

22nd EDITION

CPNE®

CLINICAL PERFORMANCE
in NURSING EXAMINATION

SUMMARY



Summary for the 22nd Edition

Effective January 2017

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CPNE Overview

The CPNE is an eight (8)-credit criterion-referenced performance examination administered over two-and one-half (2 ½) days in an acute care hospital. Students must pass this capstone examination to graduate from the associate degree nursing program at Excelsior College. The CPNE validates students' competencies regarding the application of nursing knowledge, making patient-centered judgments, and performing technical skills when providing authentic and simulated patient care.

Students demonstrate competency to practice as a graduate of an RN pre-licensure program by performing critical elements consistent with professional nursing practice when providing care in simulated and authentic patient situations with 100% accuracy. Competency is defined as, "the ability to perform some task and to meet specified qualifications" (Finkelman & Kenner, 2012, p. 219). Critical elements are single, discrete, observable behaviors. Students are randomly assigned to a Clinical Examiner (CE) who prepares the patient assignment and evaluates performance of patient-centered care. Any critical element addressing an assessment that requires interpretation of sounds will be evaluated with a double stethoscope which is used simultaneously by the student and the CE. Accuracy of assessment is determined by comparison to CE findings.

Criteria for Passing the CPNE During the Scheduled CPNE Testing Period

The student must pass two adult Patient Care Situations (PCS), one pediatric PCS, and the two-part nursing simulation laboratory during 2½ day testing period to earn a passing grade for the CPNE. The student has three opportunities to pass the two adult PCS requirements, two opportunities to pass the pediatric PCS requirement, and two opportunities to pass each Nursing Simulation Laboratory (NSL) station. Once an area is failed a second time, the entire exam is failed. A passing grade results in the student receiving 8 credits in the nursing component of the curriculum. If a student does not achieve a passing grade in any part of the exam, the entire exam must be repeated.

CPNE Student Learning Outcomes

Successful completion of the CPNE indicates students have demonstrated competency in the following SLOs.

- Demonstrate sensitivity to patients' unique cultural and individualized needs throughout the provision of safe, quality nursing care. **Patient-Centered Care**
- Plan, implement and evaluate patient care in the acute care setting. **Nursing Judgment**
- Effectively communicate the patient's condition to the professional nursing staff during and at the completion of each PCS. **Nursing Judgment**
- Apply ethical, legal and professional standards and behaviors when providing patient-centered care to adult and pediatric populations. **Professional Identity**
- Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with registered nursing when interacting with patients, families, and nursing team members regarding patient health care needs. **Professional Identity**
- Apply standards of professional nursing practice and evidence-based findings to the provision of patient care. **Spirit of Inquiry**

Components of the CPNE

The CPNE has two components, the Nursing Simulation Laboratory (NSL) and the Patient Care Situations (PCS). Provided below is a synopsis of both.

Nursing Simulation Laboratory Overview

The NSL is conducted on Day 1. If a student is not successful with a NSL on Day 1, the repeat NSL will be conducted on Day 2 or Day 3. Students must demonstrate competencies expected of an entry-level RN for each NSL. Students will have 30 minutes to complete each station. In this competency based examination, students are expected to demonstrate mastery. This is accomplished by performing the critical elements with 100% accuracy. There will be a limit to the amount of supplies (e.g dressing change kits) allotted per student.

The NSL is comprised of two stations:

- **Application of Sterile Technique**—Students will be randomly assigned to complete one of the following:
 - Wound management
 - Change peripherally-inserted central catheter (PICC) line dressing
 - Insert an intermittent urinary catheter
- **Medication Administration**—Students will administer up to six medications via three routes.

Patient Care Situation Overview

The PCSs are conducted on Days 2 and 3 and students will care for patients in an authentic healthcare setting. Students must demonstrate competencies expected of an entry-level RN throughout each PCS by planning, implementing, evaluating, and documenting nursing care based on the patient assignment provided by the Clinical Examiner. In this competency based examination, students are expected to demonstrate mastery. This is accomplished by performing the critical elements with 100% accuracy. Each PCS must be completed within two-and one-half (2½) hours.

Students will adhere to professional behaviors and provide safe patient care while performing the following areas of competency:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ■ Abdominal Assessment | ■ Peripheral Neurovascular Management |
| ■ Comfort Management | ■ Respiratory Management |
| ■ Fluid Management | ■ Safe Patient Care |
| ■ Medications | ■ Skin Management |
| ■ Musculoskeletal Management | ■ Vital Signs |
| ■ Neurological Assessment | ■ Wound Management |
| ■ Oxygen Management | |

CPNE Eligibility

Students enrolled in Excelsior College's associate degree nursing program who have completed the nursing theory series, the Focused Clinical Competencies Assessment (FCCA) and 21 of the 31 required general education credits, are eligible to apply for the CPNE.

Technical Standards for the CPNE®

Technical standards are the required and essential abilities that an individual taking the CPNE® must effectively demonstrate as an Excelsior College associate degree nursing student.

The CPNE® tests a student's application of the nursing process and technical components for nursing practice in the care of adults and children in the acute care setting. Therefore, the nursing student must be able to perform the following:

- Assess, perceive, and understand the condition of assigned patients.
- See, hear, smell, touch, and detect subtle changes in colors.
- Communicate (verbally and in writing) with English-speaking patients and/or family members/significant others as well as members of the health care team, including nurses, physicians, support staff, and faculty.
- Read and understand documents written in English.
- Perform diagnostic and therapeutic functions necessary for the provision of general care and emergency treatment to the patient.
- Stand, sit, move, and tolerate the physical exertion necessary to meet the demands of providing safe clinical care.
- Solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis.
- Perform nursing skills in the face of stressful conditions and exposure to infectious agents and blood-borne pathogens.

CPNE Tuition, Expenses, and Costs^①

- The CPNE is 8 credits and tuition is based on the cost/credit at the time the CPNE application is submitted. The current information is located at www.excelsior.edu/costs-and-financing/nurses.
- Students are responsible for all expenses (travel, hotel, meals, etc.) to attend the CPNE.
- Students are responsible for expenses associated with hospital mandated requirements (physical, background checks, immunizations, drug testing, laboratory work, etc.).
- Students are responsible for costs associated with the purchase of textbooks and the change to fee-for-service learning resources, including expenses associated with travel, hotel and meals.
- Students are responsible for CPNE tuition, expenses, and costs for the initial and repeat attempts at the CPNE.

Test Sites and CPNE Administration

The CPNE is administered throughout the year by appointment only. It is given primarily on weekends (Friday–Sunday), although weekday sessions are periodically scheduled. Students who fail the CPNE have two additional attempts.

^① Tuition and Expenses are subject to change without notice.

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