National Certification for School Nurses: Revisited
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Mission of NBCSN
To advance the health and learning of students, and wellness of the school community, through a rigorous certification process for school nurses

Vision of NBCSN
A nationally certified school nurse will safeguard the health of every student so as to optimize learning and promote healthy community

Accreditation of NBCSN
Accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties (2008)
The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC), is the only accrediting body specifically for nursing certification. ABSNC accreditation is a peer-review mechanism that allows nursing certification organizations to obtain accreditation by demonstrating compliance with the highest quality standards available in the industry. Both ABNS members and non-members may seek ABSNC accreditation.

http://www.nbcsn.org/about-nbcsn

National Association of School Nurses (NASN)
Certification represents a national standard of preparation, knowledge, and practice
Validates our practice
https://www.nasn.org/nasn-resources/professional-topics/certification

National Certification
- Increased confidence in abilities
- Earlier intervention
- Better job satisfaction
- Gives a sense of empowerment
- Sense of collaboration
Fleischman et al., 2011
National Certification

Linked to patient safety
Shows commitment to
life long learner
Greater knowledge and skills
Better outcomes

Requirements for 2020

BS or higher in nursing
will be required
Based upon the 2010 Institute of
Medicine recommendations for
nursing education

Requirements- Direct

Continuing responsibility &
accountability for a group of
students or their families

Requirements- Indirect

Supervision/Administration
Education
Research
Consultation

NOT Eligible

Substitute nurse in a school
One-to-one nursing
Direct sales, marketing or distribution of school nursing-
related products or services
Community health screenings
Work in a camp setting
Preceptorship/mentor
Jobs unrelated to school nursing

Clinical Hours

Minimum of 1,000 hours within the three
years prior to taking the test

That’s 180 days X 6 hours = 1080 hours
Eligibility vs Readiness

Education
Formal Coursework in school nursing & educational systems
Exposure to overall child health
Continuing education & Professional Development
Supervision by school nurse administrator
Reference materials on the job
Mentoring

Make-up of Exam

Computer based
Maximum of 200 multiple-choice Objective questions
Total testing time of four hours

Content of Exam

27% Health Appraisal
28% Health Problems and Nursing Management
20% Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
13% Special Health Issues
12% Professional Issues

NBCSN Handbook for Candidates

Gives the who, what, where, and why of the exam
Content Outline on page 15
Page 26 and 27 gives resources

School Nursing & Comprehensive Text by Janice Selekman
School Nursing Certification Review by Selkman and Wolfe

Disclaimer

NBCSN does not endorse or support any certification preparation program of study, course or study guide advertised to prepare school nurses to take the certification (NCSN) examination

NBCSN does not have affiliation with any programs, courses & guides

Administration and Fees

Cost: $360
(Non-refundable)
Administered by Prometric
Test Windows - 2017

Winter/Spring Testing Window: February 27-March 11
Summer Testing Window: July 10-July 29
Fall Testing Window: November 6-November 18

The application cutoff date is 30 days prior to the start of the testing window.

Preparing for Exam

What kind of adult learner are you?
- Study alone
- With a friend
- Study group
- Class - in person or online

NASN Discussion Group: National Certification Exam Candidates

Go to this website:
schoolnurse.nasn.org/home - Members: log into your account
If you are not a member you will need to set up an account
Click on Communities and choose All Communities from the dropdown list. Scroll down to National Certification Exam Candidates and click on the join button. You can choose whether you want the messages to come to you in real time or as a daily digest.
http://www.nbcsn.org/news-for-candidates

NBCSN on Twitter

Join the discussion on Twitter
@NCSNNurse

References