The National League of Nursing (NLN) PAX™ Pre-admission Exam will cover reading comprehension, mathematical skills and knowledge of basic science. We believe that these are fundamental skills that will help our students through nursing school and throughout their career as a nurse.

Please read through this entire document for more information about the PAX, as well as directions on how to register for the exam. There is a $40 exam fee that is paid online directly to NLN when registering to take the exam. The proctored exam will be given at the Davis Tech campus in the nursing computer lab during open application cycles.

The PAX will be required of all applicants and an exam score must be submitted by the application deadline (applications and PAX scores may be submitted separately). Applicants must have a composite score of 100 or higher to qualify for the program. Application points* are awarded based on the composite score; the higher the score, the more points earned. Applicants may take the exam up to 4 times a year and scores will be accepted for up to one year. The PAX cannot be waived by having a degree or other test scores, such as the TEAS.

*To see all of the point categories, go to the Frequently Asked Questions on our webpage, www.davistech.edu/practical-nurse.

**Study Options:**

NLN offers online resources to study for the PAX called the PAX PREP and PAX PREP BONUS. These have been designed to help students learn and retain the material by simulating the actual PAX exam. These products are only available to students through the NLN Student Store after creating an account online (see pages 7-8).

**Next: Testing Information**
The NLN PAX Pre-admission Exam will be offered during open application cycles. For the February 2020 application cycle, applicants can sign up to test during the following dates and times. Dates for the July 2020 application will be released by January 8, 2020.

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
Monday, September 9, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Friday, September 20, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Parking Directions
Davis Technical College
550 East 300 South
Kaysville, UT

Please come to Room 1094 to check in for your exam. Follow the road around the east side of the school and park near parking lot P2 (no permits required). The closest entrance is on the southeast side of the main building by the white sign ‘School of Health Professions’. The room is located across from the bookstore.

Exam Instructions
PLEASE ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY to Davis Tech, Room 1094 (do not go to the Student Service’s Testing Center). Late testers will not be allowed to test.
Please bring one form of a current state-issued picture ID (ex. driver license, Utah college ID card, military ID).
Please bring your NLN PAX username and password you used to register in order to access the exam. Calculators will be provided for use on the math portion of the exam.
The exam takes approximately 2 hours. Results will be available 4 hours after completing the exam. Results will be posted to your NLN PAX account.
The following items are not permitted inside the testing center: electronics, cellphones, watches, headphones, calculators, backpacks, hats, food or drinks.

Next: Information about the PAX Exam
The first section in the PAX (Pre-Admission Exam) is the **Verbal** section. This section consists of 60 items split between two subsections: **Reading Comprehension** and **Word Knowledge**.

### Reading Comprehension:

The reading comprehension subsection is composed of several passages, each 300 to 450 words in length, of a scientific or general nature suitable for measuring the applicant’s ability to understand written material.

Items are selected according to the following criteria:

- Median difficulty 0.60
- Distribution of items over 5 passages (see figure 1)

### Word Knowledge:

The world knowledge subsection measures the applicant’s ability to identify the meaning of a word as it is used in a sentence.

Items are selected according to the following criteria:

- Median difficulty 0.60
- Distribution of items according to grade level (see figure 2)
Section II

The Mathematics section consists of 40 items. This Section is designed to test an applicant’s ability to solve basic arithmetic problems, including those containing integers, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio conversions, measurement conversions, algebra, geometry, and mathematical concepts.

This section includes both computation and word problems, which give students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to not only perform basic mathematical operations, but also apply them to work-related problems.

The distribution of items according to the Mathematics section is presented in figure 3.
Section III

The final section is the Science section and it contains a total of **60 items**. This section is designed to measure the applicant’s knowledge of general principles in biology, human anatomy, human physiology, physics, chemistry, and health.

In addition to basic science principles applicants must be able to show an ability to use cognitive skills. The skills used for this section are derived from Bloom’s Taxonomy.

**Item Distribution for General Science Topics:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science Topics</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Items</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Item Distribution for Cognitive Skills:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognitive Skill</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify Facts &amp; Terms</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognize Process &amp; Principle</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply Principle to Situation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply Basic Research &amp; Measurement</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interprets Chart, Graph &amp; Diagram</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Items</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cognitive skills are incorporated into the science questions. This maintains the **60 item** section count.
Test Administration Time:

The total test administration time is 2 hours.
Each section will be broken down into the following time allotments:

- 40 minutes Verbal
- 40 minutes Math
- 40 minutes Science

Assessment Reports

Assessment reports will reflect a total test score and raw scores for the number of items answered correctly for each of the topic areas. Additionally, median percent correct scores will be provided for both the PN and the RN norm groups.

You may reach us at 800-732-8656 or 618-453-3036. You are also welcome to email us at customerhelp@nln.org.

Customer Service is our priority. Please feel free to contact the Director Testing Services, lfurby@nln.org, should you have questions or concerns with a customer service or product-related matter.
Next: Information on how to register for the PAX Pre-Admission Exam

To create an account on the NLN website, please follow the link on the next page. When creating your account, choose Davis Technical College Kaysville as your School Membership:

If you cannot see the exam sessions, you may not have linked your account to our school. Please call NLN Customer Support at 800-732-8656 to have them select the correct school for you.
Student Guide to NLN Testing Portal

Getting Started:

First things first, you will have to create an account with the NLN. Please type the following web address into your address bar at the top of your web browser:

https://ondemand.questionmark.com/400030/ext/nlntesting/

Once you have entered the above web address you will be brought to a login screen. You can see what that will look like in figure 1.

Please select Create new account to get started.

Creating a New Account:

1. **Username** – In this field enter something that will be easy to remember. You will need to remember this to log back in later. We strongly recommend using your email address. NO SPECIAL CHARACTERS are allowed except periods, hyphens, apostrophes, and underscores.
2. **Email Address** – Please enter a valid email address. All e-mails from the system will be sent to this address.
3. **First Name** – Please enter your complete first name (Given name) in this field. Do not use a “nick” name.
4. **Last Name** – Please enter your complete Last name (Surname) in this field. Both the first and last names entered while creating your account will be used on your official score reports for the exams that you take.
5. **Primary Phone** – Please list a phone number that we can easily reach you with.
6. **School Membership** – Select the school with which you are currently affiliated for your nursing education.
7. **Time Zone** – Your time zone setting will be automatically detected if possible. Select the desired local time and time zone. Dates and times throughout this site will be displayed using this time zone.
8. **Address** – Please enter your current address in the fields provided: Country, Address 1, Address 2, City, State, and Zip Code.
9. **Date of Birth** – Fairly straightforward, enter your date of birth by following the mm/dd/year format.
10. **Demographics** – All of the questions under the Demographics heading are research questions and are OPTIONAL. If you do not want to participate, select "N/A" or "none."
11. **Saving** – Once you have finished you may select the Create new Account button on the bottom of the screen.
Creating a New Account Continued--

After you select Create new account a time sensitive link will be sent to the email address that you entered in step 2. You must confirm the account before it can be used. If the link expires before you click on it, you can go to: https://ondemand.questionmark.com/400030/ext/nlntesting/ and click on Request new password. This is found below Create new account on figure 1. If you need further assistance you can also call us from 7am-5pm; Mon-Fri; CST at: 800-732-8656.

Registering for an Exam Session:

Once you have created your password and logged in you will see the following menu options:

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This is your home tab. This gives you instructions regarding Exam Sessions and My Exams.

This tab allows you to register for an exam session.

This is your testing tab. When it is time to test you will find the launch option to begin your exam.

This last tab shows you various pdf documents such as, duplicate score report request forms, PAX-RN & PN score conversion tables, and special accommodations.

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Quick Tip: You can also access the Dashboard tab options by clicking on the NLN Logo at the top of each page.
Dashboard:

As stated before this is your **home tab**. Be sure to login and check your **Dashboard** on a regular basis for updates in case of inclement weather and other testing cancelations. The NLN will update this whenever your school or testing facility contacts us regarding a cancelation and/or any news regarding testing for students.

Exam Sessions:

You can see this tab illustrated above in figure 2. The **Exam Sessions** tab will display the exams sessions you will need to register for.

Your school/facility should have created a unique exam session name for you to easily find when registering. Before you go to register make sure you know the name of the exam session.

*Please note that once you have applied to take an exam, the application fee, cost for the exam, and fees associated with score reports are non-refundable. Because of this, we urge students to be thorough while registering.*

The **NLN Is the Name of Our Company We Do Not Offer Any Exams by That Name.**

My Exams:

On exam day you will access your exam here under the **My Exams** tab. When it is time to take the exam your proctor will release the exam link. You will click on the **My Exams** tab, and select the **Launch** button to begin the exam.

Resources:

Your **Resources** tab will give you access to helpful pdf documents:

1. **NLN Examination Portal Technical Requirements**
   a. *This states everything that is compatible with the new QuestionMark portal*

2. **NLN Pre-Admission Composite Score to Composite Percentile Conversion Table for PN and RN exams.**
   a. *These are conversion tables that will come in handy when determining your composite percentile for the Pre-Admission examination PN or RN*

3. **Request for Duplicate Score Report**
   a. *Fill out this form when requesting your score reports once they have been archived. Score reports are available to the students from one year from test date, after which time they are archived. Once an exam is archived, in order to receive a copy you will need to pay a processing fee.*

4. **Using NLN NCLEX Readiness Exams**
   a. *This pdf highlights our NCLEX readiness exams and identifies how best to utilize them.*

You can also access hyperlinks to all of these pdfs on your **Dashboard.**
How to Register:

1. Select the Exam Sessions tab.
2. Type Your School Name in the School box or select from the drop down.
3. Find the exam session name that your school told you to sign up for.
4. You can click on the exam name to view the location of the exam, exam date, and the exam price.
5. Select the Register button then select the Save Registration button. (figure 3)
6. When you are successful the dashboard will have a green banner stating that your Registration has been saved. (figure 4)
7. You will also be able to view your exam under My Upcoming Exam(s). (figure 5)

Exam Day:

On exam day before you can test you must wait till your proctor/ test administrator has sent your Launch links. Once they have sent this you will follow these simple steps:

1. Login into your account
2. Select the My Exams tab on the top banner.
3. Click the Launch button to begin your exam. (figure 6)

*The Launch button will not be available until your proctor/ test administrator sends you your Launch link.*
Exam Protocol:

While you are taking your exam there are a few things to keep in mind. The first Block in the exam is the rights and responsibilities as a test taker. Please read carefully. The following is the first thing you will see after you select the Launch arrow:

Please read the questions and responses carefully. We believe most examinees’ manage themselves with integrity and are disturbed when they observe others cheating. Examinees are expected to maintain the highest standard...

1. Copying from others.
2. Providing or receiving information about all or part of an exam including answers (e.g., telling someone or publishing what was on your exam or being told this information).
3. Having or using a “cheat sheet” (i.e., a piece of paper with answers, formulas, information or notes) that is not specifically authorized.
4. Having or using notes, formulas or other information in a programmable calculator or other electronic device without explicit teacher review and permission.
5. Having or using a communication device such as a cell phone, pager, PDA or electronic translator to send or obtain unauthorized information.
6. Taking an exam for another student, or permitting someone else to take a test for you.
7. Asking another individual to give you improper assistance, including offering money or other benefits.
8. Asking for or accepting money or any other benefit in return for giving another individual improper assistance.
10. Gaining or providing unauthorized access to examination materials.

Note: simply having possession during an exam of any prohibited or unauthorized information or device, whether or not it is actually used, is an act of dishonesty and will be dealt with as such.

When you are ready to begin the test questions you may hit the Begin button on the bottom right of your screen as seen in figure 7:
Navigation Prompts:

Once you begin your exam you will see a format similar to the one seen in figure 8.

Do Not Select Submit Until You Have Completed the Entire Exam!
Navigation Prompts Continued:

a) The question section is the second and last **Block**. Your progress throughout this block will be cataloged by a marching red bar at the top right. When you have completed the exam the bar will be completely red.

b) You will also have a timer that will begin counting down as soon as you begin the exam. Be sure to keep an eye on the timer!

c) If you want the overall font to be larger on the screen you can click the **Change Font Size** icon at the top right of the screen.

d) You can also change the contrast color by clicking the **Change Contrast** icon.

e) The gray highlighted rectangle on figure 8 is indicating where your question will be located. Similarly the blue highlighted rectangle is indicating where your choice of answers will be located.

f) You can answer questions by clicking on an empty answer circle or the sentence itself.
   
   a. Depending on the exam some questions will include drop down options, fill in the blank formatted questions, and some questions will be select all that apply. (This last one will have squares instead of the normal circles.)

  
g) To advance to the next question you will click on **Next Question**. To go to the previous question you will click on **Previous Question**.

h) If you are unsure of a question and you want to move on and answer it later you can **flag** the question and move on. The Flag button is a small black flag at the bottom of your screen. It will appear red when you have selected it.

i) When you click on **Assessment Navigator** an Assessment Navigator pane will appear at the bottom right of the screen. This allows you to view all questions that you have answered in a light gray color. The questions that you have flagged to do later will appear white with a black top left corner. All unanswered questions will remain white. If you click on a number within the navigation pane you will be taken to that question in the exam.

j) The save progress button is found next to the flag button at the bottom of the page. You can use this button to save your progress as you go.

k) The last button you should select is the **Submit** button. ONLY SELECT THIS WHEN YOU ARE COMPLETELY FINISHED WITH THE EXAM, AND READY FOR THE EXAM TO BE SCORED.
Our goal is for you to be **extremely satisfied** with your overall testing experience. If you are not satisfied with your experience and feel that there is anything that we could do to better serve you, I would like to personally hear from you. We are continuously striving to improve our testing system, products, and customer service and the voice of our customer is our best resource. Your feedback is invaluable so we appreciate any comments you have about your experience. Please let us know if you need any assistance in accessing or interpreting the assessment reports. We can be reached at any of the contact information included in this message.

We look forward to offering continued excellent customer service.

Director of Testing Services,
Leanne Furby

You may reach us at **800-732-8656** or **618-453-3036**. You are also welcome to email us at [customerhelp@nln.org](mailto:customerhelp@nln.org)

Customer Service is our priority. Please feel free to contact the Director Testing Services [ifurby@nln.org](mailto:ifurby@nln.org) should you have questions or concerns with a customer service or product-related matter.