



# SCNA Announces 2026 State Convention: Act, Innovate, & Lead: The Future of Nursing Starts Now

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The South Carolina Nurses Association (SCNA) is proud to announce its 2026 State Convention, to be held October 15–17, 2026, in beautiful Greenville. This year’s theme, “Act, Innovate, & Lead: The Future of Nursing Starts Now,” reflects a bold and timely call to action for nurses across all roles and specialties. As healthcare continues to evolve, this convention will serve as a dynamic space for nurses to engage, collaborate, and lead transformative changes in practice, education, research, and policy.

## Inspiring Keynote Speakers

SCNA is honored to welcome an exceptional lineup of keynote speakers who bring national expertise, leadership, and innovation to the forefront of nursing:

- Debra A. Hopla – A recognized leader in nursing practice, education, and workforce development
- Monica McLemore – A renowned scholar and advocate for health equity and reproductive justice
- Naida Rutherford - Richland County Coroner, a respected public health leader bringing a unique perspective on community health and forensic care.

These distinguished speakers will challenge attendees to think boldly, act decisively, be innovative in their workspaces, and lead with purpose in shaping the future of nursing in South Carolina.

## Why Attend

The 2026 SCNA Convention will offer:

- Engaging podium and poster presentations highlight innovation and best practices.
- Over 15 CEU hours that include confer-

		BEFORE JULY 1ST	AFTER JULY 2ND
Member Rates	Three Days	\$475.00	\$550.00
	Two Days	\$375.00	\$450.00
	One Day	\$275.00	\$350.00
Annual Meeting Only (Thursday)		\$0.00	\$0.00
Non-Member Rates	Three Days	\$625.00	\$700.00
	Two Days	\$525.00	\$600.00
	One Day	\$425.00	\$500.00
Undergrad Student *	Day Rate	\$50.00	\$75.00
Extra Meal Tickets not attending Convention		Three Days	\$260.00
Gala Tickets (Not included in convention registration fee)			
Regular Ticket(s)		\$75.00	\$100.00
Undergraduate Student Ticket(s)		\$50.00	\$50.00

GROUP RATES AVAILABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATE MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBER RATE - CONTACT ROSIE@SCNURSES.ORG FOR DETAILS

\*UNDERGRAD STUDENTS CONTACT ROSIE@SCNURSES.ORG IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND MORE THAN ONE DAY OF THE SCNA CONVENTION

- ence and on-demand sessions.
- Opportunities to network with nurse leaders, educators, and clinicians from across the state and beyond
- Insightful discussions on the future of nursing leadership, advocacy, and patient care
- Professional development opportunities designed to empower nurses at every stage of their careers.

We invite students, new graduates, seasoned clinicians, educators, and executive leaders to gain the tools and inspiration needed to lead and grow.

## Registration Now Open

Registration is officially open, with early bird pricing available for a limited time at [www.scnurses.org](http://www.scnurses.org).

[scnurses.org](http://www.scnurses.org). Attendees are encouraged to register early to secure the best rates and guarantee participation in this highly anticipated event.

## Experience Downtown Greenville

Set in the heart of downtown Greenville, this year’s convention offers more than just professional development; it provides experience. Attendees will enjoy walkable access to award-winning restaurants, vibrant shops, and scenic attractions, including Falls Park on the Reedy and the iconic Liberty Bridge.

Whether you are networking over dinner, exploring Main Street, or taking in the beautiful fall scenery, Greenville provides the perfect backdrop for connection, collaboration, and inspiration.

## Hotel Information

The convention will be hosted at Hyatt Regency Greenville. The room rate is \$192.00 per night, *plus applicable taxes (10%), and a destination fee (3%)*. You can reserve it on the website: [https://](https://www.hyatt.com/events/en-US/group-booking/GSPRG/G-NA26)

[www.hyatt.com/events/en-US/group-booking/GSPRG/G-NA26](https://www.hyatt.com/events/en-US/group-booking/GSPRG/G-NA26)

The 2026 SCNA State Convention is more than a conference; it is a movement. Together, we will act, innovate, and lead as we shape the future of nursing in South

Carolina and beyond.

We look forward to seeing you in Greenville this October. ■

# A Point-based Head-to-Toe Assessment Rubric



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## Abstract

This study was conducted to determine whether a point-based head-to-toe assessment rubric would improve students' formative and summative evaluations of the head-to-toe assessment and reduce instructor subjectivity. A survey was used to gather students' and the instructor's feedback on the ease of use and objectivity of the assessment tool. The post-survey indicated that the head-to-toe assessment rubric provided structure for both formative and summative evaluations for students and the instructor, reduced subjectivity, and enhanced objectivity for the instructor.

Keywords: assessment, rubrics in nursing education, rubrics in education, head-to-toe assessment, formative and summative evaluation.

## A Point-based Head-to-Toe Assessment Rubric

Completing an accurate patient assessment is crucial. Instructors have used multiple approaches to help students become proficient in patient assessment (Huber & Epp, 2021). Being proficient in patient assessment enables a nurse to recognize subtle changes in a patient's health (Fontenot et al., 2021). The ability to successfully execute an accurate patient assessment begins in

nursing school. The possibility of the instructor's subjectivity or the generality of the physical assessment tool may lead to a less-than-accurate assessment at the bedside.

## Implications for Nursing

According to Sezer et al. (2025), rubrics reduce subjectivity and facilitate mutual understanding between students and instructors. Arrogante et al. (2021) found that students preferred formative evaluation in clinical simulations. A standardized head-to-toe assessment guideline would be beneficial for the formative and summative evaluation in the lab portion of the class and further guide students in the clinical arena. Ensuring that instructors equip nursing students with the tools to perform accurate physical assessments is essential to providing adequate patient care. (Toney-Butler & Unison-Pace, 2023).

## Methods

A point-based head-to-toe assessment rubric was developed, allowing points to be assigned to each section of the assessment, including the general assessment, HEENT, heart/lungs, abdomen, and upper and lower extremities. The assessment tool was used by second-semester Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) students as a guide for conducting a head-to-toe assessment in the lab setting. The

instructor used the same guide to direct both formative and summative evaluations of students' ability to perform a concise, accurate patient assessment.

Before initiating the point-based assessment rubric, students and the instructor were given the option to not participate or withdraw from the study at any time. Consent for both the students and the instructor was administered on paper. A post-survey in paper form was completed by both the students and the instructor after the summative head-to-toe assessment. Both the consent and the survey were completed without the researcher's involvement.

## Analysis

The sections of the survey included Clarity and Design, Educational Value, Rubric Components, and Open-ended Feedback. The components of the survey were reviewed and analyzed by the researcher, utilizing both the students' and the instructor's feedback regarding qualitative and quantitative results.

**Results.** The results included both quantitative and qualitative feedback from the students and the instructor.

**Quantitative Results.** Quantitative results included information regarding clarity and design, educational value, and the overall components of the head-to-toe assessment rubric. For each section, additional subsections provided further