

# CCGA Nursing Program Earning High Rank on Exams

By ANNA HALL The Brunswick News

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When College of Coastal Georgia launched its four-year nursing baccalaureate degree program in 2009, college officials had high hopes the students enrolled in the program would excel.

Now, six years later, those hopes have become reality. The program continually receives praise for its achievements.

Most recently, it was announced the college's School of Nursing and Health Sciences earned a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing National Council Licensure Examination, or NCLEX.

"These results are outstanding," said Patricia Kraft, Southeast Georgia Health System dean of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Administered by the independent, not-for-profit nursing board, the exams grant a nursing license to those entering the field.

For the second term in a row, May and December 2014, the graduating class of nurses earning bachelor of science and nursing degrees with the college earned a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX exams.

The excellent exam results have raised the college's nursing program to the top tier regionally and nationally. Ninety-three percent of the examination questions were answered correctly as compared to 82 percent nationally and 86 percent regionally previously.

The college's associate in science of nursing two-year program has also seen brag-worthy results on exams, as test-takers ranked in the top 17 percent nationally and the top 26 percent regionally of nurses taking the test.

Lydia Watkins, assistant professor of Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program coordinator, pointed out that graduates were not only passing, but also passing on their first attempt.

"Most of our students have job offers before or right after graduation and have participated in service-learning projects within the community," Watkins said.



The superlative results have led to Kraft and Curt Spires, associate dean and assistant professor of nursing, being invited to present and share the college's success story with the Georgia Association of Nursing Deans and Directors and other nursing organizations, Kraft said.

The outstanding showcase seen on the recent series of exams as well as the honor of presenting to nursing organizations is most certainly linked to the rigorous course work and high standards set by the program's staff.

"I know the last few years have required our nursing faculty and staff to go above and beyond in all aspects of their work, but the payoff has been phenomenal for our students," Kraft said.