



**National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists
Summary of NCE and SEE Performance and Clinical Experience
September 1, 2014, through August 31, 2015**



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Introduction

This report presents a summary of information on individual performance on the National Certification Examination (NCE) and the Self-Evaluation Examination (SEE) over the time frame of NBCRNA's fiscal year 2015 (FY 2015), September 1, 2014, through August 31, 2015.

Performance on the NCE is summarized first, with pass/fail outcomes presented according to several demographic variables: gender, age, clinical background, and type of graduate degree. Trend data summarizing pass rates over the past 5 years are also provided in the last column of each table for each demographic as well. Readers will note that there was no change to the NCE passing standard in FY 2015; the last time the passing standard was raised was January 1, 2014.

NCE pass rate summaries are followed by an analysis of candidates' responses on a satisfaction survey administered at the end of the NCE. The survey requested information pertaining to candidates' satisfaction with their registration and test experience.

Next, descriptive statistics (e.g., mean, standard deviation) are provided for the number of cases performed in various clinical areas by students of nurse anesthesia educational programs who graduated in FY 2015.

Finally, information about scaled scores for the SEE is presented in the last part of the report, summarizing performance by gender, age, clinical background, type of graduate degree, and year in program. Trend data summarizing the past 5 years in each demographic sub-group are also provided in the final column of each table.

Candidate Performance on the NCE

The information in Table 1 addresses the performance of candidates on the NCE during the fiscal year reporting period. Pass rates appear separately for first-time and repeat candidates, based on the passing standard that took effect on January 1, 2014. The pass rate for the 2,435 first-time candidates is 85.0%. The pass rate is lower for repeat examinees.

This is comparable to the cumulative first-time pass rate, 87.9%, over the last 5 fiscal years (FY 2010 – FY 2015, or September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2015, N = 12,247), shown in the final column of Table 1. First-time examinee pass rates, by year, since 2007 for the NCE, can be found in Table A1 in the Appendix of this report. The first-time NCE pass rate was slightly higher before January 1, 2014, when the passing standard was raised.

Table 1. Pass/Fail Summary for NCE Candidates, FY 2015

First-Time Candidates	Frequency	Percent	5-year Trend %
Pass	2,070	85.0%	87.9%
Fail	365	15.0%	12.1%
Total	2,435	100.0%	100.0%
Repeat Candidates	Frequency	Percent	5-year Trend %
Pass	358	65.1%	63.0%
Fail	192	34.9%	37.0%
Total	550	100.0%	100.0%

Also, NCE total scores and domain-level information for first-time candidates can be found in Table A2 of the Appendix.

Table 2 (next page) shows the distribution of test length and pass/fail status. Only first-time candidates are included in Table 2. Of the candidates who passed, the majority (62.0%) were administered 70 items (not including the 30 unscored pretest items). Only 3.5% of NCE candidates failed the test in 70 items. Approximately 22.7% of the candidates took the maximum test length of 140 items.

Table 2. Pass/Fail Summary by Test Length for First-Time NCE Candidates, FY 2015

	Frequency	Percent	5-year Trend %
Pass in 70 items	1,282	52.6%	57.1%
Pass in 71 to 139 items	425	17.5%	12.4%
Pass in 140 items	363	14.9%	14.5%
Fail in 70 items	85	3.5%	4.6%
Fail in 71 to 139 items	90	3.7%	7.2%
Fail in 140 items	190	7.8%	4.2%
Total	2,435	100.0%	100.0%

Demographic Characteristics of NCE Candidate Population, FY 2015

The next several tables present pass rates on the NCE grouped by gender, age, clinical background, and degree earned. Only first-time candidates are included in these tables. Table 3 indicates that 60.4% of the NCE candidates were female and 39.6% were male. The pass rates between males and females were very similar, and this observation is consistent with the 5-year trend (final column of Table 3).

Table 3. Gender of NCE Candidates, FY 2015

Gender	Pass		Fail		Total		5-year Trend Pass %
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	
Female	1,251	84.2%	234	15.8%	1,485	100.0%	87.3%
Male	819	86.2%	131	13.8%	950	100.0%	89.0%
Total	2070	85.0%	365	15.0%	2435	100.0%	87.9%

Table 4 presents the pass rate by age group. The pass rate decreased as examinee age increased, both for the FY 2015 sample and the 5-year trend analysis. Generally speaking, younger students tend to perform better on the NCE. The average age of the FY 2015 first-time NCE candidates was 32.4 years.

Table 4. Age of NCE Candidates, FY 2015

Age	Pass		Fail		Total		5-year Trend Pass %
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	
Under 30	777	90.7%	80	9.3%	857	100.0%	93.0%
30-35	886	85.2%	154	14.8%	1,040	100.0%	87.9%
36-39	215	79.3%	56	20.7%	271	100.0%	83.6%
40 or more	192	71.9%	75	28.1%	267	100.0%	77.8%
Total	2,070	85.0%	365	15.0%	2435	100.0%	87.9%

Table 5 displays pass rates for candidates' clinical background. About one-fourth of the candidates reported their clinical background as ICU/CCU (26.5%). Pass rate comparisons between different clinical

settings (Table 5) should be made with caution because some subgroups for the FY 2015 data feature small sample sizes.

When comparing pass rates across clinical background subgroups, readers are advised to refer to the 5-year trend column of Table 5. The pass rates in this column are more reliable for comparisons because they are based on a much larger sample. For instance, over the past 5 years, first-time NCE examinees coming out of PICU, NEURO ICU, and SICU clinical backgrounds appear to exhibit the highest rates of success on the NCE, respectively.

Table 5. Clinical Background of NCE Candidates, FY 2015

Clinical Background	Pass		Fail		Total		5-year Trend
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	Pass %
CCU	238	82.9%	49	17.1%	287	100.0%	87.6%
ER	72	81.8%	16	18.2%	88	100.0%	83.3%
ICU/CCU	538	84.3%	100	15.7%	638	100.0%	87.8%
MICU	220	89.1%	27	10.9%	247	100.0%	88.6%
NEURO ICU	38	90.5%	4	9.5%	42	100.0%	90.8%
NICU	57	82.6%	12	17.4%	69	100.0%	83.6%
OR	20	74.1%	7	25.9%	27	100.0%	83.4%
PACU	24	82.8%	5	17.2%	29	100.0%	84.6%
PICU	61	88.4%	8	11.6%	69	100.0%	92.4%
SICU	415	84.0%	79	16.0%	494	100.0%	89.3%
Trauma ICU	185	87.3%	27	12.7%	212	100.0%	86.7%
Other	202	86.7%	31	13.3%	233	100.0%	86.8%
Total	2,070	85.0%	365	15.0%	2,435	100.0%	87.9%

Table 6 displays pass rates by degree attained. Just over half (50.6%) of the FY 2015 passing first-time NCE examinees attained the MSN degree. Pass rate comparisons between different degrees (Table 6) should be made with caution because some demographic subgroups feature small sample sizes.

When comparing pass rates across clinical background subgroups, readers are advised to refer to the 5-year trend column of Table 6. For instance, over the past 5 years, first-time NCE examinees coming out of MSN programs appear to exhibit the highest rates of success on the NCE.

Table 6. Types of Graduate Degrees Reported by NCE Candidates, FY 2015

Degree Upon Completion	Pass		Fail		Total		5-year Trend
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	Pass %
MS Nursing Major	1,048	85.2%	182	14.8%	1,230	100.0%	88.6%
MS Nurse Anesthesia	602	83.8%	116	16.2%	718	100.0%	87.9%
Other Masters	221	83.4%	44	16.6%	265	100.0%	86.0%
Post Masters Certificate	19	86.4%	3	13.6%	22	100.0%	86.2%
Doctoral Degree	180	90.0%	20	10.0%	200	100.0%	83.7%
Total	2,070	85.0%	365	15.0%	2,435	100.0%	87.9%

Descriptive Information on Number of Clinical Experiences, FY 2015

The tables in this section report data collected about the number of anesthesia cases performed in clinical areas, as submitted by program directors to the NBCRNA for individuals completing nurse anesthesia programs in the reporting period. These data reflect records of clinical experiences submitted for individuals with a graduation date in the fiscal year reporting period, and not the sample of NCE candidates during this time frame. As a result, sample sizes presented in this section will not equal the number of first-time NCE candidates as reported in Tables 1 through 6. Tables 7 through 17 represent frequency distributions for each specific area.

The columns are the same in Tables 7 through 17, presenting the following information:

- The first column contains the clinical area in which cases were performed.
- The *N* column represents the number of records submitted in the reporting period.
- The *Number of Cases Required* column indicates the minimum number of cases that must be completed by an applicant in order for the applicant to be deemed eligible to take the NCE. If a minimum number of cases is not required, a “0” is entered in this column. Please refer to the Appendix for a copy of the “Record of Clinical Experience,” which documents the required number of cases in each clinical area.
- The *Mean* column indicates the average number of cases reported on the FY 2015 records.
- The *Standard Deviation* column describes the dispersion in the number of cases reported on the FY 2015 records.
- The *Median* column indicates the median number of cases (50th percentile) reported on the records in the reporting period. Half the records contained values higher than this number, and half contained a value below this number.
- The *Minimum* column indicates the smallest number of cases reported on the FY 2015 records.

Table 7. Sections I, II and III: Clinical Experience

Area	N	Number of Cases Required	Mean	Standard Deviation	Median	Minimum
Total Number of Cases	2,430	550	865.4	162.2	838	551
Total Hours of Anesthesia	2,430	0	1,703.5	379.1	1,646	605
Total Clinical Hours	2,430	0	2,619.6	501.9	2,583	0

Table 8. Section IV: Patient Physical Status

Area	N	Number of Cases Required [Preferred]	Mean	Standard Deviation	Median	Minimum
Class I	2,430	0	94.3	43.2	88	4
Class II	2,430	0	389.9	103.3	375	111
Class III & IV	2,430	100	384.1	115.6	368.5	100
Class V	2,430	5	3.4	4.5	2	0

Table 9. Section V: Special Cases

Area	N	Number of Cases		Standard		
		Required	Mean	Deviation	Median	Minimum
Geriatric, 65+ years	2,430	50	226.4	79.9	215	62
Pediatric, 2-12 years	2,430	25	72.5	36.2	65	25
Pediatric, under 2 years	2,430	10	23.6	12.8	21	10
Neonatal, under 4 weeks	2,430	5	1.9	2.5	1	0
Trauma/Emergency	2,430	30	59.6	26.1	53	30
Ambulatory/Outpatient	2,430	100	429.3	168.3	407.5	108
Obstetrical Mgmt.	2,430	30	75.8	48.3	65	30

Table 10. Section VI: Position Categories

Area	N	Number of Cases		Standard		
		Required	Mean	Deviation	Median	Minimum
Prone	2,430	20	55.4	26.3	50	20
Lithotomy	2,430	25	88.0	30.9	84	27
Lateral	2,430	5	84.2	56.8	70	7
Sitting	2,430	5	26.8	22.6	20	5

Table 11. Section VII: Anatomical Categories

Area	N	Number of		Standard		
		Cases Required	Mean	Deviation	Median	Minimum
Intra-abdominal	2,430	75	184.3	62.2	174	75
Extrathoracic	2,430	15	34.2	14.8	31	15
Extremities	2,430	50	173.6	63.5	163	50
Perineal	2,430	15	97.1	46.3	87.5	15
Head, Extracranial	2,430	15	67.8	31.9	63	15
Head, Intracranial	2,430	5	14.6	10.0	12	5
Head, Oropharyngeal	2,430	20	86.6	51.8	75	20
Intrathoracic	2,430	15	35.9	14.8	33	15
Heart	2,430	5	18.9	10.4	17	5
Heart, Intrathoracic with CPB	1,250	0	8.7	8.7	8	0
Heart, Intrathoracic without CPB	1,250	0	1.7	3.4	0	0
Lung	2,430	5	11.1	5.8	10	5
Intrathoracic, Other	2,430	0	4.6	5.6	3	0
Neck	2,430	5	23.0	10.1	21	5
Neuroskeletal	2,430	20	46.8	24.3	41	20
Vascular	2,430	10	36.7	17.5	34	10
Other	2,430	0	28.5	46.1	8	0

Table 12. Section VIII: Pharmacological Agents

Area	N	Number of Cases Required	Standard			
			Mean	Deviation	Median	Minimum
Inhalation Agents	2,430	200	594.5	130.3	577	210
Intravenous Induction Agents	2,430	200	690.6	180.7	669	212
Intravenous Agents, Muscle Relaxants	2,430	200	454.4	117.6	435	202
Intravenous Agents, Opioids	2,430	200	726.2	180.1	707	212

Table 13. Section IX: Methods of Anesthesia

Area	N	Number of Cases Required	Standard			
			Mean	Deviation	Median	Minimum
General Anesthesia	2,430	350	608.5	130.3	590	350
Intravenous Induction	2,430	200	517.3	131.9	503.5	200
Inhalation Induction	2,430	10	87.7	46.9	79	10
Mask Management	2,430	25	59.6	64.1	42	25
LMA	2,430	25	110.9	50.6	104	25
Tracheal Intubation/Oral	2,430	200	388.7	87.9	379	200
Tracheal Intubation/Nasal	2,430	10	17.0	14.3	14	0
Total Intravenous Anesthesia	2,430	10	49.8	51.0	33	10
Emergence from Anesthesia	2,430	200	568.3	144.7	548	200
Monitored Anesthesia Care	2,430	25	158.8	89.5	140	25
Regional/Management	2,430	30	111.4	59.3	101	30
Administration	2,430	25	104.0	57.6	90	25
Spinal	2,430	50	40.6	25.1	36	1
Epidural	2,430	50	36.3	24.0	32	1
Peripheral	2,430	40	27.1	32.5	16	1
Methods Regional Admin Peripheral Upper	1,250	0	7.4	13.1	1	0
Methods Regional Admin Peripheral Lower	1,250	0	10.2	22.4	1	0
Methods Regional Admin Peripheral Other	730	0	1.0	3.5	0	0

Table 14. Section X: Arterial Technique

Area	N	Number of Cases Required	Standard			
			Mean	Deviation	Median	Minimum
Arterial Puncture/Catheter Insertion	2,430	25	56.0	25.5	50	25
Intra-arterial Blood Pressure Monitoring	2,430	25	79.2	28.7	75	25

Table 15. Section XI: Central Venous Pressure Catheter

Area	N	Number of Cases Required	Mean	Standard Deviation	Med.	Min.
Placement	2,430	5	12.7	9.4	10	5
Monitoring	2,430	15	26.4	11.4	23	15
Central Venous Pressure Catheter Actual PICC	1,250	0	0.4	1.8	0	0
Central Venous Pressure Catheter Actual Non PICC	1,250	0	5.6	7.6	2	0

Table 16. Section XII: Pulmonary Artery Catheter

Area	N	Number of Cases Required	Mean	Standard Deviation	Median	Minimum
Placement	2,430	5	5.7	7.4	3	0
Monitoring	2,430	10	13.6	9.0	12	0

Table 17. Section XIII: Other

Area	N	Number of Cases Required	Mean	Standard Deviation	Median	Minimum
Intravenous Catheter Placement	2,430	100	219.4	121.8	181.5	100
Mechanical Ventilation	2,430	200	485.9	112.7	477	200
Alternative Airway Management Total	2,430	10	53.4	27.1	49	10
Alternative Airway Mgmt: Fiberoptic	2,430	5	17.7	13.7	14	5
Alternative Airway Mgmt: Other	2,430	5	35.7	23.0	33	5
Other Ultrasound	730	0	3.1	12.0	0	0
Other Ultrasound Regional	730	0	8.0	20.7	0	0
Other Ultrasound Vascular	730	0	4.2	9.6	0	0

Exit Survey Results

Candidates are important sources of information in NBCRNA’s ongoing evaluation of the examination process. Candidates are asked to complete a post-examination survey regarding their testing experience. The post-examination survey consists of the following:

- Six statements related to pre-examination activities such as registration and scheduling, locating the testing center, and interaction with test center staff;
- Nine statements related to aspects of the examination experience such as readability, fairness of test questions, and use of testing software;
- Six statements related to examinee perception of the alternative question formats; and
- Three statements related to exam preparation.

The majority of the survey questions employ a Likert-type rating scale by which respondents indicate their level of agreement with the statement given. For the purposes of this report, the Likert response categories, *Strongly Agree* and *Agree* are combined into a single *Agree* category, and *Strongly Disagree* and *Disagree* are combined into *Disagree*. The survey questions and format were developed by NBCRNA and representatives from Pearson VUE, Inc. Completion of the survey is not required as part of the examination process and is not part of the three-hour time limit. Respondents do not always answer all of the questions, as reflected by the unequal sample size across questions.

Responses were analyzed based on a sample of NCE test takers who were administered the exit survey during the period of September 1, 2014, through August 31, 2015. After each test administration, the test taker can contact the NBCRNA office to address any problems or concerns related to the NCE.

The first seven statements pertain to pre-examination scheduling and registration activities. Nearly all (96.6%) of the NCE candidates who answered the survey during the reporting period indicated that they scheduled their examination on the Internet. Responses to the other six survey questions are summarized in Table 18.

Table 18. Responses to Survey Questions: Scheduling and Registration

Survey Question	Agree		Disagree	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
I was able to schedule an acceptable test date.	4,315	90.7%	441	9.3%
I was able to schedule an acceptable test center location.	4,485	94.5%	262	5.5%
The Exam Reservation process was easy to use.	4,664	98.2%	84	1.8%
The test center was easy to locate.	4,527	95.3%	221	4.7%
The Test Center Staff was helpful and knowledgeable.	4,719	99.3%	31	0.7%
The testing center Registration/Check-In Process was handled in a professional and efficient manner.	4,681	98.7%	62	1.3%

The next nine statements relate to mid-administration topics such as the fairness of test questions and readability of the examination. Table 19 summarizes the responses to these survey questions. Overall (99.3% agreement), the FY 2015 NCE examinees were satisfied with their testing experience.

Table 19. Responses to Survey Questions: Mid-Examination

Survey Question	Agree		Disagree	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
I thought the examination questions were fair.	1,273	86.5%	198	13.5%
The graphs, figures, and diagrams in the questions were easy to read.	1,354	92.7%	106	7.3%
The graphs, figures, and diagrams in the questions fit onto the screen.	1,180	81.3%	271	18.7%
I was able to 'scroll' the test window in order to view an entire graph or figure in a question.	1,437	98.4%	23	1.6%
The areas of the content outline were fairly represented.	1,229	83.9%	236	16.1%
My testing environment was clean, quiet, and comfortable.	4,662	98.3%	80	1.7%
I encountered no technical problems with the test administration software.	4,673	98.4%	76	1.6%
The test administration software was user-friendly.	4,713	99.5%	25	0.5%
Overall, I was satisfied with my testing experience.	1,480	99.3%	10	0.7%

Since August 2009, NBCRNA has administered alternative question formats on the NCE in addition to traditional multiple-choice items. These question formats include multiple correct response (MCR, where the examinee is asked to select an indicated number of correct responses), short answer/calculation (SA, where the examinee types in short, numerical responses), drag and drop (used for matching or ordering questions), and hotspot (in which an examinee points and clicks on the correct region of an image). A random sample (N = 1,481) of examinees was given the opportunity to record feedback on these question formats. Table 20 summarizes the responses to six survey questions related to the MCR, SA, drag and drop, and hotspot question formats.

Table 20. Responses to Survey Questions: Alternative Question Formats

Survey Question	Agree		Disagree	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
The questions in the Multiple Correct Response format were fair.	1,281	87.5%	183	12.5%
The questions in the Short Answer/Calculation format were fair.	1,327	90.6%	137	9.4%
The questions in the Drag and Drop format were fair.	1,404	95.9%	60	4.1%
The questions in the Hotspot format were fair.	1,370	93.5%	96	6.5%
I understood how to respond to the questions in the alternative formats.	1,432	98.1%	28	1.9%
I needed help figuring out how to respond to the questions in the alternative formats.	477	32.6%	984	67.4%

Responses to the last three items on the exit survey, addressing methods that candidates used to prepare for the examination, are summarized in Table 21. Of the NCE examinees testing in FY 2015, 63.1% stated that the SEE helped them. The majority (92.7%) attended a review course while 7.3% did not. Finally, almost 80% reported that their nurse anesthesia educational program featured computerized testing.

Table 21. Responses to Survey Questions: Preparation for the NCE

Survey Question	Response	Count	Percent
Taking the SEE helped prepare me to take the certification examination.	Agree	838	63.1%
	Disagree	491	36.9%
If you took a review course in preparation for this examination, please indicate below which review course you took.	Valley Anesthesia	832	56.5%
	Core Concepts	100	6.8%
	Howard Review	0	0.0%
	R&R Board Review	1	0.1%
	Prodigy Anesthesia	378	25.7%
	CRNA Secrets	3	0.2%
	Review Course at AANA Annual Meeting	1	0.1%
	NARC4U	8	0.5%
	Other commercial	17	1.2%
	Course Organized by My Program	25	1.7%
Please indicate below if your nurse anesthesia educational program featured any academic tests using computer based testing.	Yes	1169	79.5%
	No	838	20.5%

Demographic Characteristics of the SEE Candidate Population, FY 2015

The following tables summarize performance on the SEE according to demographic variables, including gender, age, clinical background, and degree. Within each demographic, the scores are presented by year in the program. Also, the column in the extreme-right of each table displays the five-year trend-average (FY 2010 – FY 2015, or September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2015, N = 16,700) for each demographic sub group. In addition, summaries of SEE total scores and domain-level information can be found in Table A3 of the Appendix.

Table 22 summarizes SEE scores by gender: 38.7% of SEE examinees were male, and 61.3% were female. The mean total score for Year 2 examinees (398.5) was higher than the mean total score for Year 1 examinees (388.2). The mean SEE score for the Year-3-and-above students was 399.7.

The five-year trend information (last column) shows a similar pattern. Average scores for Year-2 and Year-3-and-above students are virtually equal, and consistently higher than Year 1 students. Also, males consistently attained slightly higher scores on the SEE than females.

Table 22. SEE Candidate Performance by Gender and Program Year, FY 2015

Program Year	Gender	Count	Mean	Standard Deviation	5-Year Trend Mean
Year 1	Female	343	382.1	43.1	381.6
	Male	207	398.4	43.7	395.7
	Total	550	388.2	44.0	387.1
Year 2	Female	1,268	396.0	42.7	396.8
	Male	820	402.4	42.8	407.1
	Total	2088	398.5	42.9	400.7
Year 3 and above	Female	397	397.9	45.7	397.7
	Male	242	402.5	46.9	408.0
	Total	639	399.7	46.1	401.2
Total	Female	2,008	394.0	43.7	394.1
	Male	1,269	401.8	43.7	405.0
	Total	3,277	397.0	43.9	398.2

Table 23 summarizes SEE scores by age group. The average age of Year 1 SEE examinees was 31.0 years. The average age of Year 2 SEE examinees was 31.7 years. The average age of Year 3 SEE examinees was 32.4 years. The mean age of all SEE examinees during the period was 31.7 years, on average just over one year younger than the sample of first-time NCE examinees. The largest age group was composed of examinees under the age of 30 (42.5%). Examinees between the ages of 30 and 35 comprised a slightly smaller subgroup (38.0%). In general, examinees under 30 years of age scored slightly higher on the SEE than examinees in other age groups. This is true of both the FY 2015 sample, and the 5-year trending sample.

Table 23. SEE Candidate Performance by Age and Program Year, FY 2015

Program Year	Age	Count	Mean	Standard Deviation	5-Year Trend Mean
Year 1	Under 30	273	390.5	44.6	389.5
	30-35	186	386.8	41.5	386.3
	36-39	46	395.2	46.8	385.1
	40 and over	45	373.3	45.4	379.2
	Total	550	388.2	44.0	387.1
Year 2	Under 30	898	402.9	43.8	403.9
	30-35	784	396.8	42.4	400.4
	36-39	200	391.6	42.5	396.7
	40 and over	206	392.6	38.7	393.6
	Total	2,088	398.5	42.9	400.7
Year 3 and above	Under 30	221	404.2	46.7	404.3
	30-35	274	399.3	45.7	401.7
	36-39	63	395.0	41.3	400.0
	40 and over	81	392.2	48.9	393.5
	Total	639	399.7	46.1	401.2
Total	Under 30	1,392	400.7	44.7	404.3
	30-35	1,244	395.9	43.2	401.7
	36-39	309	392.8	42.8	400.0
	40 and over	332	389.9	42.7	393.5
	Total	3,277	397.0	43.9	398.2

Table 24 displays summaries of SEE scores by clinical background. Overall, the most commonly identified clinical setting was ICU/CCU (34.0%).

When comparing pass rates across clinical background subgroups, readers are advised to refer to the 5-year trend columns of Table 24. The averages in these columns are more reliable because they are based on much larger sample sizes.

Table 24. SEE Candidate Performance by Clinical Background and Program Year, FY 2015

Program Year	Clinical Background	Count	Mean	Std Dev	5-Yr Mean	Program Year	Clinical Background	Count	Mean	Std Dev	5-Yr Mean
Year 1	CCU	62	396.9	36.5	390.5	Year 3 & above	CCU	76	393.7	52.1	405.3
	ER	26	408.5	50.3	395.3		ER	30	405.2	39.8	410.3
	ICU/CCU	216	385.1	44.8	384.8		ICU/CCU	158	405.6	46.9	402.7
	MICU	68	386.7	46.9	390.2		MICU	52	397.5	49.2	400.8
	NEURO ICU	26	389.8	39.5	390.7		NEURO ICU	10	386.0	53.8	396.6
	NICU	3	371.7	41.7	360.8		NICU	19	407.7	33.1	399.1
	OR	4	416.8	47.9	385.8		OR	9	381.9	58.8	394.6
	PACU	7	366.0	36.2	382.2		PACU	11	405.8	43.1	402.0
	PICU	21	391.0	48.7	391.0		PICU	23	394.0	44.7	395.2
	SICU	67	388.4	41.9	388.5		SICU	123	399.9	44.7	399.8
	Trauma ICU	27	375.2	46.4	383.6		Trauma ICU	73	397.8	39.2	403.9
	Other	23	389.8	38.2	391.0		Other	55	395.8	49.5	395.8
	Total	550	388.2	44.0	387.1		Total	639	399.7	46.1	401.2
Year 2	CCU	195	400.5	40.4	403.0	Total	CCU	333	398.3	42.7	400.8
	ER	78	398.9	49.9	398.3		ER	134	402.2	47.7	399.6
	ICU/CCU	740	397.0	43.8	400.0		ICU/CCU	1,114	395.9	44.8	397.3
	MICU	220	404.8	40.3	402.8		MICU	340	400.1	43.6	400.5
	NEURO ICU	116	399.9	45.0	400.4		NEURO ICU	152	397.3	44.7	398.1
	NICU	35	386.9	52.1	392.2		NICU	57	393.1	46.7	388.1
	OR	11	399.2	41.2	395.7		OR	24	395.6	49.0	394.0
	PACU	21	404.8	39.2	403.4		PACU	39	398.1	41.7	398.3
	PICU	56	396.6	40.4	399.9		PICU	100	394.8	42.8	397.4
	SICU	269	402.3	41.8	402.0		SICU	459	399.6	42.8	399.2
	Trauma ICU	145	392.4	41.0	398.8		Trauma ICU	245	392.1	41.4	397.1
	Other	202	395.5	41.6	399.0		Other	280	395.1	42.9	397.0
	Total	2,088	398.5	42.9	400.7		Total	3,277	397.0	43.9	398.2

Table 25 displays summaries of SEE scores by degree to be attained. Please note that the totals within year-in-program in Table 25 will not match previous tables, due to the removal of students who were either dismissed or chose to withdraw from their educational program. Although MSN is the most popular degree, fewer SEE candidates were enrolled in MSN programs in FY 2015 (43.5%) than in FY 2014 (56.2%). The number of SEE examinees in doctoral programs (N = 363, 11.1%) represents an increase over the previous year (N = 210, 6.6%). Score comparisons made among groups represented in these tables should be made with caution because some of the subgroups reflect small sample sizes.

Table 25. SEE Candidate Performance by Graduate Degree and Program Year, FY 2015

Program Year	Degree Upon Completion	Count	Mean	Standard Deviation	5-Year Trend Mean
Year 1	MS Nurse Anesthesia	321	388.7	43.5	391.5
	MS Nursing Major	217	387.7	44.8	388.6
	Other Masters	11	389.6	46.1	371.8
	Post Masters Certificate	1	337.0	---	372.7
	Doctoral	0	---	---	372.7
	Total		550	388.2	44.0
Year 2	MS Nurse Anesthesia	788	402.5	39.9	402.1
	MS Nursing Major	905	400.7	42.4	402.5
	Other Masters	169	401.2	41.7	397.3
	Post Masters Certificate	11	386.5	44.3	394.0
	Doctoral	215	373.5	47.5	373.2
	Total		2,088	398.5	42.9
Year 3 and above	MS Nurse Anesthesia	149	394.9	48.6	401.3
	MS Nursing Major	304	407.4	40.7	405.1
	Other Masters	23	408.3	32.1	403.4
	Post Masters Certificate	10	379.4	58.6	381.2
	Doctoral	153	389.1	51.9	391.4
	Total		639	399.7	46.1
Total	MS Nurse Anesthesia	1,258	398.0	42.3	400.2
	MS Nursing Major	1,426	400.2	42.8	400.1
	Other Masters	203	401.4	41.0	392.2
	Post Masters Certificate	22	381.0	50.2	387.4
	Doctoral	368	380.0	49.9	382.1
	Total		3,277	397.0	43.9

When comparing pass rates across clinical background subgroups, readers are advised to refer to the 5-year trend columns of Table 25. The averages in these columns are more reliable because they are based on much larger sample sizes.

Appendix

Table A1. NCE Pass Rate Trends – First-Time Candidates 2007 through August 31, 2015

Reporting Period	Percent Passing
2007	93.1
2008* (Graduates 2007 – 2008)	89.9
2009 (Graduates after 2008)	87.7
2010	88.9
2011	89.1
FY 2012	88.5
FY 2013	88.4
FY 2014**	87.8
FY 2015	85.0

*Passing standard increased in August 2008

**Passing standard increased in January 2014

Table A2. Descriptive Statistics for NCE Scores and Domain-Level Information – First-Time Candidates FY 2015

	Mean	Standard Deviation
Total Score	484.6	41.9
Basic Science	491.5	61.3
Equipment, Instrumentation, and Technology	499.3	70.8
Basic Principles of Anesthesia	489.0	54.8
Advanced Principles of Anesthesia	480.3	50.3

Table A3. Descriptive Statistics for SEE Scores and Domain-Level Information, FY 2015

	1 st Year in Program		2 nd Year in Program		3 rd Year in Program		All	
	Avg	SD	Avg	SD	Avg	SD	Avg	SD
Total	388.2	44.0	398.5	42.9	399.7	46.1	397.0	43.9
Professional and Legal Aspects	385.2	61.7	402.2	63.4	408.6	62.5	400.6	63.4
Anatomy, Physiology, Pathophysiology	397.9	55.6	400.3	54.4	398.7	55.4	399.6	54.8
Pharmacology	393.9	57.0	405.2	59.1	403.1	60.2	402.9	59.1
Basic Principles	395.9	62.0	403.2	64.7	405.8	64.7	402.5	64.3
Advanced Principles	389.2	59.9	408.5	59.2	413.4	62.8	406.2	60.5