**NP vs. Physician Exam Pass Rates**

Columbia University did a 5-year pilot program (2008-2012) to see how their DNPs did on an exam compared to physicians.

NPs took a **watered-down** version (DCC – Diplomat in Comprehensive Care) of the USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Exam) step 3 exam (This is the easiest of all 3 licensing exams physicians take. In fact, there is a medical school saying "For Step 1, study for 2 months. For Step 2, study for 2 weeks. For Step 3, bring a #2 pencil.”)

The first-time **pass rate for US medical grads is 98%.**

The **pass rate for the DNPs ranged from 33% to 70%.** The final year it was given it was 33% (in 2012).

Sources:

<http://abcc.dnpcert.org/exam-pass-rates/>

“In 2008, the Council for the Advancement of Comprehensive Care (CACC) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) collaborated on a DNP certification exam based on the USMLE Step III exam required by graduate medical students. In 2008, 45 DNP graduates took the exam and slightly less than 50% passed; in 2009, 19 DNP graduates took the exam with a 57% passing rate.” Dana Galler, NP

<http://community.advanceweb.com/blogs/np_7/archive/2010/06/04/a-dnp-certification-exam.aspx>