Timothy W. Meyers, Ph.D., May 2016   EVALUATION AND MEASUREMENT

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS (SES) AND THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR REGISTERED NURSES:
COMPARING SES INDICATORS IN MEDIATED AND MODERATED LOGISTIC
REGRESSION (179 pp.)

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Passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) is required for a
graduate of an accredited nursing program to practice nursing. The current study
investigated first time student success on the NCLEX-RN, which is the examination used
to grant licensure to Registered Nurses (RNs) after graduation from an accredited
institution such as a school or a college of nursing. Universities, colleges, faculty,
students, parents, healthcare employers, the National Council of States Boards of Nursing
(NCSBN), and society in general have a vested interest in the success of nursing students
on the NCLEX-RN. It is imperative that nurses are properly prepared and competent in
providing safe and reliable healthcare services. Failure to pass the NCLEX-RN prevents
practice as an RN, resulting in potential financial hardship, professional embarrassment,
and a continued shortage of qualified RNs.

Existing data from nursing students ($N = 1,176$) at a large, Midwestern university
were analyzed. The main purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between
Socioeconomic Status (SES), the ACT, and the NCLEX-RN. Through moderation and
mediation logistic regression models, the above relationships were investigated.
Additionally, Conditional Process Analysis was used to gain a more in-depth
understanding of the complexity of the relationship between SES, ACT, and the NCLEX-

RN. Proxies of SES were explored, which included: (1) Pell Grant Eligibility, (2) Student Race, (3) College Generation (i.e., first-generation or non first-generation), and (4) Zip Code.