediation specialist and course coordinators will guide students in completion of ATI focused review following each content mastery assessment throughout the program.
- We will conduct a curriculum review of the utilization of ATI pharmacology content and assessments. We will assess student performance and whether curricular changes are needed.
- We will invite a peer to visit currently enrolled students to discuss the importance of completing virtual ATI and its impact on NCLEX pass rates. Students who received a green light passed NCLEX. ATI reports that a green light provides a 98% probability of passing NCLEX.

Upon review of the NCLEX and ATI data, we found that many students were not using their ATI resources to the fullest extent possible. Our students tested above the national average on their comprehensive predictor but did not follow through with their ATI resources during the last semester and post-graduation. ATI resources are available to students throughout their program, and an individualized Virtual ATI coaching program is available up to 8 weeks post-graduation. Board vitals is another ATI resource that opens 120 days before and six weeks after graduation that offers 3,000 NCLEX style questions to assist our graduates with NCLEX preparation. Our students were not taking advantage of these ATI resources, so this plan will address that issue.