

**AGENDA ITEM B4: STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**  
**BOARD RULE 400.0100.00**  
**NATIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: MARCH 28, 2013**

Four programs in the field of health sciences have national licensure and or credentialing exams as program outcomes assessment. This report reviews the most recent results from licensure and certification exams in the Practical Nursing (PN), Associate Degree Nursing (ADN), Medical Assisting (MED), and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Programs.

PN and ADN nursing students are required to pass the National Council Licensure Examinations (NCLEX) before they receive professional licensure.

MED students can test for the Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) credential which is awarded by the American Association of Medical Assistants. Taking and passing the Certification Examination is not a requirement for practice. However, recently an exam pass rate benchmark of 70% (of graduates taking and passing the exam) was made a requirement for accreditation (beginning with the re-accreditation year 2014/2015).

EMS programs are evaluated by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and pass rates of students on state examinations are used as one criteria for program accreditation.

**Presentation of Data**

Data for pass rates on exams in the PN, ADN, MED, and EMS programs are presented in five charts. Charts 1, 2, and 3 show percentages of students who were successful in passing the tests upon taking them for the first time, and the benchmarks against which the passing rates are measured. Chart 4 shows the percent of students passing the Ohio Department of Safety’s Emergency Medical Services, EMT and Advanced EMT testing, and the benchmark against which the passing rates are measured. Chart 5 displays test results for the Paramedic program.

Chart 1, *NCLEX results, Practical Nursing (PN)*

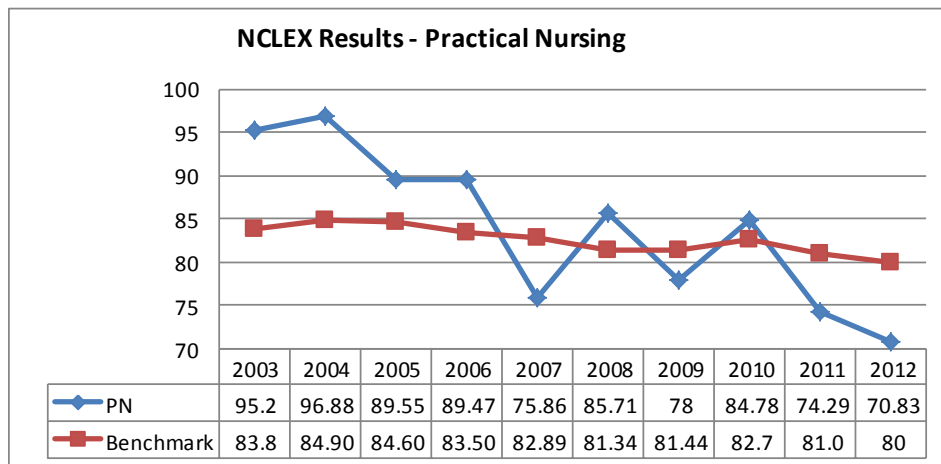


Chart 2, NCLEX results, Associate Degree Nursing (ADN)

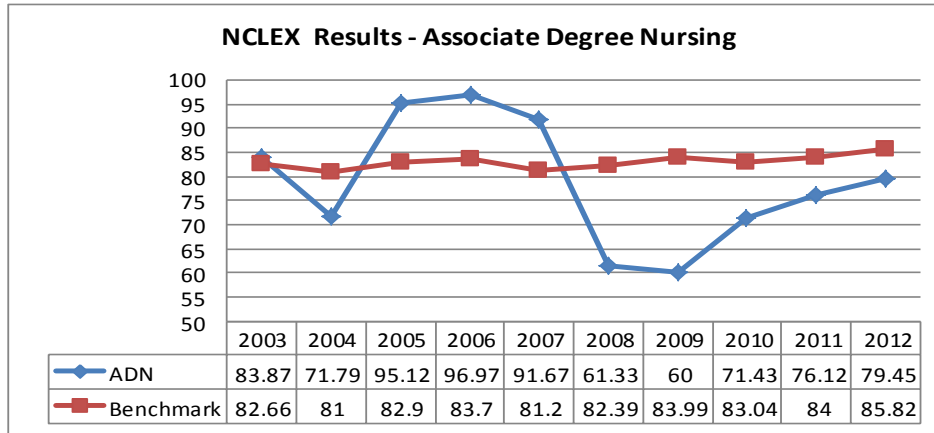


Chart 3, CMA results, Medical Assisting (MED)

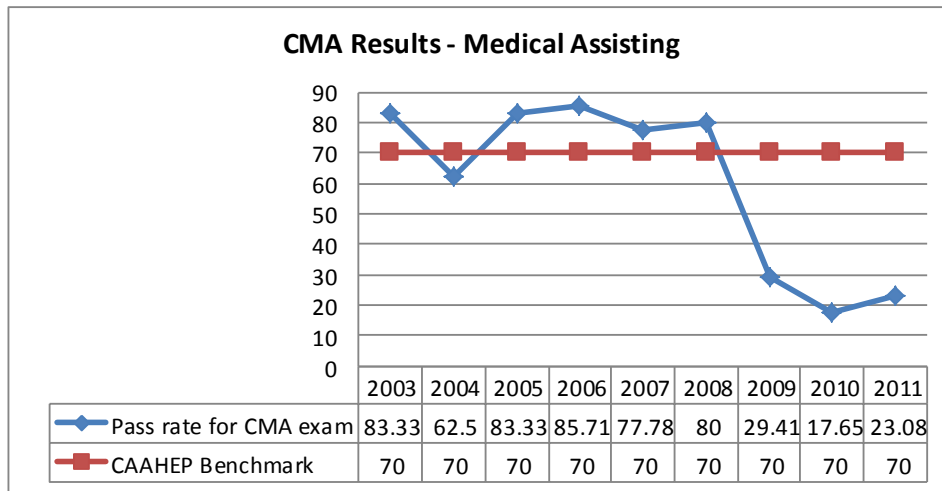


Chart 4, Emergency Medical Services, EMT and Advanced EMT testing results

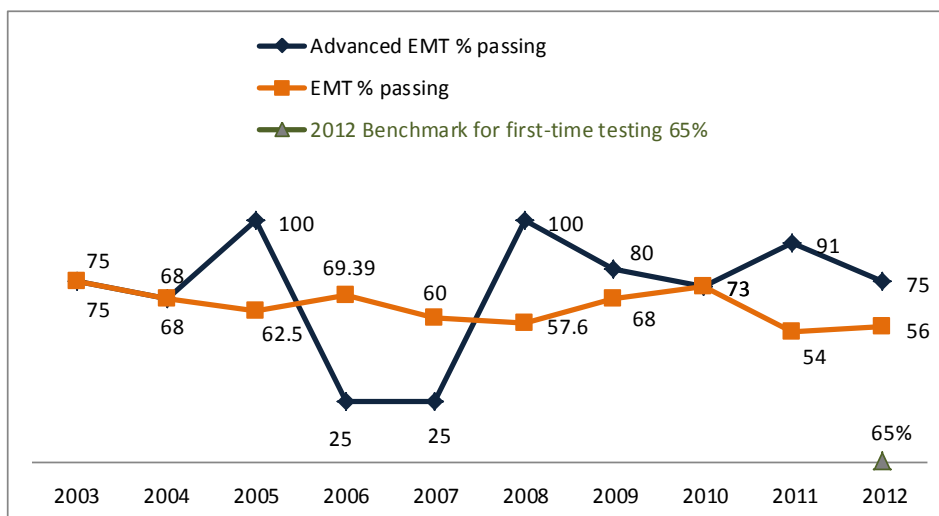
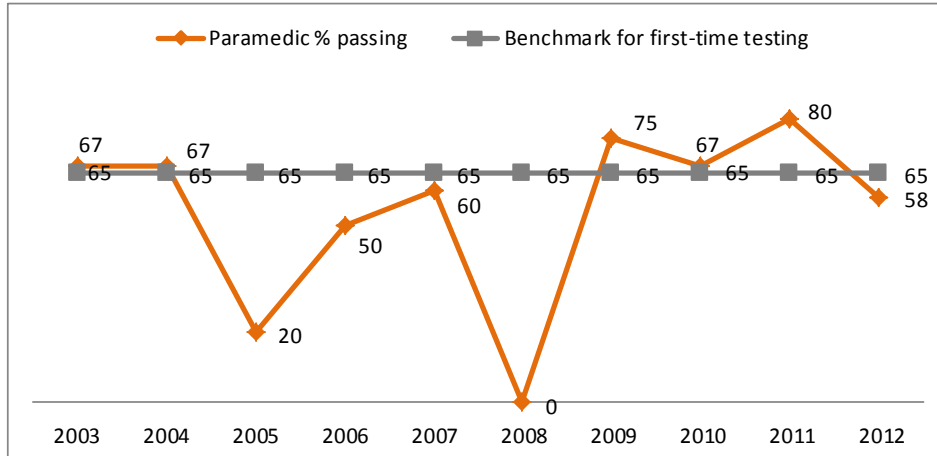


Chart 5, *Emergency Medical Services, Paramedic testing results*



### **General Highlights**

1. The NCLEX–PN pass rate for 2012 graduates of the Practical Nursing Program was 70.83%. The benchmark is 80%. The pass rate among recent graduates of the PN day cohort of students is 88%. The pass rate among the recent graduates of the PN evening cohort of students is 63.3%.
2. NCLEX-RN pass rate for 2012 graduates of the Associate Degree Nursing program is 79.45%. The benchmark is 85.82%. Recent graduates of the ADN day program had a 95.12% pass rate. Recent graduates of the evening program had a pass rate of 66.67%.
3. The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education (CAAHEP) and the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB) regulate accreditation of medical assisting programs and set the benchmark against which institutions are evaluated. The CAAHEP/MAERB now requires that 70% of all graduates of Medical Assisting (MED) programs pass the certification test, even though taking the test and passing the test are not required for the practice of medical assistants. In the 2011 year, Belmont’s MED program graduated 26 students, and of those, nine graduates took the certification test. Six of the nine passed the test. The official pass rate was calculated as 23.08% because it is calculated as a percentage of the total number of graduates. 23.08% does not meet the 70% benchmark requirement.
4. The Ohio Division of EMS monitors pass rates over accreditation cycles. The benchmark for the passing rate for the current cycle is 65% for first time test takers by the end of the five year re-accreditation cycle. Although the EMT pass rate is currently at 56%, that rate will change over the remainder of the accreditation cycle as more graduates test and pass. The pass rate in place at the end of the five-year accreditation cycle is the rate taken into consideration for the re-accreditation. The end of the current accreditation cycle is October, 2016.
5. The same rules for test results and re-accreditation apply to the Paramedic Program.

## Conclusions and Targets for Improvement

1. Action plans to improve pass rates in the PN program include the following:
  - 1) Incorporate clinical rotations across various levels of acuity and the lifespan – acute, long-term care, skilled care/ rehabilitation;
  - 2) Redesign classroom instruction to reduce lecture time and increase simulation, include group activities with case studies with access to online resources and modules;
  - 3) Preliminary analysis of the Content Areas Report from the NCLEX–PN indicate that low scoring areas are *physiological adaptation* and *psychosocial integrity*; Emphasis in these areas within the NCLEX review course will be incorporated.
  - 4) Continue to increase the rigor of testing throughout the PN program using the testing plan and blueprint previously adopted;
  - 5) Students will attend mandatory NCLEX preparation/review courses;
  - 6) The Assistant Director will visit clinical sites and classrooms with increased frequency to increase curriculum consistency and ensure that curriculum is delivered as it is written;
  - 7) Entry and re-entry policies will be evaluated;
  - 8) Student mid-curricular and end-of- course assessment will be incorporated.
  
2. ADN Program:
  - 1) Incorporate specialty testing to include pediatrics, obstetrics, psychosocial in advanced level courses with student remediation in weak areas;
  - 2) Incorporate Kaplan Q-Bank questions in courses addressing the weak areas of *management* and *safety*;
  - 3) Faculty review of specific content in the NCLEX categories which scored low to ensure incorporation across the curriculum;
  - 4) The Kaplan Diagnostic Test indicates that low scoring areas of the day and evening program graduates were in *management of care* and *safety*. Emphasis in these areas will be incorporated into the NCLEX review course;
  - 5) Students will complete a self- assessment for NCLEX preparation;
  - 6) Assistant Director will visit clinical sites and classrooms with increased frequency to increase curriculum consistency and ensure that curriculum is delivered as it is written;
  - 7) Redesign of classroom instruction to reduce lecture time and increase simulation; Include group activities with case studies with access to online resources/modules;
  - 8) Entry and re-entry policies will be evaluated;
  - 9) Student mid-curricular and end- of-course assessment will be implemented;
  - 10) Mid-curricular assessment will be incorporated into the program.
  
3. Medical Assisting Program: Belmont has become a Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) site for certification exams, so that students will not have to travel to Pittsburgh to take the Certification Examination. Students can test in the Belmont Student Success center. Registration for the RMA certification exam has been made mandatory for all students prior to graduation.

4. EMS Programs: With the implementation of the new National Standards Curriculum all levels of examinations have changed. Averages tend to have started below the benchmark initially but are improving over the course of the accreditation cycle.

Pass rates on all levels of testing are being monitored by the Program Chair who anticipates that pass rates will continue to improve over the current accreditation cycle which ends in October 2016. Student review sessions prior to testing will be implemented as needed.