

Nov. 8, 2021

NCSBN's Core Annual Report Project

What is it? This is a win-win situation!

- We collect your core nursing education data, clean and verify the data, and then provide you with a final report – decreasing your workload. One board of nursing (BON) said participation decreased their workload on their annual reports by 80%!
- We will analyze the aggregate data ultimately creating the first national core education database.

How many BONs are currently participating?

1. As of November 2021, there are 22 BONs participating.
2. As of November 2021, there are seven BONs that have expressed interest, and NCSBN has been actively working with four of them.
3. Associate members have also expressed interest in participating, and it is our goal to open the database to associate members in the future.

How does this work?

1. From NCSBN's groundbreaking [2020 metrics and outcomes study](#) of nursing education, core questions (only 49 questions) were developed to be answered consistently across all programs.
2. BONs can add any of their own additional questions.
3. NCSBN sends the BON Qualtrics survey link, and the BON then sends this to their programs for entering data.
4. NCSBN sends BONs a PDF of the survey so that programs can use it to collect their data and then enter the data into the Qualtrics survey at a later time, if the program prefers.
5. An introduction and detailed directions are included on the survey.
6. NCSBN provides an email address for any questions the programs might ask. NCSBN will answer all program questions, though NCSBN may ask BONs for clarification related to their additional questions.
7. Because this is a core survey, all questions must be answered before the respondent can move on to the next question.
8. Once the program submits their survey, they can print out their submission and can use it for next year's survey.
9. NCSBN closes the survey after conferring with the BON. Once closed:
 - a. NCSBN cleans the data (for multiple submissions by one program, etc.).

- b. NCSBN verifies unreasonable answers on the core survey with the program (such as graduation rates calculated to be over 100%, etc.). However, we will leave it to the BONs to verify any questionable data in their additional questions.
- c. NCSBN sends the BON a final report:
 - i. Responses to the core questions and the BON's additional questions are presented.
 - ii. Colorful graphs and matrix tables are included in the final report.
 - iii. NCSBN highlights any of the NCSBN quality indicators that are not met by individual programs.
 - iv. Graduation rates for a snapshot in time are calculated.
 - v. BONs will receive the final report three weeks after the survey is closed – *as long as the programs are prompt in getting back to NCSBN with questions about data cleaning and verification.*
 - vi. The BONs will receive their raw data via Excel.
10. Annually NCSBN's Research Department will analyze all the aggregate data from this core nursing education database. It should be noted that the BONs' additional questions are not included in this aggregate data analysis since those questions are not consistent across BONs.

How do BONs participate?

1. To get started: Send NCSBN your BON's logo and permission to use it. That, along with NCSBN's logo, will adorn the survey BONs send to their programs.
2. Send NCSBN any additional questions that your BON would like to ask.
 - a. Additional questions are *not* required.
 - b. If your BON wishes to include additional questions, here are a few suggestions, based on NCSBN's experience:
 - i. Be mindful of the purpose of the additional question: Will your BON use those data? The fewer and simpler the questions, the more likely respondents will answer them reliably and in a timely manner.
 - ii. Please coordinate with the NCSBN core survey to avoid redundancy between the NCSBN and your BON questions. Answering the same questions twice confuses faculty and does not engender confidence in the structure of the survey.
 - iii. Invite a peer to review additional questions for clarity. The NCSBN questions went through several robust reviews.
 - iv. The shorter the question, the better. Long involved questions are confusing to faculty.
3. Send NCSBN a list of all the programs in the jurisdiction so that NCSBN will know which programs need to submit a survey.

4. NCSBN designs the survey for your BON, though your BON will review it before it is sent.
5. Your BON will then send the survey out, along with the PDF for the programs to use when collecting data.
6. During data collection, NCSBN will periodically send your BON a notice about which programs have submitted their surveys. Your BON may want to remind programs that are close to or past the deadline.

When are these sent out?

1. Those using the academic year send them out Sept. 1st. Those using the calendar year send them out Jan. 1st. However, NCSBN is flexible with these dates.
2. NCSBN's process is to give the programs 30 days to submit their surveys. However, some BONs have chosen to increase that timeframe, and that is fine.