

Fostering Success: A Toolkit for Improving First-Pass Certification Exam Rates

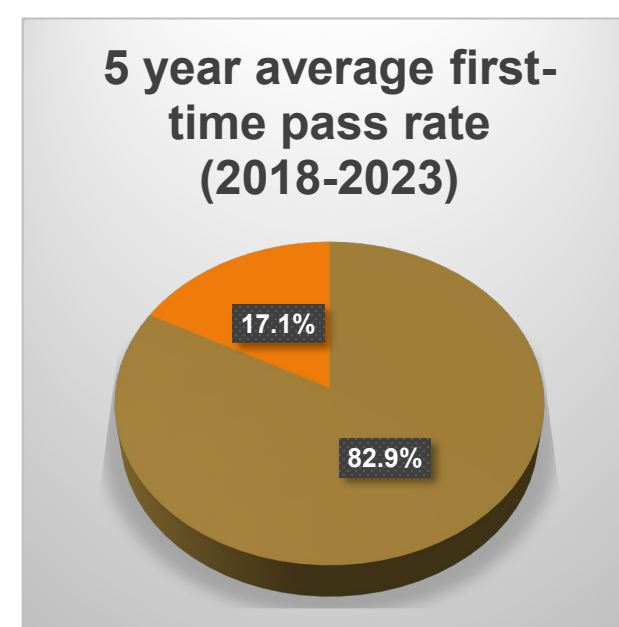
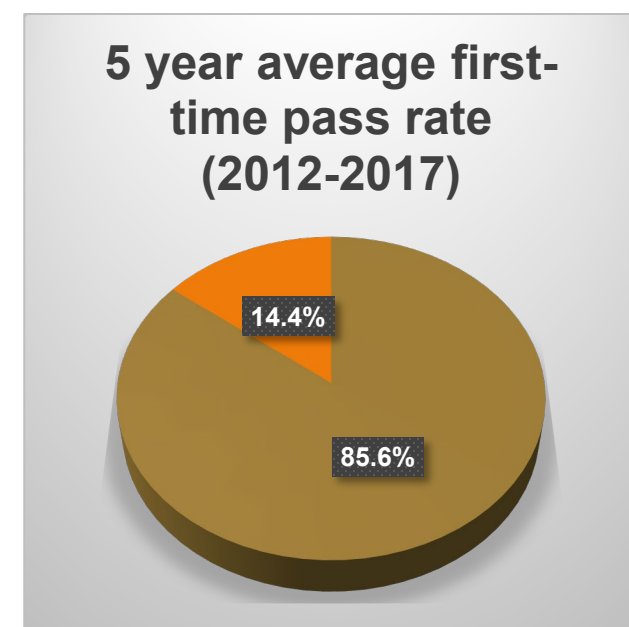
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INTRODUCTION

Certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) earn certification to practice clinical anesthesia by sitting for and passing the National Certification Exam (NCE) administered by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA).

There has been a nationwide decline in NCE first-pass rates over the last ten years.

The goal of this evidence-based project is to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of an educational toolkit for CRNA program directors outlining the best practices for selecting and preparing candidates to improve NCE first-pass rates



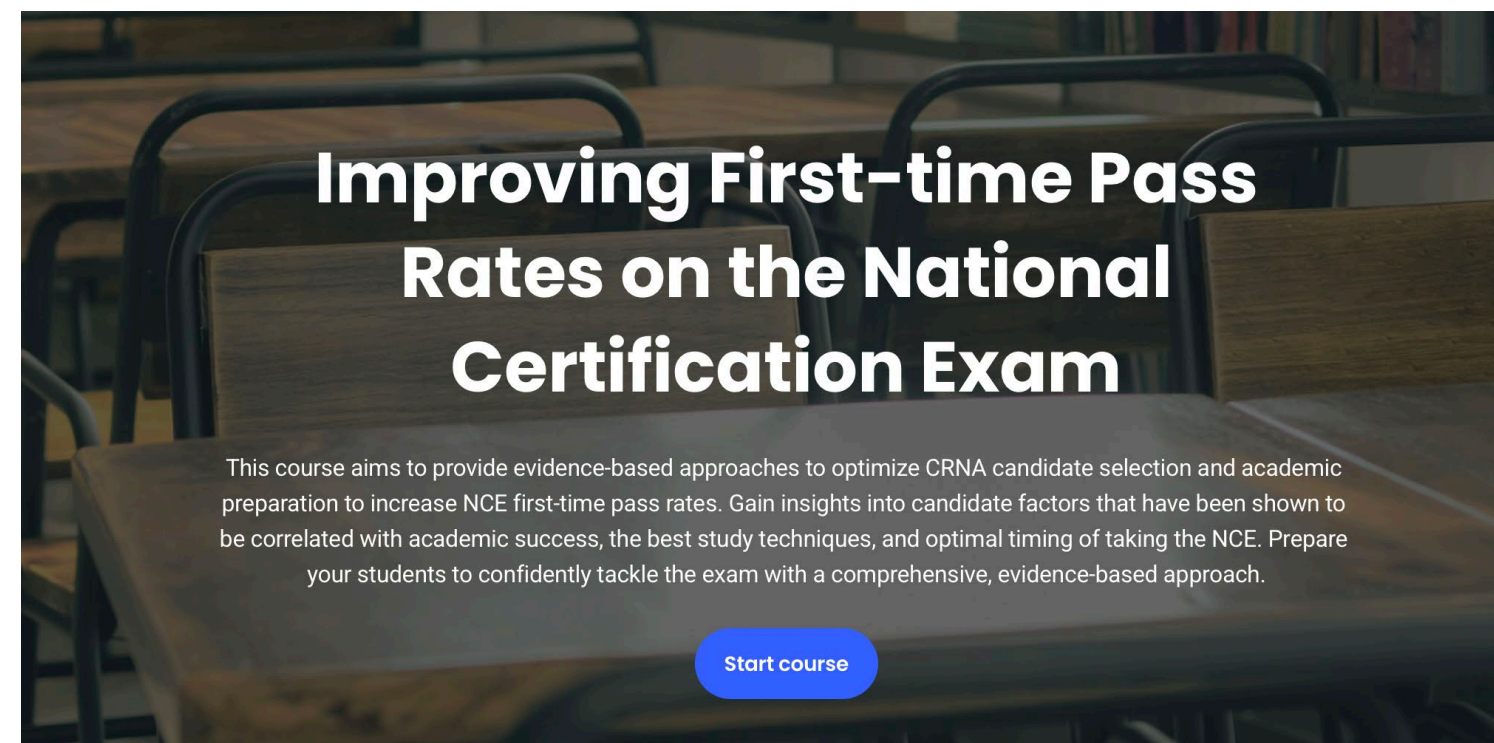
BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

The United States is projected to experience a CRNA shortage in 2025 to the magnitude of 200,000 to 450,000 anesthesia providers.

Graduated registered nurse anesthetists (GRNAs) who fail to obtain certification to practice suffer financially and psychologically and further contribute to the imminent CRNA shortage.

CRNA programs who fail to meet first-pass rate criteria for their graduating cohorts require monitoring and are subject to the revocation of their accreditation if they fail to improve NCE first-pass rates.

FORMULATING THE EDUCATIONAL TOOLKIT



Review of the literature



Population Selection



Surveys



Data Analysis

- We reviewed the literature for pre- and post-matriculation factors that improved NCE first-pass rates.
- This evidence-based pilot project targeted five CRNA program directors in North Carolina:
 - Duke University
 - Western Carolina University
 - University of North Carolina, Greensboro
 - University of North Carolina, Charlotte
 - Eastern Carolina University
- Pre- and post-toolkit RedCap surveys were distributed to the five program directors assessing their cohort demographics and their assessment of our toolkit, respectively.

LITERATURE REVIEW: SUCCESSFUL CHARACTERISTICS

Pre-matriculation Factors

- Pre-matriculation GPA (i.e. science, nursing, etc.)
- GRE scores*
- Type and length of critical care experience
- Essays and personal statements
- Personality

Post-Matriculation Factors

- Integration of evidence-based learning techniques (i.e. spaced repetition, active recall, interleaving, etc.)
- Integration of student-led lectures
- Integration of problem-based learning
- Preparation for and timing of SEE examination

(Not sure what's best to go in this section; should we include a QR code that links to our toolkit, and expand on the highlights included in the kit in this section?)