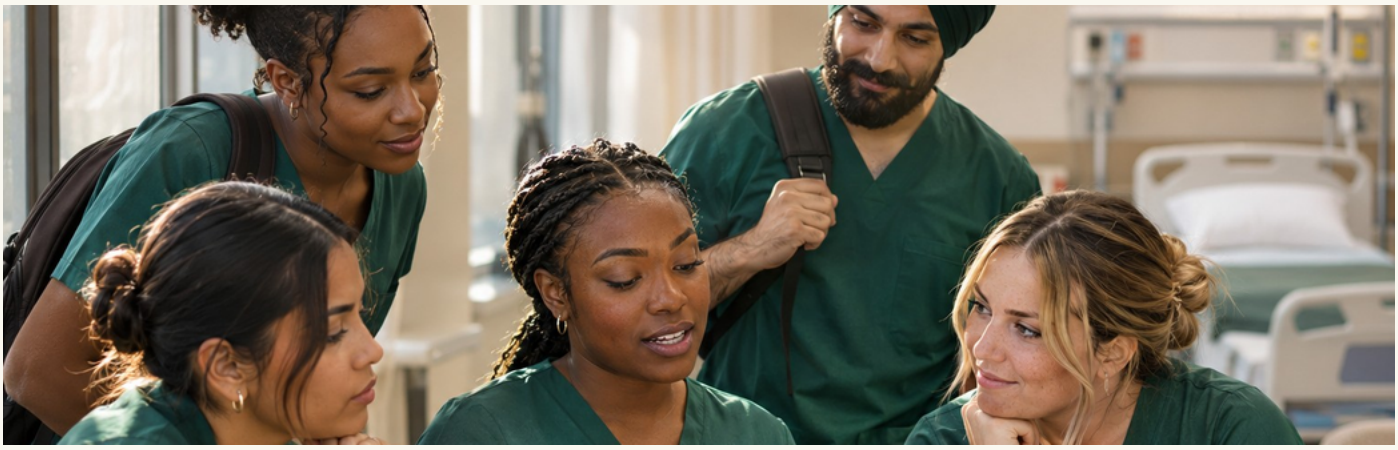


Original illustrative scene. Fictional subjects; not an IFRN event or testimonial.

FREE / SEVEN-PAGE STARTER

NCLEX to Your First RN Role: A Planning Map

Separate the process. Find the official source. Take the next clear step.

Graduation tasks, exam preparation, licensing, and job applications can arrive together. This guide gives you a simple way to organize them without confusing one milestone with another. It contains planning questions and worksheets, not exam questions, clinical instruction, or a promise of a license or job.

Official instructions from your nursing regulatory body, NCSBN, Pearson, school, and employer control their respective processes. Use this map to record what applies to you and where you verified it. Current rules and application types can differ; your classmate’s timeline is not your authority.

This resource is free. A purchase, donation, testimonial, or marketing signup is not required to use it. IFRN is not affiliated with or endorsed by NCSBN or Pearson. Contact info@ifrn.org about this publication and current community-support information.

01 / SCHOOL, EXAM, EMPLOYMENT

Keep three projects visible

Begin with three columns: finish school, complete the applicable official exam and licensing process, and explore employment. Write the next action in each column. Avoid treating the whole transition as one task called “become an RN.” Smaller tasks let you see what you can do now and what depends on another organization.

Separate a submission from a confirmation. A document requested from school may still be waiting to reach the receiving office. An application may need review or a correction. An employer program page may exist without an open role. Label the status you can verify rather than the outcome you hope for.

Use accurate language about your current stage. Expected graduation, exam candidacy, a passing result, and a confirmed license are different milestones. Ask the responsible authority when you are unsure how you may describe a credential. Your plan should help you communicate progress honestly while keeping the next official action clear.

- One next action for school completion.
- One next action from official licensing or exam instructions.
- One appropriate employment action.
- Dependencies marked as waiting rather than completed.

THREE-COLUMN MAP

Use facts confirmed for your own situation.

School next action _____

Exam or licensing next action _____

Employment next action _____

Dependency and owner _____

Date to review _____

02 / OFFICIAL SOURCE MAP

Bookmark the organizations that control the process

Save the current nursing regulator’s application guide for the jurisdiction where you are seeking licensure. Georgia applicants can begin with the Georgia Secretary of State’s RN application guide and select the instructions matching their circumstances. Save the official NCLEX preparation page and current Candidate Bulletin for candidate information.

The official registration overview explains the connected roles of the regulator and Pearson. Read the current instructions rather than treating a third-party summary as a complete checklist. Use the registration links supplied by the official source and verify the destination before paying or entering personal information.

Keep study products and social advice in a different category. They may help you learn, but they do not decide eligibility, change official rules, or issue a license. When information conflicts, contact the organization responsible for that step. Record the page, date checked, and answer rather than relying on a screenshot whose source is no longer clear.

- Regulator and correct application type identified.
- Current Candidate Bulletin located.
- Official registration and scheduling sources saved.
- Commercial study material kept separate.

MY OFFICIAL-SOURCE FOLDER

Save the relevant current links and contact route.

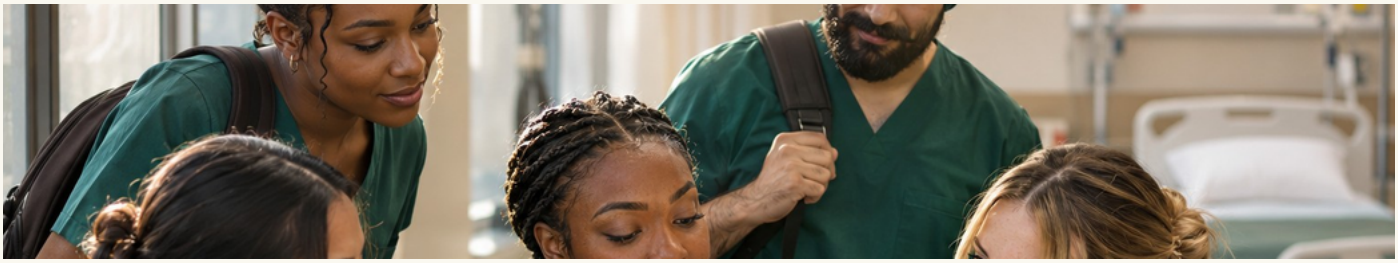
Regulator application source _____

NCLEX official source _____

School document contact _____

Employer official posting _____

Question to verify _____



Original illustrative scene. Fictional subjects; not an IFRN event or testimonial.

03 / PREPARATION AND LOGISTICS

Build a calendar around confirmed dates

Use your real school, work, travel, and household commitments when planning preparation time. Review the applicable official test plan and ask qualified educators for guidance about learning needs. This map does not prescribe an exam-review method. It helps you give the work a realistic place in the week.

When you receive official exam messages, read the dates and instructions carefully. Use your own ATT validity and appointment details rather than a general timeline found online. Consult the current official scheduling and candidate rules before arranging or changing an appointment. Keep confirmations securely available.

Plan transportation, required identification checks, caregiving, and work arrangements early. Verify current requirements and fees directly at the official source before acting. Do not buy another study product simply to relieve uncertainty; first identify the need it would meet, what you already have, and its full access and renewal terms.

- Preparation blocks fit actual commitments.
- Official dates recorded exactly as issued.
- Travel and household arrangements checked.
- Resource purchases tied to a specific need.

ONE-WEEK PLANNING CARD

Write what is confirmed and what still requires an answer.

Preparation blocks _____

Official milestone or pending item _____

Travel and household task _____

Resource decision _____

Question for educator or official source _____

04 / THE JOB SEARCH

Match the opportunity to your actual stage

Read the full employer description before deciding that a role fits. Internship, externship, student role, residency, and fellowship titles can mean different things across organizations. Check education stage, license requirements, location, schedule, documents, and current application status. A career page is a starting point, not a promise that a suitable opening is available.

Build a truthful resume from education, work, service, and leadership you can support. Keep expected milestones separate from completed credentials. Describe student experiences accurately and leave out patient information. Ask career services or a qualified reviewer for feedback on clarity and accuracy.

Prepare a few real examples for interviews: learning from feedback, working with others, managing a responsibility, and asking for help. Use your actual role and outcome. You do not need invented numbers or a dramatic story. IFRN’s directory links help you research; they do not imply an employer partnership, placement service, interview, or job guarantee.

- Official posting and current status checked.
- Role fits current education and licensing stage.
- Resume claims reviewed for accuracy.
- Interview examples use real experience.

OPPORTUNITY FIT CARD

Complete this before applying.

Employer and role _____

Official link _____

Required stage _____

Current status _____

Materials needed _____

Next action and date _____

05 / REUSABLE WORKSHEET

Your next three actions

Choose three actions you can take in the next seven days. Make each one specific enough to finish: ask the school which office sends a document, read the current application guide, or request a resume review. “Figure everything out” is not an action. It is a project that needs smaller parts.

For each task, write the responsible organization, the source you will use, and how you will know it is complete. If the task depends on someone else’s decision, your action may be submitting the correct information or asking a focused question. Record that honestly rather than promising the final result.

Review the list at the end of the week. Keep useful routines, update confirmed dates, and choose the next suitable action. A delay or rejection should prompt a review of facts and options, not a conclusion about your worth. Ask the appropriate school, licensing, exam, employer, or professional support resource when the question belongs outside your own planning system.

- Three actions chosen, not thirty intentions.
- Official source or qualified contact identified.
- Completion and dependency clearly distinguished.
- Weekly review time set.

MY NEXT SEVEN DAYS

Use one line per action and keep private records secure.

Action one / source / completion _____

Action two / source / completion _____

Action three / source / completion _____

Dependency to confirm _____

Support conversation _____

Review date _____

SOURCES / OPTIONAL NEXT RESOURCE

Where to continue

Official sources checked November 13, 2026: Georgia Secretary of State RN application guide, https://sos.ga.gov/how-to-guide/how-guide-registered-nurse; NCLEX registration overview, https://www.nclex.com/register; official preparation resources and current Candidate Bulletin, https://www.nclex.com/prepare.page; current test plans, https://nclex.com/test-plans.page; official scheduling instructions, https://www.nclex.com/scheduling.page.

Recheck the relevant current source when acting. This guide does not determine eligibility, interpret a result, authorize practice, reproduce candidate rules, or replace qualified advice about your circumstances. It provides no exam review, clinical instruction, continuing-education credit, endorsement, or outcome guarantee.

For a fuller planning toolkit, The First RN Opportunity Roadmap is an optional paid guide covering document tracking, honest applications, interview preparation, offer questions, and transition logistics. Explore /guides/first-rn-roadmap/ on IFRN’s website. The free map remains available without buying.

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YOUR NOTES / THE NEXT USEFUL STEP