

NCLEX-PN Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

150 Scored questions	5h Time limit	Pass/Fail (CAT, 85-150 ite... Passing score
\$200 Exam fee	NCSBN Governing body	

NCLEX-PN Cheat Sheet — Fast Facts

- Questions: 85–150 (variable-length CAT — stops once your ability is measured)
- Time limit: up to 300 minutes (5 hours), including tutorial and breaks
- Scoring: Pass/Fail — no numeric score reported
- Registration fee: \$200

How the CAT Engine Works (must-know)

- The test adapts: answer correctly and the next item gets harder; miss it and it gets easier.
- The exam ends when the computer is 95% confident your ability is clearly above or below the passing standard — this can happen at the minimum item count or run to the maximum.
- Because length varies, finishing early is not a signal of pass or fail — it only means the engine reached a confident decision.
- The three exit rules: the 95% Confidence Rule, the Maximum-Length Rule, and the Run-Out-of-Time Rule.

Test-Taking Rules of Thumb

- You cannot skip or go back. Every question must be answered in order, so commit before moving on.
- Budget roughly 1–2 minutes per item — with up to 150 questions across 300 minutes, pacing keeps the time-out rule from deciding for you.
- When two answers seem right, prioritize by ABCs -> Maslow -> Safety -> Nursing Process (assess before act).
- Choose assessment before intervention unless the stem describes an emergency requiring immediate action.

Priority Frameworks (memorize the order)

1. ABC: Airway -> Breathing -> Circulation (always first in an unstable client)
2. Maslow: Physiological -> Safety -> Love/Belonging -> Esteem -> Self-Actualization
3. Nursing Process (ADPIE): Assess -> Diagnose -> Plan -> Implement -> Evaluate

Delegation for the PN Scope

- The PN can reinforce teaching, monitor stable clients, and perform routine care — but initial assessment, teaching, evaluation, and unstable clients stay with the RN.
- Delegate to the UAP only stable, predictable, routine tasks (vitals, hygiene, ambulation, intake/output).
- Use the 5 Rights of Delegation: right task, right circumstance, right person, right direction, right supervision.

Med-Math Formulas (drill these)

- $\text{Desired} / \text{Have} \times \text{Quantity} = \text{Dose to give}$
- $\text{Drip rate (gtt/min)} = (\text{Volume mL} \times \text{Drop factor gtt/mL}) \div \text{Time in minutes}$
- $\text{Flow rate (mL/hr)} = \text{Total volume mL} \div \text{Total time hr}$

- Convert before you calculate: 1 kg = 2.2 lb · 1 g = 1000 mg · 1 mg = 1000 mcg · 1 L = 1000 mL · 1 tsp = 5 mL

Day-Of Reminders

- Bring valid, unexpired government ID matching your ATT name exactly.
- Optional breaks count against the 5-hour total — plan them.
- You paid the \$200 fee at registration; the ATT (Authorization to Test) is required to schedule and sit.

Official sources

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2025 — Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses (SOC 29-2061): <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292061.htm>
- NCSBN — NCLEX Fees & Payment: <https://www.nclex.com/fees-payment.page>
- NCSBN — NCLEX-PN Overview: <https://www.ncsbn.org/exams.page>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/healthcare/nclex-pn