

South Dakota Board of Regents Performance of University Graduates On Licensure and Certification Examinations

This report provides the Board of Regents with information concerning the performance of university graduates on mandatory professional licensure and certification examinations. Graduates have an excellent record of success on these examinations.

1. Examinations Included

The examinations included in this report are those that must be passed before a person may be fully licensed or certified to engage in the occupation or profession. Optional examinations are not included. Some examinations, such as Fundamentals of Engineering or CPA, are not included because graduates are not required to take them in order to practice.

2. Limitations

Licensure and certification examinations cover material related to the specific occupation or profession. These examinations do not provide information about how well students perform in general education courses or in courses outside of the examination field.

3. Format

The programs are listed alphabetically. The data are provided by year for five years or for available years.

Each table shows the number of graduates who took the examination, the number who passed the examination, and the pass rate (percentage). Additional information for some programs, such as national pass rates, or mean scores is available for some programs. Where available, this information is provided.

4. Programs Included

- A. Athletic Training (SDSU)
- B. Audiology (USD)
- C. Clinical Psychology (USD)
- D. Dental Hygiene (USD)
- E. Dietetics (SDSU)
- F. Law (USD)
- G. Medicine (USD)
- H. Nursing
 - 1. SDSU
 - 2. USD
- I. Occupational Therapy (USD)
- J. Physical Therapy (USD)
- K. Physician Assistant Studies (USD)
- L. Pharmacy (SDSU)
- M. Respiratory Care (DSU)
- N. Social Work (USD)
- O. Speech/Language Pathology (USD)

Program: Athletic Training
 University: South Dakota State University
 Degree: Bachelor of Science
 Examination Title: Athletic Trainer's Certification Examination
 Organization/Agency: Board of Certification (BOC)

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
2000					
	Written	19	13	68.42%	64.53%
	Practical	19	15	78.95%	76.44%
	Simulation	19	15	78.95%	67.76%
2001					
	Written	18	11	61.11%	63.87%
	Practical	18	8	44.44%	73.78%
	Simulation	18	14	77.78%	64.83%
2002					
	Written	12	7	58.83%	67%
	Practical	12	9	75%	74.53%
	Simulation	12	8	66.67%	61.12%
2003					
	Written	12	7	63.64%	65.39%
	Practical	11	9	81.82%	64.89%
	Simulation	11	10	90.91%	65.14%
2004					
	Written	11	6	54.55%	67.32%
	Practical	8	5	62.50%	72.57%
	Simulation	11	8	72.73%	67.16%
2005					
	Written	12	4	33.33%	46.76%
	Practical	13	7	53.85%	55.63%
	Simulation	12	7	58.33%	61.04%
2006					
	Written	11	6	54.55%	48.45%
	Practical	12	11	91.67%	76.28%
	Simulation	11	9	81.82%	72.76%
2007					
	Apr07 – Feb08	15	7	46.7%	39.1%

NOTE: The design of the exam has changed two ways which affects how we report scores. First, the delivery of the exam is a computer based examination rather than delivery by paper and pencil. Also, instead of having (3) parts, it now includes a multiple choice and a hybrid/clinical decision making portion, however scoring has been integrated into one score.

Program: Audiology
 University: University of South Dakota
 Degree: MS
 Examination Title: National Teachers Exam, Audiology Section
 Organization/Agency: American Speech and Hearing Association

Year	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed *
2000	5	5	100%	
2001	2	1	50%	
2002	4	4	100%	
2003	2	2	100%	
2004	5	5	100%	
2005	5	4	80%	
2006**	3	2	67%	
2007**	0	0	NA	
2008**	2	2	100%	
2000-2008	28	25	89.3%	

*National Pass Rates are not available. Average is 75% annually.

**NOTE (2006-2008): Due to the launch of the new 4-year AuD program, there will be a transition period during which there will be few test takers. A full AuD cohort will graduate in 2010. The single graduate in 2007 is a Canadian citizen who is not required to take the PRAXIS for Canadian certification.

Program: Clinical Psychology
 University: University of South Dakota
 Degree: Ph.D.
 Examination Title: Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology
 Organization/Agency: Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards

Graduating Year	# of Graduates	# of Writers	# Passed	% Total Writers Passed
2001	3	2	2	100
2002	8	7	7	100
2003	6	5	5	100
2004	8	8	7	88
2005	5	4	4	100
2006	5	3	3	100
2007	8	1	1	100
2008	4	0	0	--
2001-2008	47	31	30	96.77

National pass rates are not available.

Our graduates take the national exam in the state in which they plan to practice. The National Examination is administered through the licensing boards of those states. Each state sets its own acceptable “cut-off” scores. Nearly all states also require an oral exam in addition to the national written exam.

Most states require either one or two years of post-doctoral, supervised experience prior to sitting for the exam. Not all of our graduates take the national exam unless required by their employment site (for example, academic sites do not typically require licensure).

- 2001 One graduate has chosen not to take the licensing exam (not needed for her employment).
- 2003 One graduate has not and will not take the licensing exam (is no longer working due to poor health).
- 2004 The student who failed the exam is preparing to retake the exam in 08-09.
- 2005 One graduate plans to take the exam in 2008-09.
- 2006 Two graduates plan to take the exam during 2008-09.
- 2007 Seven of these graduates are in the process of applying to take the licensing exam.
- 2008 These graduates (through July 08) will be eligible to take the exam in 09-10.

Program: Dental Hygiene
 University: University of South Dakota
 Degree: AA
 Examination Title: National Board of Dental Hygiene Examination
 Organization/Agency: American Dental Association

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
2000	03	31	29	94	93.6
	07	2	2	100	
2001	03	31	30	97	95.4
	07	1	1	100	
2002	03	30	29	97	94.6
	07	2	2	100	
2003	04	26	26	100	96.1
2004	03	32	31	97	96.3
	07	1	1	100	
2005	03	31	31	100	95.3
2006	03	25	25	100	94.4
2007	03	34	34	100	96.9
2008	03	32	32	100	95.9
2000-2008		278	273	98.2	

Program: Didactic Program in Dietetics
 University: South Dakota State University
 Degree: Bachelor of Science (Nutrition and Food Science Option)
 Examination Title: National Examination for Registered Dietitian Licensure
 Organization/Agency: American Dietetic Association

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
1996	04	2	2	100	88
1996	10	10	9	90	90
1997	04	2	2	100	79
1997	10	4	2	50	72
1998	04	2	1	50	84
1998	10	6	6	100	88
1999	04	2	2	100	86
1999	*05-12	5	5	100	91
2000	01-12	7	5	85	80
2001	01-06	2	0	0	83
2001	07-12	3	3	100	81
2002	01-06	2	1	50	79
2002	07-12	4	3	75	83
2003	01-06	2	2	100	71
2003	07-12	7	6	86	84
2004	1-12	13	12	92	81
2005	1-12	8	7	88	77
2006	1-12	5	5	100	76
2007	1-12	6	4	67	81
Accumulative Total		80	66	83	

Note: These percentages are cumulative first-time pass rates. All of our students who have taken repeat examinations have passed.

*05-12 is equal to the May-Dec time period. ADA changed to computer testing and thus the students can take the test anytime. They send reports twice a year.

Program: Law
 University: University of South Dakota
 Degree: JD
 Examination Title: South Dakota Bar Examination
 Organization/Agency: South Dakota Board of Bar Examiners

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
2002	02	4	4	100	*
	Repeaters	2	2	100	*
	07	34	31	91	*
	Repeaters	0	0	NA	*
2003	02	4	3	75	*
	Repeaters	4	3	75	*
	07	43	32	74	*
	Repeaters	3	3	100	*
2004	02	9	6	67	*
	Repeaters	5	3	60	*
	07	52	37	71	*
	Repeaters	4	3	75	*
2005	02	10	6	60	*
	Repeaters	10	4	40	*
	07	47	42	89	*
	Repeaters	9	2	22	*
2006	02	8	5	63	*
	Repeaters	8	5	63	*
	07	56	46	82	*
	Repeaters	10	4	40	*
2007	02	11	10	91	*
	Repeaters	9	7	78	*
	07	43	39	91	*
	Repeaters	4	1	25	*
2008	02	2	2	100	*
	Repeaters	7	3	43	*
	07	57	54	95	*
	Repeaters	2	1	50	*
2001-2008	02	55	42	76.36	*
	Repeaters	48	29	60.42	*
	07	368	317	86.14	*
	Repeaters	36	16	44.44	*

The ABA and National Conference of Bar Examiners report first-time takers separately.

*Each state establishes its own passing score so pass rates are not directly comparable across the states.

Program: Medicine
 University: University of South Dakota
 Degree: MD
 Examination Title: Step 1: United States Medical Licensing Examination
 Step 2-CK: United States Medical Licensing Examination
 Organization/Agency: National Board of Medical Examiners

Graduation Year	Step	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
2004	1	50	44	88	91
	Retakes	6	4	67	65
	2-CK	50	49	98	94
	Retakes	1	1	100	83
2005	1	51	45	88	92
	Retakes	5	4	80	68
	2-CK	49	47	96	94
	Retakes	2	2	100	84
2006	1	48	47	98	92
	Retakes	1	1	100	69
	2-CK	51	49	96	94
	Retakes	2	2	100	85
2007	1	47	43	91	93
	Retakes	2	2	100	67
	2-CK	49	48	98	95
	Retakes	1	1	100	87
2008	1	53	49	92	93
	Retakes	4	3	75	72
	2-CK	52	52	100	96
	Retakes	0	-	-	87
2009	1	46	43	93	94
	Retakes	2	2	100	75
	2-CK*				
2003-2009	1	344	317	92	92
	Retakes	23	17	74	69
	2-CK*	301*	293*	97	95
	Retakes	8*	8*	100	85

*Step 2 data is only available through 2008 graduating class.

NOTE: All graduates with the MD degree must successfully pass the Step 1 and Step 2-CK examinations prior to graduation. The Step 1 examination is taken following the second year of medical school and must be passed prior to entering the fourth year of medical school. The Step 2 examination is taken during the fourth year of medical school.

Reporting is by class (graduation year) rather than the date of the examination.

Program: Nursing
 University: South Dakota State University
 Degree: Bachelor of Science in Nursing
 Examination Title: National Council Licensure Examination of Registered Nurses
 Organization/Agency: Board of Nursing

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed *
1996	7/1/95 - 6/30/96	120	109	91	91
1997	7/1/96 – 6/30/97	127	116	91	91
1998	7/1/97 – 6/30/98	130	116	89	88
1999	7/1/98 - 6/30/99	105	92	88	88
2000	7/1/99 – 6/30/00	138	107	77.5	84
2001	7/1/00-6/30/01	123	115	94	84
2002	7/1/01-6/30/02	114	105	92	89
2003	10/1/02-12/31/03	164	153	93	87
2004+	1/1/03-12/31/04	133	121	91	89
2005	1/1/05-12/31/05	185	157	85	87
2006	1/1/06 – 12/31/06	203	171	84	88
2007	1/1/07-12/31/07	214	196	92	85
2003-2007		927	815	89	87

NOTE: +The South Dakota Board of Nursing reporting date changed in 2004 to the calendar year. Data from the 2007 Annual Report from the South Dakota Board of Nursing, p.33.

* National % Passed: Percent passing of all graduates from all member board jurisdictions (includes both associate and baccalaureate candidates).

Program: Nursing
 University: South Dakota State University
 Degree: Master of Science Family Nurse Practitioner Specialization
 Examination Title: National Certification Exam for Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
 Organization/Agency: The National Certification Corporation

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed *
2006	01/01/06-12/31/06	2	1	50	NA
	Retakes	1	1	100	
2007	01/01/07-12/31/07	1	1	100	NA

Program: Nursing
 University: South Dakota State University
 Degree: Master of Science Family Nurse Practitioner Specialization
 Examination Title: National Certification Exam for Family Nurse Practitioner
 Organization/Agency: American Academy of Nurse Practitioners

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed *
2006	01/01/06-12/31/06	13	12	92	NA
2007	01/01/07-12/31/07	16	16	100	NA

Program: Nursing
 University: South Dakota State University
 Degree: Master of Science Family Nurse Practitioner Specialization
 Examination Title: National Certification Exam for Family Nurse Practitioner
 Organization/Agency: American Nurse Credentialing Center

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed *
2006	01/01/06-12/31/06	7	7	100	NA
2007	01/01/07-12/31/07	7	7	100	NA

Program: Nursing
 University: South Dakota State University
 Degree: Master of Science Family Nurse Practitioner Specialization
 Examination Title: National Certification Exam for Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
 Organization/Agency: American Nurse Credentialing Center

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed *
2006	01/01/06-12/31/06	3	3	100	NA
2007	01/01/07-12/31/07	2	2	100	NA

Program: Nursing
 University: University of South Dakota
 Degree: AA
 Examination Title: National Council Licensure Examination of Registered Nurses
 Organization/Agency: South Dakota Board of Nursing

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed	State of SD Pass Rate
2000	7/01/99-6/30/00	107	82	76.64	84.24	80
2001*	10/01/00 - 9/30/01	108	87	80.56	85	87
2002	10/01/01 – 9/30/02	120	107	89.17	86.34	89
2003**	10/01/02 – 12/31/03	130	113	86.92	87.01	87
2004	01/01/04-12/31/04	186	154	82.8	85.26	82.75
2005	01/01/05 – 12/31/05	213	188	88.26	87.29	86.54
2006	01/01/06 – 12/31/06	259	217	83.78	88.11	83.64
2007	01/01/07-12/31/07	273	205	75.09	85.47	81.00
2000-2007	7/1/99 – 12/31/07	1396	1153	82.59		
2008***	01/01/08 – 12/31/08	199	183	91.96	***	***

*Effective August 2002, The Board of Regents has agreed to change the time frame for their reports to match the federal year end cycle that the NCSBN follows. 2001 totals have been revised to reflect the new reporting time frame.

**Change in NCLEX contractors during this period has forced a change in pass rate calculations. The NCSBN now calculates on calendar year basis. The 2003 NCLEX pass rates reflect data for 15 months rather than the previous 12-month reporting period. This is due to a change in the NCLEX Cumulative Reports from the federal fiscal year to a calendar year.

*** Current year contains partial data with mid-year numbers. These numbers are not calculated in the 2000-2007 average. National and State of South Dakota pass rates are not yet available.

Program: Occupational Therapy
 University: University of South Dakota
 Degree: MS
 Examination Title: NBCOT (National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy)
 Organization/Agency: National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)

Year	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
2001 March				
1 st Time	25	24	96	
Retakes	0	0		
2001 July				
1 st Time	0	0		
Retakes	1	1	100	
2002 March				
1 st Time	13	13	100	
Retakes	0	0		
2002 May				
1 st Time	1	1	100	
Retakes	0	0		
2003				
1 st Time	16	16	100	
Retakes	0	0		
2004				
1 st Time	6	6	100	
Retakes	0	0		
2005				
1 st Time	9	8	89	86%
Retakes	1	0	0	75%
2006				
1 st Time	11	11	100	85.33%
Retakes	0	0		
2007				
1 ST Time	8	8	100	85
Retakes	0	0		
2008				
1 st Time	11	11	100	85
Retakes	0	0		
2000-2008				
1 st Time	126	122	96.83	
Retakes	4	3	75	

Program: Pharmacy
 University: South Dakota State University
 Degree: Doctor of Pharmacy (1998-Present): Bachelor of Pharmacy (up to 1998)
 Examination Title: North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination
 Organization/Agency: South Dakota Board of Pharmacy

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
1995	06	63	61	97	95
1995	09	2	1	50	91
1996	06	54	53	98	94
1996	09	1	1	100	99
1997		No Graduates; Program Transition Year			
1998	06	42	42	100	91
1999	08	45	45	100	93.21
2000	05	41	41	100	95.44
2001	05	44	44	100	94.38
2002	05	44	44	100	96.74
2003	05-08**	47	47	100	93.84
2004	05-08**	55	55	100	95.11
2005	05-08**	56	56	100	89.15
2006	05-08**	57	54	94.74	94.49
2007	05-08**	54	54	100	97.23
2008	05-08**	59	59	100	97.44

**05-08 is equal to the May-Aug time period. NAPLEX changed to computerized testing and thus the students can take the test anytime after all application information has been submitted. Reports are generated every quarter to the state board.

Program: Physical Therapy
 University: University of South Dakota
 Degree: MS
 Examination Title: National Physical Therapy Board Exam
 Organization/Agency: Federation of State Board of Physical Therapy

Year	Number of USD Writers	Number USD Writers Passed	% Total USD Writers Passed	National First Time Pass Rate**	US Accredited Program % Passed
2000	27	27	100	86.63	
Retesters	0	0			
Overall	27	27	100	86.63	79.44
2001	24	24	100	91.14	
Retesters	0	0			
Overall	24	24	100	91.14	86.64
2002	16	15	93.75	89.02	
Retesters*	1	0			
Overall	17	15	88.24	89.02	83.66
2003	16	14	87.5	76.69	
Retesters*	2	2	100	45.94	
Overall	18	16	84.21	67.26	67.24
2004	17	15	88.24	71.35	
Retesters*	5	2	40	50.54	
Overall	22	17	77.27	64.59	64.51
2005	13	10	76.92	83.09	
Retesters*	2	1	50	56.3	
Overall	15	11	73.33	79.46	79.58
2006	16	14	85.71	86.40	
Retesters*	2	2	100	57.62	
Overall	18	16	88.89	82.01	82.01
DPT Graduates					
2007	6	6	100	90.3	
Retesters	0	0	NA	70.41	
Overall	6	6	100	89.22	89.22
2008	20	16	80	87.23	
Retesters*	4	3	75	69.97	
Overall	24	19	79	85.77	85.77
2000-2008	155	141	90.97	81.67	79.79
Retesters*	16	10	62.5		

* Includes 1st and 2nd time retesters

** National pass rates are for all writers (first time & retakes)

Program: Physician Assistant Studies
 University: University of South Dakota
 Degree: MSPAS (approved 2003)
 Examination Title: PANCE (Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam)
 Organization/Agency: NCCPA (National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants)

Year	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
1999	13	13	100	NA
2000	19	15	79	NA
Retakes	4	4	100	
2001	20	20	100	NA
2002	21	21	100	NA
2003	19	16	84	90
Retakes	2	2	100	
2004	19	17	89	90
Retakes	2	2	100	82
2005	20	19	95	94
Retakes	1	1	100	83
2006	21	19	90.48	92
Retakes	2	1	50	85
2007	19	16	84	93
Retakes	3	3	100	87
2008		will not graduate until 12/2008		
1999-2007	171	156	91.23	91.8
Retakes	14	13	92.86	84.25

Program: Respiratory Care
 University: Dakota State University
 Degree: AS/BS
 Examination Title: NBRC Entry Level Examination
 Organization/Agency: National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC)

Year	Month Taken	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
1996	07	7	5	71	63
1996	11	2	1	50	52
1997	03	1	1	100	48
1997	07	9	9	100	61
1998	07	11	8	73	65
1998	11	3	2	66	53
1999	07	9	7	78	51
	11	2	2	100	40
2000	01-12*	7	7	100	52
2001	01-12	8	8	100	50
2002	7/1/01 – 6/30/02	11	8	73	47
2003	7/1/02 – 6/30/03	11	7	64	47
2004	7/1/03 – 6/30/04	13	11	85	66
2005	7/1/04 – 6/30/05	17	17	100	60
2006	7/1/05 – 6/30/06	11	11	100	60
2007	7/1/06 – 6/30/07	18	17	94	60
2008	7/1/07 – 6/30/08	26	21	81	60
2004-2008		85	77	92	61

* Computer-based testing (CBT) began in January 2000. The candidate can take the examination anytime. There is no longer a certain day to take the test.

Program: Social Work
University: University of South Dakota
Degree: BA/BS
Examination Title: South Dakota Social Work Licensing Examination
Organization/Agency: Association of Social Work Boards

Year	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
2000				
2001				
2002				
2003	Unable to provide results pending resolution of Accrediting Agency concerns			
2004				
2005				
2006				
2007				
2000-2007				

***AASWB, Social Work's accrediting agency prohibits the publication of any reference to pass rates for social work programs to the public.

Program: Speech Pathology
 University: University of South Dakota
 Degree: MS
 Examination Title: National Examination in Speech Language Pathology
 Organization/Agency: American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA)

Year	Number of Writers	Number Passed	% Total Writers Passed	National % Passed
2000	28	27	96	
2001	19	16	84	
2002	14	13	93	
2003	11	10	91	
2004	12	12	100	
2005	12	12	100	
2006	16	16	100	
2007	5**	3**	60**	
2008	19	18	94.74	
2000-2008	136	127	93.38%	

Overall average national pass rate is 75%.

**NOTE: The significantly lower number of SLPs taking the PRAXIS exam during 2007 is NOT an indicator of fewer students graduating from the program. Instead, ASHA has changed the make-up of the PRAXIS to be more applicable to the CFY SLP and has instructed programs (ours included) that students should NOT be encouraged to take the exam prior to graduation. Instead, it is to be taken at a later date during the clinical fellowship year. Therefore, during 2007, we changed our departmental policy and began discouraging students from taking it until well after graduation, as recommended by ASHA. Therefore, several students who graduated during this period have not yet taken the exam. We significantly exceed the overall average national pass rate of 75%.