

How JRCNMT Computes Certification Exam Pass Rates

For the past several years the JRCNMT Board of Directors has been reviewing various methods of computing and tracking a program's certification exam pass rates. Computations can be complicated in nuclear medicine technology since there are two examinations. In the process of examining the data from accredited programs, it has become evident that:

- Only first-time examinee results should be considered. Trying to keep track of repeat examinees is cumbersome for programs and repeat scores tend to reduce program pass rate averages more often than they raise them.
- The five-year average pass rate for each exam (ARRT and NMTCB) should stand alone.
- First-time pass rates for all program graduates for a specified five-year period are processed as a group by examination. It is not accurate to compute annual cohort averages then average the annual averages.

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)

The Candidate Exam Results report on the ARRT website provides a list of all first-time examinees for any time period entered by the user (single or multiple years). The first-time pass rate average is computed for the designated cohort of examinees as part of the report generation process and is noted in the lower right corner of the report. The pass rate is computed using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ pass rate} = \left[\frac{\text{\# of first-time examinees passing the exam in the designated time period}}{\text{total \# of first-time examinees in the designated time period}} \right] \times 100$$

The JRCNMT uses the pass rate from this report, with no additional computations.

Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board (NMTCB)

The NMTCB has two different exam reports available on their website. Neither report computes a program's pass rate so it must be calculated manually. The JRCNMT will compute the pass rate when submitted each year with a program's annual report but a program should also know how to compute it.

Examination History Report includes all of a program's examinees (first time and repeat examinees) since the year the NMTCB digitized examinee records. Examinee names are on the report but that is not a problem since FERPA rules permit sharing of this data with educational accrediting agencies. If this report is submitted to the JRCNMT, student names are used to remove repeat examinees from the list before the pass rate is computed by JRCNMT staff using the formula noted in the ARRT section above. A program should not redact graduate names from this report or the office cannot identify and remove repeat examinees.

Yearly Report for JRCNMT is the second report available on the NMTCB website. It provides results of first-time examinees that graduated during a designated period of time entered by the user. JRCNMT staff computes the pass rate average using the formula identified above after determining the total number of first-time examinees and the total number of passing examinees for the five year period. A pass rate for each year is not computed - only one for the full five year period being reviewed.