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What many civilians might not realize is it takes an incredibly long time before becoming a registered nurse. The process starts with four years of college, either on campus or accredited online universities. Then the young grad will spend the next year or two walking the floor of a hospital, clinic or similar health institute, gaining practical experience. Only then can he or she take the National Council Licensure Examination (NYCLEX). Pass it and he or she can officially be called a Registered Nurse.

Many experienced nurses openly admit taking the exam comes with their share of horror stories. The biggest is the dread of not passing. One of nearly every eight actually don't pass the first time. This doesn't mean one shouldn't take the test and be satisfied with their lot. There are some things an RN candidate can do to make it easier on themselves and be part of the 85% that pass the first time. If you need more information about [health science degree online](#), look on the internet.

No matter how you look at it, a young nurse about to take her exam has usually only been working at a hospital, clinic or similar health organization for one to two years. One of the points of the NYCLEX is it tests general knowledge of all aspects of registered nursing. There is no way a young nurse can have worked every department of a hospital in that amount of time. Her brain has become specialized by the departments she has worked in; pushing other things she might have learned to the back burner.

Therefore, she should meet her personnel director, direct supervisor or a career counselor and review what she's done with her time in the work force. Do a solid overview of the parts of the institution she's garnered practical experience in, and areas she hasn't touched since her text books.

Now select a NYCLEX prep course. Don't be afraid to ask the school what their passing record is before enrolling. The go on the web and double check their numbers. Obviously, the better the rate, the better the school. Since this is your career, take the time to do a bit of research.

When taking the course, make sure to concentrate on the areas one hasn't worked in. This is usually where a nurse candidate is prone to fail, if any. Ask to see if the course comes with sample questions and drills. These are probably the most important parts of the course. They are a precursor of what to come, and familiarity in this case helps generate success.

Of course, another advantage of taking the prep online is you can do it when it's convenient to you. As you've already found out, being the rookie on the team means you get the odd shifts. The online prep exam doesn't care if you take your sessions at three in the afternoon or the morning; just make sure to take all of them. There is an abundance of information about [online programs](#) on the web.

Also understand the profession is forgiving. Many RN's didn't pass the NYCLEX their first time either. In fact, some claim to say it made them better prepared when they took it again and did become RN's.

No matter if you are just entering this field or updating your resume, make sure you participate in [accredited online universities](#). You can get your [medical degree online](#) and the work experience you need, but make sure the degree is worth the paper it's printed on.

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