



# Saudi Nursing Licensure Examination (SNLE)

## EXAMINATION CONTENT GUIDELINE

**Note:** Read this guide before submitting an application to test. At the time of application, you will be required to acknowledge that you have read and understood this guide and the policies and procedures contained within.

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## Licensure Exam Overview

Licensure examinations are standardized tests that candidates must pass to obtain a license to practice health professions. The exams are designed to assess the ability to apply knowledge, concepts, and principles that constitute the basis of safe and effective health care.

### Exam Structure

The SNLE is conducted using computer-based testing. It is divided into two parts of 100 questions, each with a time allocation of 120 minutes for each part. It may include up to 10% of pilot questions. There is a scheduled 30-minute break between the two parts. The questions have four options from which the candidate will choose one best answer. The examination shall contain recall questions that test knowledge and questions with scenarios that test other skills (interpretation, analysis, decision-making, reasoning, and problem-solving).

Test	# of Test Block(s)	Duration of Each Block
SNLE	2	120 min

### Scoring System

The SCFHS conducted a rigorous standard-setting exercise with a diverse panel of Saudi nurses. Following the standard-setting exercise, the passing score was determined as 500 on the reporting scale of 200-800. This passing score was reviewed and approved by the Central Assessment Committee (CAC).

### Results and Reports

Results are not provided instantly. During the window-closing period, psychometric analysis is conducted, and results are announced within 2-6 weeks of the end of a test window. Two reports will be provided to every candidate, a statement of results and a feedback report on performance compared to other test takers.



## Application and Eligibility

To apply for the SNLE, you must have a recognized primary degree (BSN or equivalent) from an accredited health science program or commenced training during the internship year or a student who is one year away from graduation.

### Applying for the SNLE

When applying for the examination, you must apply through the e-application. Once your application is processed, a scheduling permit with your eligibility period will be issued. You will receive an email with instructions for accessing your permit.

After obtaining the scheduling permit, you may visit the specified website to schedule a test date (Prometric). Scheduling may not be available for more than three months in advance. Refer to SCFHS for testing windows availability.

### SNLE Practice Examination

To experience a test that resembles the actual test blueprint and sampled from the SNLE item bank, you can apply for SNLE practice test from the SCFHS website. For more information, please visit the SCFHS website.

## Important Instructions

### What to Expect on Test Day?

- All test centers follow the same procedures and rules, which you should get familiar with before test day.
- Testing sessions for the Saudi Licensing Examinations are monitored by test center administrators (TCA) in person and through audio and visual recording. Staff are required to report any violations of assessment bylaws or test center rules.



- You must follow instructions from TCA throughout the examinations; failure to do so may result in a finding of irregular behavior.
- TCAs are not authorized to answer questions regarding registration, examination content or format, testing software, scoring, or retesting.

### Registration on Test Day

SCFHS test centers open at 7:30 a.m. If you are late more than 30 minutes from the time noted on your admission ticket or absent on test day, you will not be allowed to sit for the test, and this will be considered an attempt unless an acceptable reason with required documentation is presented and accepted by the committee supervising the test as per the assessment rules and regulations.

- When you arrive at the test center, you must present your scheduling permit and the required identification. Acceptable forms of unexpired identification include:
  - Passport
  - National/Residence Identity Card (KSA Only)
- Your name, as it appears on your scheduling permit, must match the name on your form(s) of identification exactly.
- If you do not bring your scheduling permit on paper or electronically (e.g., via smartphone) and acceptable identification, you will not be admitted to the test and will be required to pay a fee to reschedule your test. Your rescheduled test date(s) must fall within your eligibility period.
- During check-in, test center staff will conduct the appropriate security check before entering the testing room to confirm that you have no prohibited items.
- You will be asked to repeat this process each time you return to the testing room after a break. Additionally, your photo ID and fingerprint may be scanned electronically, and you must sign the test center log.
- Before you enter the test room, TCA will give you laminated writing surfaces, erasers, and markers to use for making notes and/or calculations during the testing session. They



should be used only at your assigned testing station.

- You must return laminated writing surfaces\le-tablets to test center staff at the end of the testing session. Do NOT write on anything other than the laminated writing surface\le-tablets (e.g., your hand, other body parts, tissue, etc.). Failure to comply may result in a finding of irregular behavior.
- TCA will escort you to your assigned testing station and provide brief instructions on using the computer equipment. A brief tutorial is available before each examination.
- Your test session is scheduled for a fixed amount of time, and the computer keeps track of the time allocated for each block and break.
- Once you begin a testing block, the block time continues to run even if you leave the testing room (e.g., for a personal emergency).
- If you leave during the block without permission from the test proctor, the test center will file a report of the incident. Additionally, the unauthorized break screen, described in the examination tutorial, will appear on the monitor after a defined period of inactivity.

### Breaks between Test Blocks

- Each time you leave the testing room, you are required to sign out and sign in when you return. You must present your identification each time you sign in.
- If you take too much break time and exceed the allocated break time, the next test block will start automatically, and the excess time will be deducted from your testing time.
- Ensure you arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of your next block to allow time for sign-in as the signing process may take around 10 minutes based on testing capacity.
- Repeated or lengthy departures from the test room for unscheduled breaks will be reported by the TCA.



## End of Test

- The test session ends when you have started and exited all blocks or the total test time expires. You will receive a notice during checkout that you have appeared for the test.
- After you start taking an examination, you cannot cancel or reschedule that examination. If you experience a computer issue during the test, notify the test center staff immediately. The testing software is designed to restart the test at the point that it was interrupted.
- You will maintain the confidentiality of the materials, including, but not limited to, the multiple-choice items. You will not reproduce or attempt to reproduce examination materials through recording, memorization, or by any other means.

## Instructions for examination day

- Any clothing or jewelry items allowed to be worn in the test room must remain on your person at all times. Removed clothing or jewelry items must be stored in your locker.
- You must conduct yourself in a civil manner at all times when on the premises of the testing center.
- To protect the privacy of all testers, the TCA can neither confirm nor deny if any particular individual is present or scheduled at the test center.
- You must return all materials issued to you by the TCA at the end of your test.
- Persons not scheduled to take a test are not permitted to wait in the test center.

## Notes

- Saudi university/college students can sit for SNLE during the final year of undergraduate studies.
- Scheduling the allowed test attempts during the year is the sole responsibility of the candidate.
- SCFHS is not responsible for delaying the test attempts until the end of the year and not finding a test spot.



- Candidates can test in any SCFHS approved Prometric testing center locally and internationally as locations appear upon scheduling.
- A candidate is not allowed to sit for the test twice in the same testing window. In this instance, the result of the first dated test will be announced, and the second will be considered an attempt and result invalid.
- All candidates must review the applicant guide before taking the test.
- All eligible candidates may take SNLE up to four times a year, starting from the first attempt to obtain a pass score.
- SCFHS classification and registration rules and regulations apply to candidates who fail the SNLE for two years after the graduation date.
- After obtaining a passing score in the SNLE each candidate is eligible for two further attempts to improve their mark for the purpose of attaining a better opportunity for residency selection.

## Prohibitions

### Before the examination

- Seeking, providing, and/or obtaining unauthorized access to examination materials.
- Providing false information or making false statements on or in connection with application forms, scheduling permits, or other exam-related documents.
- Applying for an examination for which you are not eligible.

### During the examination

- Taking an examination for someone or engaging someone to take an examination for you.
- Giving, receiving, or obtaining unauthorized assistance during the examination or attempting to do so.
- Making notes of any kind while in the secure areas of the test center, except on the writing





materials provided at the test center for this purpose.

- Failing to adhere to any exam policy, procedure, or rule, including instructions of TCA.
- Verbal or physical harassment of test center staff or other examination staff or other disruptive or unprofessional behavior during the registration, scheduling, or examination process.
- Possessing any unauthorized materials, including photographic equipment, communication or recording devices, and cell phones, in the secure testing areas.
- Any other electronic communication device, not herein mentioned, are prohibited in the examination hall irrespective if they are turned off, and no provision will be made to store them.

#### After the examination

- Altering or misrepresenting examination scores.
- Any reproduction by any means, including, but not limited to, reconstruction through memorization and/or dissemination of copyrighted examination materials by any means, including the internet.
- Communicating or attempting to communicate about specific test items, cases, and/or answers with another examinee, potential examinee, or formal or informal test preparation group at any time before, during, or after an examination.
- Failure to cooperate fully in any investigation of a violation of the SCFHS rules.



## SNLE Blueprint

A test blueprint is a document that reflects the content of a specialty licensure examination and is the plan used for "building" the exam. The purpose of the blueprint is to ensure that questions related to what is expected to be known are included.

Sections	Subsections	Competencies The practitioner is expected to be able to do the following
Nursing Fundamentals 20%	Fundamentals of Nursing	<p>Illustrates basic concepts and theories essential to nursing practice, including physiological, psychosocial, and spiritual health needs of individuals and families.</p> <p>Utilizes the nursing process as framework for caring when working individually or in groups across a variety of healthcare settings.</p> <p>Explains introductory nursing concepts of collaboration, communication, critical thinking and decision-making to guide safe, and competent practice.</p>
	Physical assessment	Obtains health history and conducts a systematic physical assessment for patients, while being able to recognize and document normal physical findings and variations in health, as well as common relevant laboratory and diagnostic tests.
	Pharmacology	<p>Interpret principles of pharmacology for nursing practice including understanding basic concepts of drug history, usages, work mechanisms, and formulations.</p> <p>Understands preparing and administering medications, including precise dosage calculation for safe clinical practice for different forms of medications, infusions and other pharmaceutical agents.</p>
	Basic Sciences	<p>Explains the basic principles of sciences that underpin nursing practice.</p> <p>Demonstrates anatomy and physiology of the human body structure and function of organs and systems, and their interactions; molecular and cellular basis of life; interaction of microorganisms with humans and diseases transmission and infection control principals.</p> <p>Understands, applies, analyzes and evaluates nutritional needs of individuals throughout the life cycle and illness.</p>
Adult Nursing 40%	Medical Nursing	<p>Provides care for adult patients who are acutely ill with various medical conditions or diseases.</p> <p>Follows hospital policies and procedures in the initiation and implementation of quality nursing care to allocated patients based on current best practice principles within the defined Scope of Nursing Practice.</p>
	Surgical Nursing	Provides care to patients before, during and after surgery:

		<p>(Pre-operative) prepare the patient and operating room for the surgery.  (During the surgery) assists the anesthetist and surgeons when they are needed.  (Post-operative) ensures that the patients are provided with suitable care and treatments.</p> <p>Works alongside surgeons, surgical technician, nurse anesthetists and nurse practitioners;  surgical nurses are part of the perioperative surgical team.</p>
	Critical care Nursing	<p>Involves working with doctors and specialists to assess, treat, and monitor critically ill patients while also providing their basic care  Assesses a patient's condition and takes care of ventilated patients with multiple IVs, monitoring vital signs, communicating with patients and their families, and administering medication.</p> <p>Demonstrates knowledge of equipment and charting.  Focuses on the utmost care of critically ill or unstable patients following extensive injury, surgery, or life-threatening diseases.</p>
	Community Nursing	<p>Collaborates with other healthcare workers to protect the health of population, and promotes healthy living, disease prevention, and necessary medical treatment.  Provides medical treatment, rehabilitation, health education, advocacy, and research.</p>
	Mental/psychiatric Nursing	<p>Provides comprehensive care to individuals, families, groups, and communities.  Demonstrates a psychosocial, and neurobiological knowledge to promote well-being through prevention and education.</p>
Maternal-Child Nursing 30%	Maternity Nursing	<p>Provides care for women during pregnancy, labor, and the postpartum period to ensure the well-being of both the mother and the newborn, as well as preventing maternal and infant mortality and illness.</p>
	Gynecology	<p>Offer personalized healthcare to women from various age groups and backgrounds such as gynecological cancer care, early pregnancy, sexual health, reproductive medicine, urgent gynecological issues, and urogynecology.</p>
	Neonatal nursing	<p>Works with newborns facing a range of issues like prematurity, birth defects, infections, cardiac malformations, and surgical complications.  Provides care to infants dealing with immediate post-birth issues as well as those facing long-term challenges due to prematurity or illness, caring for several months for the neonatal.</p>
	Pediatric medical	<p>Provides children's medical care from infancy to adolescence.  Understands the difference in children's health from adults due to the ongoing growth and development throughout childhood.</p>
	Pediatric surgical	<p>Provides nursing care for children requiring surgical intervention, and offering comprehensive care to pediatric patients, including preventing illness and injury, promoting health and wellness, managing pre- and post-operative care, and ensuring the well-being and comfort of young patients from diagnosis to successful treatment completion.</p>
Nursing Management and Leadership 10%	Resources to support and coordinate patient care	<p>Able to manage human and non-human resources, such as models of nursing care delivery, scheduling and staffing in health care setting.</p>
	Quality and safe patient care at the frontline	<p>Utilizes quality management to assure that all patients are receiving safe and adequate care, which pertains to the performance of leadership functions at the frontline on a nursing unit level.</p>
	Nursing teams and	<p>Interacts among nursing teams and other health care providers including communication and interpersonal skills, chain of command, and conflict resolution.</p>

	interprofessional relations	
	Nursing informatics for safe and legal delivery of patient care	Utilizes nursing informatics that ensures patient safety and quality care. Addresses legal and ethical issues associated with data usage integrity.
	Research and Evidence Based Practice	Able to collect, process, and implement research findings to improve clinical practice, the work environment, or patient outcomes. Knowledge of research methods, tools and applications in nursing to improve the quality of care and patient safety.

## Exam Sections' Description

### Nursing Fundamentals

This section focuses on core human needs and the fundamental nursing competencies required to meet patient needs at a basic level. It encompasses essential nursing skills and emphasizes the prioritization of care to ensure effective, patient-centered delivery.

### Adult Nursing

This section covers the comprehensive range of care for adult patients in medical and surgical settings, whether in-patient or out-patient. It involves treating patients with various health conditions, from minor injuries to acute and chronic illnesses. This field also includes the care of patients with complex and critical conditions requiring advanced nursing interventions and the management of long-term health needs.

### Maternal-Child Nursing

This section provides a holistic care framework for childbearing women and their families. It views childbirth as a natural life event rather than a medical procedure. The scope of care includes prenatal care, postnatal care for mothers and newborns, and extends to pediatric care for children from infancy through adolescence. This nursing specialty is often practiced in a variety of settings, such as in-patient, out-patient, or day clinics, ensuring a continuum of care for both mother and child.

## Nursing Management and Leadership

This section covers the essential leadership and managerial roles within nursing, focusing on the frontline management of nursing units. It ensures the safe delivery of nursing care, and that all patients receive appropriate care. Key topics include nursing informatics and foundational management processes such as planning, organizing, staffing, directing, and controlling. Emphasis is placed on the development of technical, human, and conceptual skills, with accountability and responsibility for decision-making and patient outcomes.

## Exam Competencies' Description

### Professionalism

Nursing graduates should demonstrate accountability and responsibility in delivering care that aligns with moral, ethical, legal, humanistic, and regulatory standards. Their practice should reflect a commitment to upholding the core principles that govern professional nursing conduct.

### Patient-Centered Care

Nursing graduates should provide compassionate and coordinated care that honors the patient's preferences, values, and needs. They should recognize the patient as an active partner in their care, ensuring holistic, safe, and effective services that prioritize individual well-being.

### Evidence Based Practice and Research

Nursing graduate should be able to conduct scientific research related to current trends, issues in nursing, appraise evidence-based practice by using their clinical expertise and make clinical decisions based on patients' preferences, experience and values.

## Leadership and Management



Nursing graduates should demonstrate leadership and management skills that positively impact nursing and healthcare professionals within their communities. These competencies should enable the creation and achievement of shared goals in healthcare.

### Quality and Safety Management

**Quality:** Graduates should use information to assess the effectiveness of care given and apply improvement strategies to refine healthcare systems, enhancing both quality and safety.

**Safety:** Graduates should minimize risks to patients and healthcare providers by improving system performance and maintaining high individual standards of care.

### Health Education and Promotion

The Nursing graduate should be able to identify communities, individuals and patients' needs related to their health preventions, and promote healthy behaviors, by providing health information and educational activities using reliable resources with respect to different age groups and cultural backgrounds.

### Communication

Graduates should maintain effective communication with patients, families, and healthcare teams. They should foster mutual respect and collaborative decision-making, aimed at improving patient satisfaction and health outcomes.

### Information Technology

Nursing graduates should use technology to analyze and synthesize information, supporting critical decision-making processes that lead to optimal patient outcomes.



## References and Exam Preparation Resources

Sections	Textbooks
Nursing Fundamentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Timby's Fundamental Nursing Skills and Concepts 12th Edition (International Edition), 2020 Author: Loretta</li> <li>▪ Moreno ISBN/ISSN 9781975141769 Publisher: Wolters Kluwer Workbook for Timby's Fundamental Nursing Skills and Concepts 12th Edition, 2020 Authors: Loretta A. Moreno, Brigitte Moseley, and Barbara Kuhn Timby ISBN/ISSN 9781975159658 Publisher: Wolters Kluwer Kozier &amp; Erb's Fundamentals of Nursing 10th Edition, 2016 Author: Audrey Berman, Charles Snyder, and Geralyn Frandsen. ISBN13: 9781292106106 Publisher: Pearson Bates' Nursing Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking 2nd Edition, 2016 Authors: Beth Hogan - Quigley, Mary Louise Palm, and Lynn S. Bickley. ISBN/ISSN 9781496305565 Publisher: Wolters Kluwer Bates' Visual Guide to Physical Examination (Clinical Skills Database) (Access via E - Library) <a href="https://batesvisualguide.com">https://batesvisualguide.com</a> / Pharmacology a Patient-Centered Nursing Process Approach 9th Edition, 2017 Authors: Linda McCuiston, Kathleen DiMaggio, Mary Beth Winton, and Jennifer Yeager. eBook ISBN: 9780323399159 Paperback ISBN: 9780323399166 Publisher: Saunders Nutrition Essentials for Nursing Practice 9th Edition, 2021 Author: Susan Dudek ISBN/ISSN 9781975161125 Publisher: Wolters Kluwer</li> </ul>
Adult Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brunner &amp; Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing, 14th Ed., 2018 Authors: Janice L. Hinkle PhD, RN, CNRN, Kerry H. Cheever PhD, RN ISBN/ISSN: 9781496355133 14th Edition (International Edition) Pages: 2352</li> <li>▪ Clinical Handbook for Brunner &amp; Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing, 14th Ed. 2018 Author(s) : Lippincott Williams &amp; Wilkins ISBN/ISSN 978149635514</li> <li>▪ Medical-Surgical Nursing Assessment and Management of Clinical Problems, 11th Edition, 2020. Authors: Sharon Lewis, Linda Bucher, Margaret Heitkemper, Mariann Harding, Jeffrey Kwong, and Dottie Roberts. eBook ISBN: 9780323371438 Imprint: Mosby Published Date: September 2016 Page Count: 1776</li> <li>▪ Perry, A.G., Potter, P.A., Ostendorf, W. (2017). Clinical nursing skills and techniques (9th Edition). Mosby. ISBN-13: 978-0323400695 ISBN-10: 0323400698 10th Ed. March 2021</li> <li>▪ Critical Care Nursing Diagnosis and Management, 9th Edition, 2021 Authors: Linda Urden Kathleen Stacy Mary Lough Paperback ISBN: 9780323642958 Paperback ISBN: 9780323751476 eBook ISBN: 9780323696791 Imprint: Elsevier, March 2021</li> <li>▪ Emergency and Trauma Care for Nurses and Paramedics, 3rd Edition, 2019 Authors: Kate Curtis, Clair Ramsden, Ramon Shaban, Margaret Fry &amp; Julie Considine eBook ISBN: 9780729587204 Paperback ISBN: 9780729542982 Elsevier</li> <li>▪ Patricia Gonce Morton, Dorrie K. Fontaine. (2018) Critical Care Nursing: A Holistic Approach 11th edition. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community &amp; Public Health Nursing, Promoting the Public's Health, 7th Ed., 2019 Author(s): Cherie Rector PhD, RN-C ISBN/ISSN 9781496349828 Lippincott Williams &amp; Wilkins</li> <li>▪ Stanhope, M. &amp; Lancaster, J. (2020). Public health nursing: Population -centered health care in the community (10th Edition). St. Louie, Missouri: Elsevier.ISBN-13: 978-0323582247 ISBN-10: 0323582249</li> <li>▪ Psychiatric Nursing: Contemporary Practice, 2017 Author(s): Mary Ann Boyd PhD, D NS, RN, PMH CNS - BC ISBN/ISSN 9781451192438 Lippincott Williams &amp; Wilkins Lippincott's</li> <li>▪ Sheila L.Videbeck. (2020): Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott: Lippincott Williams &amp; Wilkins, 8th_Edition. Varcacolis, E. M. &amp; Halter,M.J.)2018( .</li> <li>▪ Manual of Psychiatric Nursing Care Plans, 2012 Author(s): Judith M. Schultz MS, RN, Sheila L. Videbeck Ph D, RN ISBN/ISSN 9781609136949</li> </ul>
Maternal- Child Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Murray S. and McKinney E. (2019). Foundations of Maternal-Newborn and Women's Health Nursing 7th Edition.C74</li> <li>▪ Susan Scott Ricci (2017) Essentials of Maternity, Newborn, and Women's Health Nursing, Fifth Edition. Philadelphia, Wolters Kluwer".</li> <li>▪ "Hockenberry, M,J., and Wilson,D., (2018): Wong's Essentials of Pediatric Nursing,9th ,ed., Elsevier</li> <li>▪ Hockenberry, M. &amp; Wilson, D. (2020). Wong's Nursing Care of Infants and Children. 11th edition. London: Mosby Company"</li> </ul>
Nursing Management and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outcomes (2nd edition). Wiley Blackwell: New Jersey</li> <li>▪ Polit, Denise F., Beck, C. T. (2018). Essentials of nursing research: appraising evidence for nursing practice. (9th ed.) Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer".</li> <li>▪ Marquis, B.L. &amp; Huston, C.J. (2020). Leadership Roles and Management Functions in Nursing: Theory and Application, 10th Edition.</li> <li>▪ Sewell, J. (2019). Informatics and Nursing: Opportunities and challenges. Wolters Kluwer Health; 6th edition.</li> </ul>

**Note:** This list is intended for use as a study aid only. SCFHS does not intend the list to imply endorsement of these specific references, nor are the exam questions necessarily taken from these sources.





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