

# Kaplan Nursing and Grossmont College: Partners in Success



**School:** Grossmont College  
**Location:** El Cajon, California  
**Partnered with Kaplan:** June, 2010  
**Kaplan Programs Utilized:** Integrated Testing + NCLEX-PN Deluxe Program

## Challenge

- Raise Grossmont College's NCLEX® pass rates following a series of failure rates in the 80th percentile from previous years
- Incorporate a new combination of effective, robust remediation resources to help struggling students

## Solution

- Simplify Grossmont's approach to testing by fully integrating Kaplan's standardized testing options into each cohort's curriculum
- Provide a comprehensive NCLEX® review course for each student following graduation

## Results

- 2009-2010: Passing rate was 89.36
- 2010-2011: Passing rate rose to 92.23% when Grossmont partnered with Kaplan
- 2011-2012: Passing rate continued to increase to 96.61%
- 2012-2013: Passing rate remained high at 95.77%\*

*"Our school, like any other school of nursing, is committed to excellence in what we do. We want to produce the best, most highly qualified graduate that we can through our program. Our partnership with Kaplan has helped us make a difference in graduating what we feel are competent practitioners."*

- Debbie Yaddow, MSN, RN, Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, Grossmont College School of Nursing

## Building a foundation of excellence

As a school offering a two-year Associate's Nursing Degree program, Grossmont College maintains high standards for its faculty, students, and curriculum. "We take in forty students twice a year, and we use a point system for admission to our program, so these are the top students in the area...the high-achievers," says Debbie Yaddow. Grossmont is well known in the community for its high standards and commitment to excellence. "Our program has a great reputation for accepting the best of the best," says Yaddow.

## Realizing the benefits of purposeful, comprehensive remediation resources

Grossmont knew it was time for a change in 2008 when their passing rates dropped to below 85%. "That just wasn't acceptable," says Yaddow. "We tried other testing and NCLEX® review companies, and paid a lot of money for them, and what we found was they didn't really make a difference. And that's largely because they did not have enough remediation practicing in it for students. So even though we spent a lot of money customizing exams, there was never enough. And we also didn't receive the support we needed on how to use the product." However, some faculty were initially hesitant to make a change.

## Making the switch with the help of a dedicated support staff

With pass rates declining at an all time low, Grossmont made the switch to Kaplan in 2010 because of their dedicated support staff and extensive and effective remediation tools. "Before Kaplan, we didn't receive the support we needed on how to use the products. When we switched to Kaplan, right away we received really good support. Faculty in the beginning were hesitant to change, but the support was there and our nursing consultant really helped faculty to embrace the product."



\*Reflects data as of February 19, 2014. Not all 2013 graduates had tested at this point, therefore final percentage subject to change.

*“The proof is in the board exams. Before Kaplan, we had a high attrition rate and low board scores. And now we have a low attrition rate and high board scores. And we attribute that to Kaplan. We just do.”*

## Achieving results through custom integration, comprehensive review, and ease-of-use

The first component of the Kaplan product Grossmont made sure to incorporate was standardized testing integrated into its curriculum.

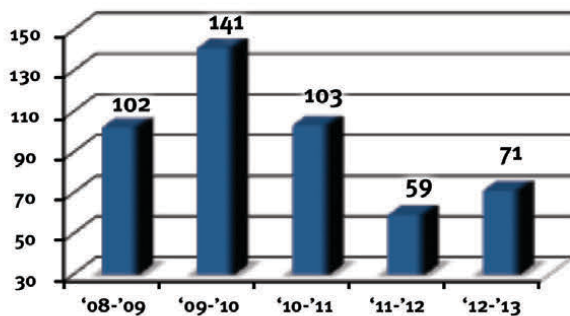
“Kaplan’s resources are excellent. They are very user-friendly and intuitive and not overwhelming for students or faculty. We just follow the instructions that come straight from Kaplan. Students must remediate as directed and take Kaplan’s practice exams, available to them even in the specialty areas. That’s really good. That’s just what they need, and we have had incredible success,” says Yadow.



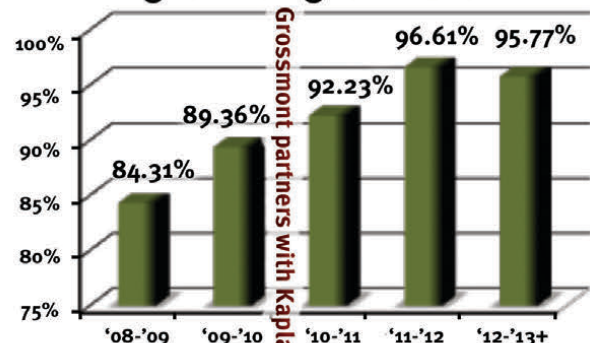
Since partnering with Kaplan in 2010, Grossmont has watched its NCLEX® pass rates climb steadily from the 80th percentile and into the mid-90’s. **In fact, even the new NCLEX-RN test plan that went into effect in April 2013, which preceded a nationwide decline in passing rates of first time US test takers, did not phase the passing rates of Grossmont students using the Kaplan program.** Between 2012 and 2013, four out of the school’s five cohorts experienced a 100% pass rate. “The proof is in the board exams. Before Kaplan, we had a high attrition rate and low board scores. And now we have a low attrition rate and high board scores. And we attribute that to Kaplan. We just do.”

## Grossmont’s NCLEX-PN Total Test Takers, Passing and Attrition Rates\* Before and After Partnering with Kaplan

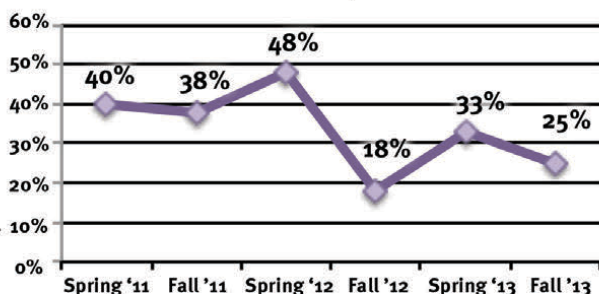
**Number of first-time, graduating test takers**



**Passing rate for first-time, graduating test takers**



**Attrition rate by semester**



\*Number of First-Time, Graduating Test Takers and Passing Rate for First-Time, Graduating Test Takers are categorized by academic year (e.g., July 1st - June 30th) and reflect the results of all graduates who have taken the NCLEX examination for the first time within the last five years (including those students who graduated more than five years ago) <http://www.rn.ca.gov/schools/passrates.shtml>. Attrition Rate by Semester compiled from self-reporting performed by Grossmont. +Graph reflects data as of February 19, 2014. Not all 2013 graduates had tested at this point, therefore final percentage subject to change.