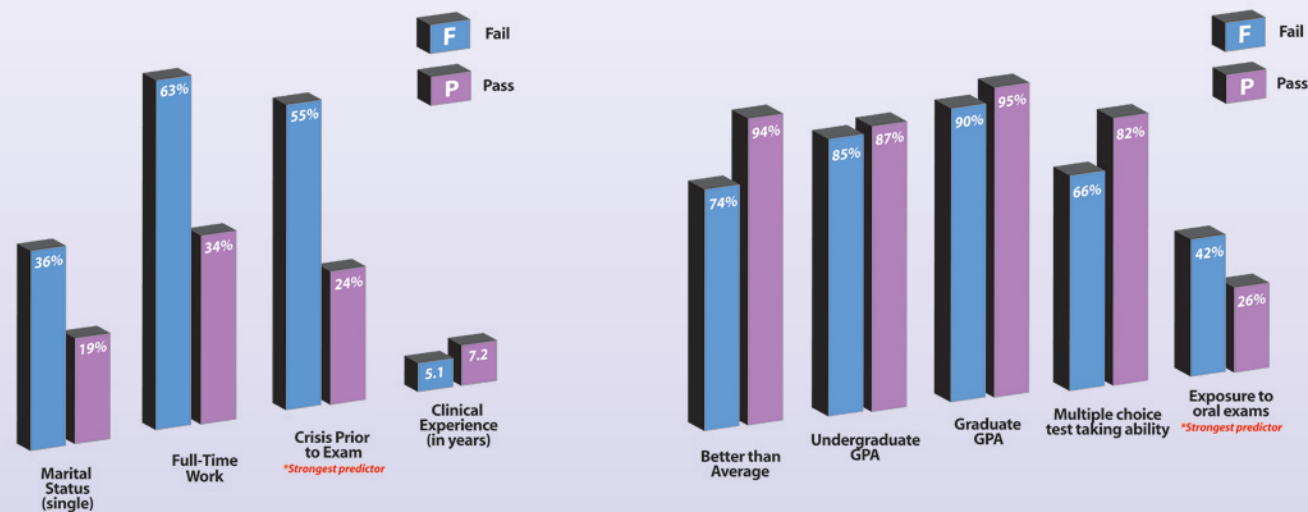


CERTIFICATION

Who Passes... Who Fails... Characteristics of PNP Students



Students who failed were more likely to:

- Be single
- Work full time during school
- Have less pediatric experience prior to entering program
- Experience a personal crisis prior to exam (**strongest predictor**)

Self-described academic characteristics of students who failed:

- Described their performance as "average" versus "better than average"
- Lower reported undergraduate and graduate GPA
- Less competence in multiple choice test taking
- More exposure to oral exams during their program (**strongest predictor**)

Methodology:

Descriptive study of self reported social and academic characteristics associated with PNP students who:

- Experienced one failed PNP certification exam attempt and successfully re-examined during the 2000-03 test period
- Passed PNP certification exam at first attempt during the 2000-2003 test period
- Survey questions reflected issues identified by PNP faculty members of the PNCB's Program Review Committee

Failed and Passed groups compared on:

- Continuous measures (e.g. GPA)
 - » Means and standard deviations
- Categorical measures (e.g. employment)
 - » Numbers of respondents and percentages

Inferential procedures

T-tests for continuous variables
Chi-square for categorical variables

Sample:

Population

- 2214 exam administrations during January 2000 through August 2003 test period

- 271 examination failures

- 89 eliminated for address failures and/or not re-examining

Group 1:

182 failed students representing 61 programs who eventually passed exam by August 2003

Group 2:

202 passing students
105 matched to 47 of 61 respective programs
97 passing students added to Group 2 from the 61 programs

N=384

- » 202 passed students
- » 182 failed students

Final sample N=165

- » 69 failed students (Group 1)
- » 96 passed students (Group 2)

183 returned out of 384 mailed (47.6%)

18 returns not included due to incomplete information

Study Objectives:

Describe the educational and social role experiences of PNP students sitting for the national qualifying exam.

Identify factors associated with successful and unsuccessful performance on the national qualifying exam.

Offer recommendations for faculty advising students to support certification success.

Recommendations for Faculty:

Strengthen multiple choice test taking skills

Limit oral exams

Counsel regarding impact of personal crises on exam performance

Encourage limitation of work hours during program

Offer study assistance to self-described, "average" students

Consider prior pediatric nursing experience in graduate admission



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