

AGENDA ITEM B4: STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
BOARD RULE 400.0100.00
NATIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: APRIL 26, 2012

Nursing students enrolled in the Practical Nursing (PN) and Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) programs at Belmont are required to pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) before they receive professional licensure. Medical Assisting students test for the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) credential which is awarded by the American Association of Medical Assistants. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) programs at Belmont are evaluated by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and first time pass rates of students on state examinations are used as criteria for program accreditation. EMS students also receive industry-based certifications via these exams. This report presents the test results for pass rates on NCLEX examinations, Medical Assistant examinations, and Emergency Medical Services state examinations.

Presentation of Data

Data for pass rates on exams in the Practical Nursing, Associate Degree Nursing, Medical Assisting, and Emergency Medical Services areas are presented in four charts. Charts 1, 2, and 3 show percentages of students who were successful in passing the test upon taking it for the first time, and the benchmarks against which the passing rates are measured. Chart 4 shows the percent of student passing the Ohio Department of Safety's Medic, Intermediate, and Emergency Medical Technician Basic exams.

Chart 1, *NCLEX results, Practical Nursing Program*

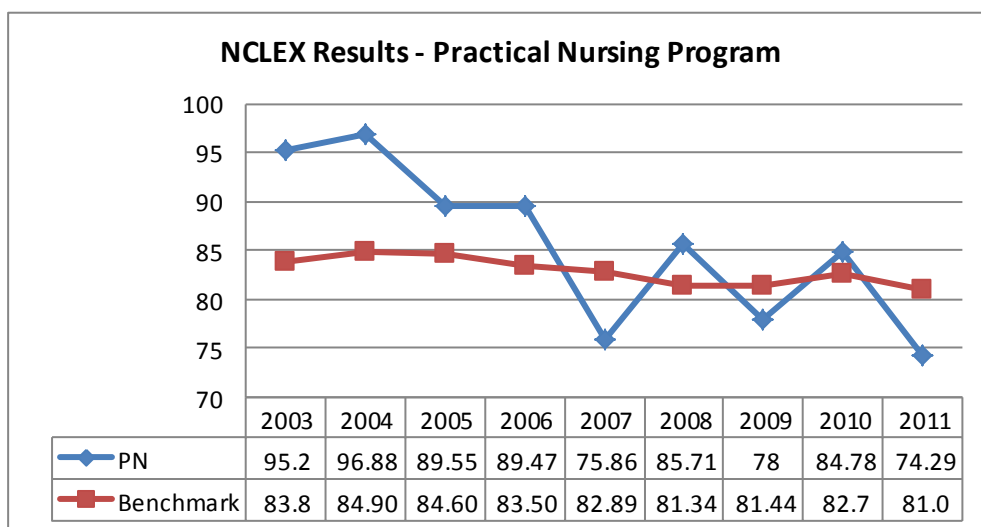
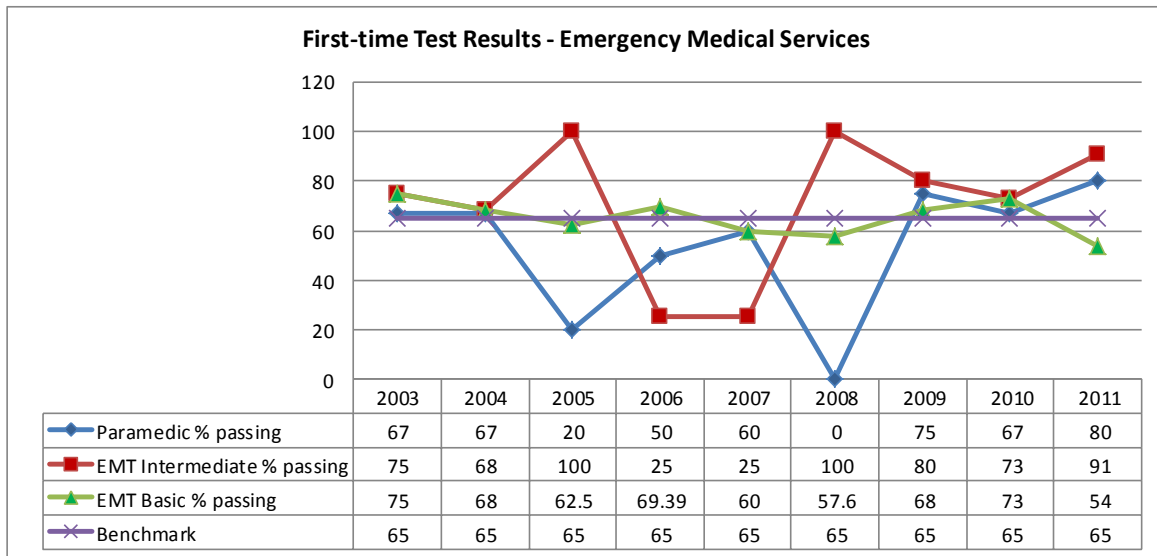


Chart 4, *Emergency Medical Services, testing results*



General Highlights

1. The Associate Degree Nursing program at Belmont has had four consecutive years of pass rates below the benchmark. This has resulted in the program being placed on provisional approval by the Ohio Board of Nursing until the program has achieved two consecutive years of pass rates meeting the benchmark.
2. The Practical Nursing program has shown an up and down trend in pass rates over the past five years.
3. The Medical Assisting program had a history of meeting the benchmark for pass rates until 2009 when the benchmark was changed from requiring a 70% pass rate for those who opted to take the exam to 70% of all graduates now required to take the exam.
4. The Ohio Division of EMS standards benchmark for exam pass rates is 65% for first time test takers. The EMT Paramedics pass rates over the past three years have shown improvement. The EMT Basic pass rate declined to 54% in 2012 after showing improvement for the prior two years. The EMT Intermediate program has sustained a satisfactory pass rate over the past four years.

Conclusions and Targets for Improvement

1. ADN Program: Follow the approved Belmont action plan.
 PN Program: Implement an NCLEX student review course in 2013. Faculty will attend test-writing workshops in 2012. NCLEX questions will be incorporated into unit exams. Day full-time faculty will be teaching more in the evening program to stabilize the continuity, quality, and consistency of instruction and to utilize fewer part-time faculty.

2. Medical Assisting Program: Implement a structured review course in the Spring, 2012, using test preparation books, professional review courses, and a faculty led review session.
3. Investigate the use of Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) Certification Exam.
4. EMS Programs: Implement test review procedures for the EMT Basic students. Offer a test-taking seminar prior to the exam.
5. Revise admissions procedure for the Nursing and EMS programs.
6. Emphasize computer-based testing in all programs.
7. Augment critical thinking skills across the curriculum in each program.