

Standard Setting

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Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Identify the purpose of conducting a standard setting
- Discuss the importance of standard setting
- Describe how the passing standard for the REx-PN[®] was set

What is Standard Setting?

- The process of determining one or more cut scores on a test
- In July 2021, the Registrar & CEO of the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) and the Executive Director & CEO of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) approved the passing standard for the REx-PN Examination
- The passing standard is -0.32 logits
- The passing standard will take effect January 4, 2022

Terms Used Interchangeably

- Cut score
 - Cut point
 - Passing standard
 - Pass mark (CPNRE)
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- Standard setting panelist
 - Standard setting judge
 - Standard setting subject matter expert (SME)

Importance of Standard Setting

- If the standard is set too low, some candidates who are unqualified will be licensed/registered
- If the standard is set too high, some candidates who are qualified will be denied a license/registration

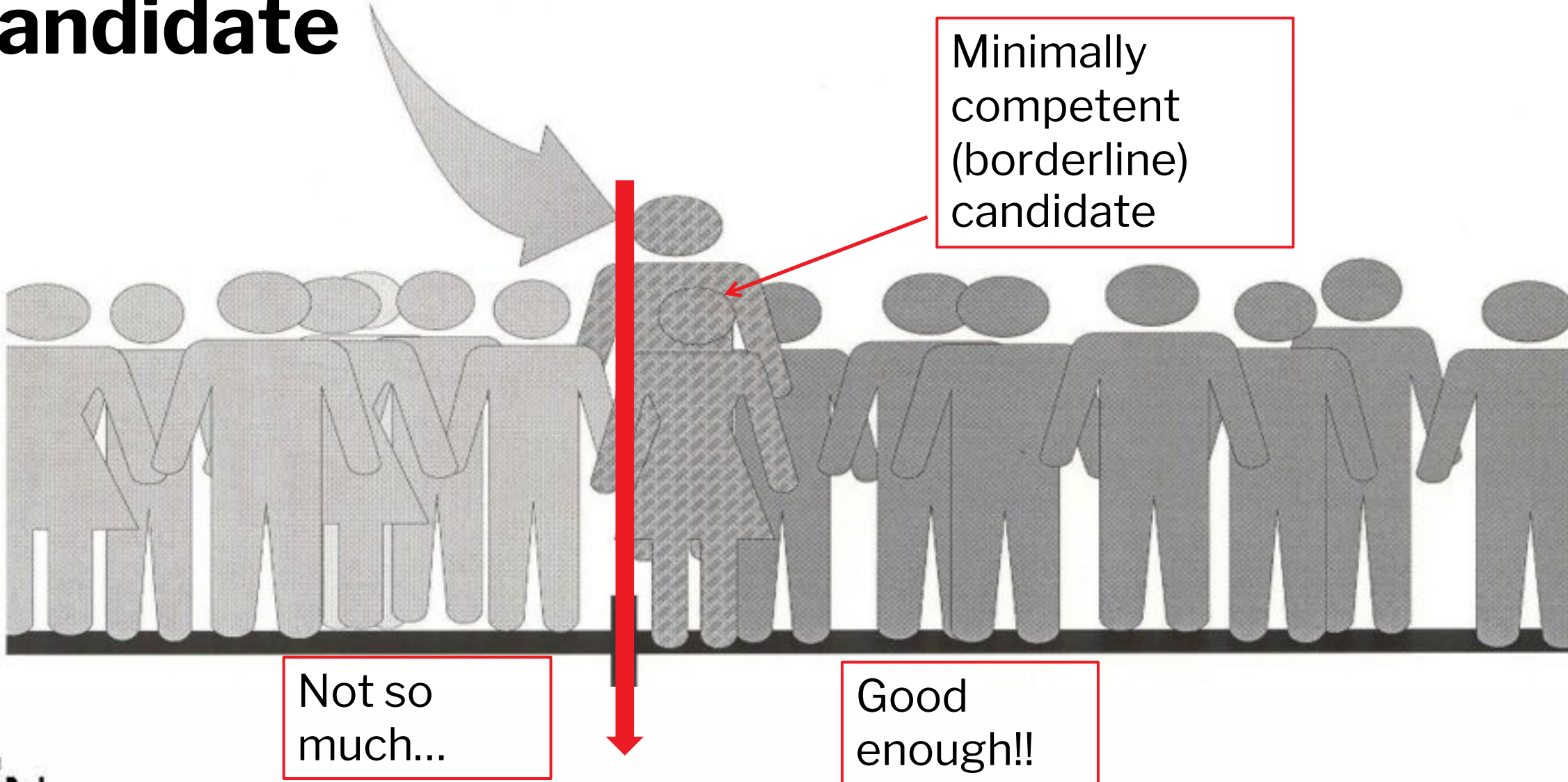
How to set the Passing Standard for the REx-PN[®]

1. Select the Panel of Judges
2. Define “**Minimally Competent Candidate**”
3. Train judges on the standard setting method
4. Conduct a standard setting workshop
5. Establish the passing standard

1. Select the Panel of Judges

- How many judges are needed?
 - Minimum: 9
 - At least one faculty member
 - At least one entry-level LPN/RPN with less than 12 months of clinical experience
- Who are qualified as judges?
 - Criteria approved by Practical Nurse Exam Committee (PNEC)

2. Define Minimally Competent Candidate



2. Define Minimally Competent Candidate

- To establish a passing standard, we focus on the candidates that possess “just enough” knowledge, skills, and ability to practice entry-level nursing safely and effectively
- We don't focus on candidates with abilities that are very high or very low
- We concentrate on those who are “on the fence”

3. Train Judges on the Standard Setting Method

- Modified Angoff Method
 - Imagine **out of 100 minimally competent candidates, how many would answer the question correctly**
 - Judges give ratings between 1 to 99
 - Lower ratings = more difficult question
 - Would vs. should

Example

- **The nurse is caring for a female client who was brought to the emergency department (ED) by the spouse. Based on the client's injuries, the nurse suspects the client may have been physically abused. Which of the following actions would be most appropriate for the nurse to take?**
 - a. Question the client about the possibility of abuse when the spouse is not in the room.
 - b. Explain to the client that the client will have to speak with a police officer to rule out the possibility of abuse.
 - c. Explain to the spouse that the client's injuries appear to be the result of physical abuse.
 - d. Ask the client and the spouse how long they have been married.

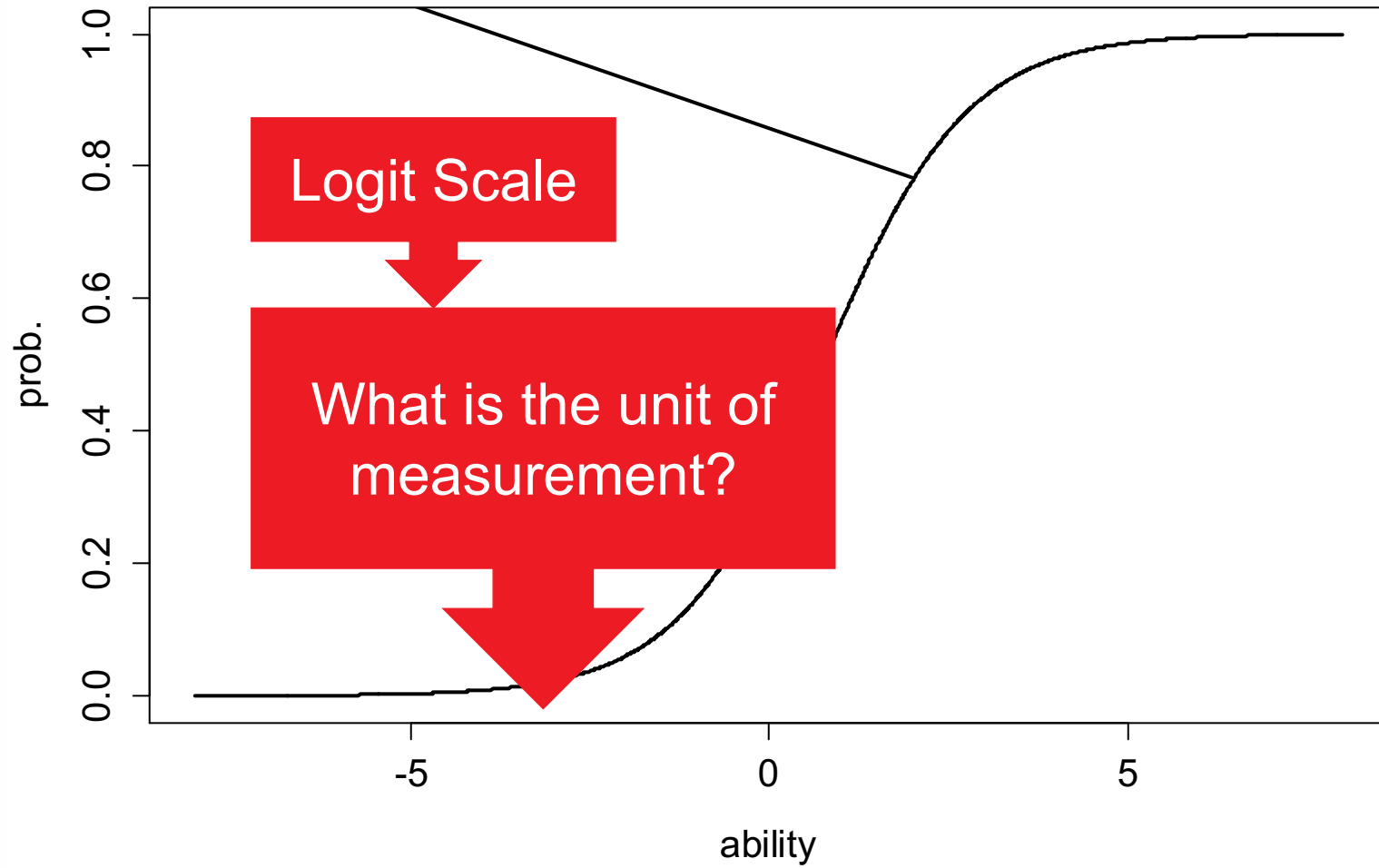
4. Conduct a Standard Setting Workshop

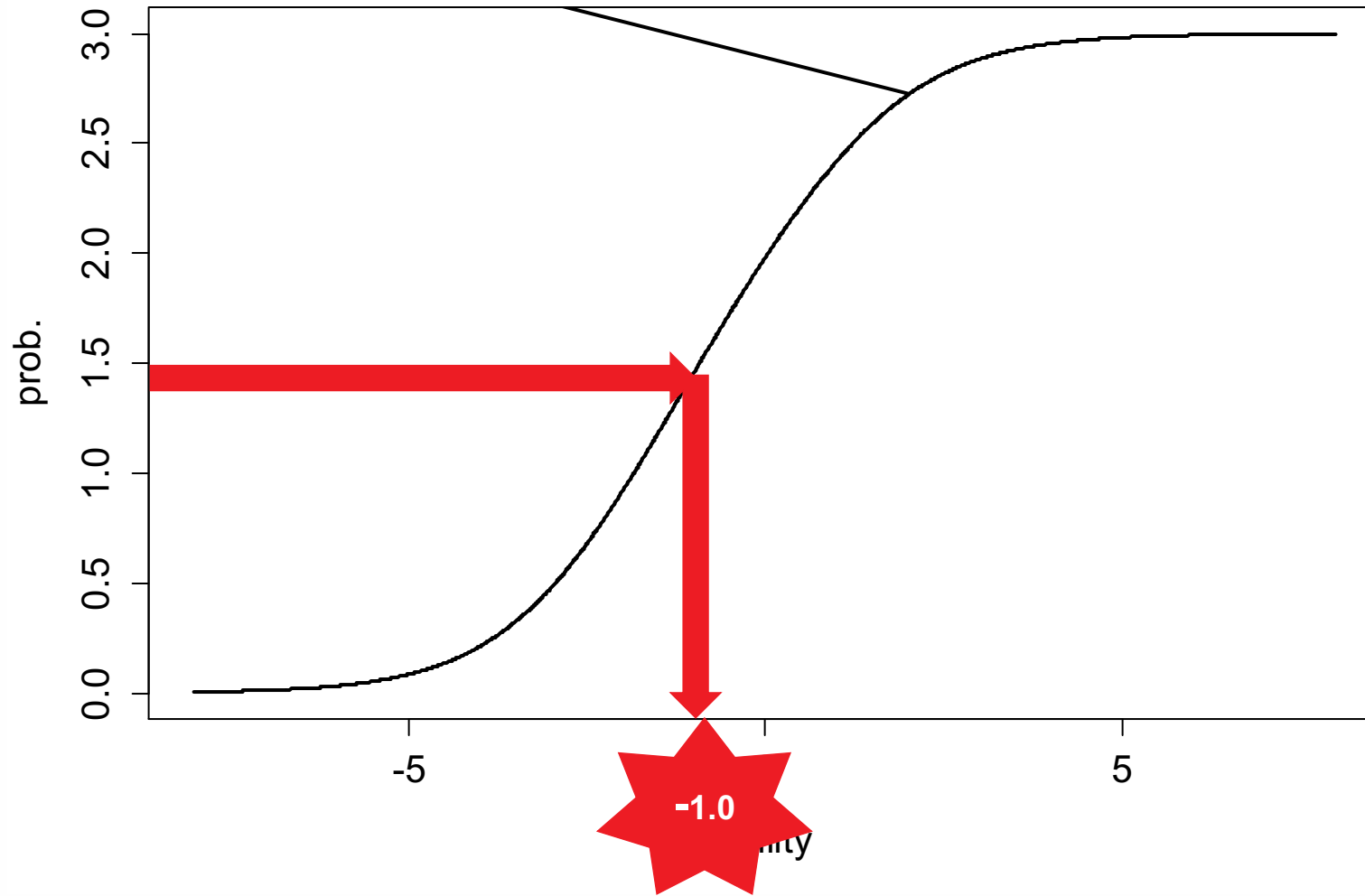
- A two-day workshop
- The training on MCC and Angoff method will be provided
- Practice items will be provided for exercising item review and rating
- Reviews and rates 120 REx-PN[®] items across all test plan areas

How to Calculate a Cut Point

	Judge 1	Judge 2
Item 1	0.50	0.33
Item 2	0.25	0.33
Item 3	1.00	0.50
Total	1.75	1.16

$$\frac{1.75 + 1.16}{2} = 1.46$$





5. Establish the Passing Standard

- PNEC recommended the passing standard to the Registrar & CEO of BCCNM and the Executive Director & CEO of CNO considering:
 - The passing standard recommended by the standard setting panel
 - Candidate performance from field testing
- The Registrar & CEO of BCCNM and the Executive Director & CEO of CNO approved the passing standard

Take-home messages

- Standard setting is a policy decision, aided by psychometric process
- No “true” value exists
- Related to mission of the organization and the examination (e.g., public protection)
- Standards should be revisited when test specifications, scope of practice, education programs and/or other factors change

Thank you!