

NCREHS Exam Overview

The NCREHS exam consists of three components – National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) standardized exam, face-to-face Board interview and handwritten essay. The NEHA portion of the exam is a timed electronic exam administered at a Pearson VUE testing center. The essay and interview portions are administered by the NC State Board of Environmental Health Specialist Examiners (Board) on specific dates throughout the year (see Board Calendar on www.ncrehs.com). The chart below offers additional information regarding the exam components.

Who is Eligible to Take the NCREHS Exam?	NCREHS Interns are eligible to take the NCREHS exam at any time after the Board has approved their initial registration application. They have a maximum of three years from the date of registration approval to pass the exam. (NOTE: Registration date is date Board approves registration application at a Board meeting; it is not the first date of employment.)	
Description	NEHA Exam	NCREHS Portion of Exam
	Standardized online (via Pearson VUE computer only) timed exam consisting of 225 multiple-choice questions	Handwritten essay and face-to-face interview with Board
Exam Logistics		
Administered by	Pearson VUE and NEHA	NCREHS Board
Exam Length	4.25 hours (including a break)	2.5 hours
Type of Exam	On Computer	Handwritten (essay) and face-to-face (interview)
Location	Pearson VUE Testing Center	Board specified location
Exam Date	Date and location selected by Intern via Pearson VUE's scheduling calendar	Board specified dates (calendar published annually in January)
How to Apply	Directly to NCREHS Board via application form	Directly to NCREHS Board via application form
Payment Information		
Who to Pay	NCREHS Board	NCREHS Board
Cost	\$280 per exam date (determined by NEHA)	\$50 per exam date
What Happens After Applying?	NCREHS Board approves Intern exam application and forwards Intern information to NEHA	NCREHS Board notifies Intern of application approval
	Within a few weeks, Intern will receive an exam authorization number and instructions via an email directly from Pearson VUE.	Intern reports to NCREHS testing location on designated date/time and completes the handwritten essay and face-to-face interview with Board members
	Intern works directly with Pearson VUE to schedule the exam at a local Pearson VUE testing Center (NOTE: Intern has <i>ONE YEAR</i> from date of approval to take NEHA exam)	NCREHS Board informs Intern of essay and interview scores approximately 4 weeks after exam date.
	Intern reports to Pearson VUE Testing Center on designated date/time and takes exam	
	Intern informed of NEHA unofficial exam score at completion of exam (NOTE: NCREHS Passing score for NEHA Exam is 570)	
NOTE: NCREHS passing score for the NEHA exam is 570 while NEHA's passing score is 650. There may be instances when an Intern does not meet the NEHA passing score yet does meet the NCREHS passing score.		
NEHA reports official NEHA exam score to NCREHS Board, and NCREHS Board informs Intern of official score.		
When to Expect Scores	4 Weeks	4 Weeks
	Compiled Exam Score - Within 6 weeks of completing all 3 exam components	
Exam Scoring	NCREHS Board uses a weighted average formula to determine exam scores with the NEHA score counting twice and the essay and interview scores each counting once.	
	NCREHS Board Rules require Interns to score 60% or higher on each component part of the examination with an overall weighted average score of 70%.	
	All 3 components of the exam, NEHA, essay and interview, must be complete before the Board can determine if the overall weighted average score is 70%.	
Retesting	Intern can retest after 2 weeks by reapplying to the NCREHS Board.	Intern can retest at any subsequent Board testing date
	No limit on number of times Intern may retest	No limit on number of times Intern may retest
	NOTE: NCREHS passing score for the NEHA exam is 570 while NEHA's passing score is 650. There may be instances when an Intern does not meet the NEHA passing score yet does meet the NCREHS passing score.	
No Show or Cancel with Less than 24-Hour Notice	Forfeit \$280 exam cost	Forfeit \$50 exam cost

Questions? Contact Donna Coffey at rehs.board@dhhs.nc.gov or (919) 304-1168.