LOFTy Goals for Exam Development and Delivery?
A Case Study of a LOFT Transition for the AACN Critical Care Nursing Exams

What is LOFT?

- **Linear**
  - Fixed length for exams
  - Similar to fixed forms
  - Contrast with adaptive (CAT) testing

- **On-The-Fly**
  - Automated form generation
  - Unique to each examinee administration
  - Created either real-time or in advance

- **Testing**
  - Each candidate receives an equivalent form and testing experience
  - Fair assessment of their competencies

About AACN

- Credentials
- Exam development and distribution
- Variations among programs
AACN’s Motivations

- Challenges with fixed forms
- Implications for item writing
- Pretesting issues
- Banking issues
- Practice change issues

Transition Process for CCRN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Dev. Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Item Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pool Assembly</td>
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<td>Exam Review</td>
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<td>Standard Setting</td>
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<td>Launch Date</td>
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Why Use LOFT?

- Security: Each administration is a unique set of items, which makes cheating and harvesting much more difficult to do.
- Efficiency: Making changes to a publication pool does not require the creation of new fixed forms as removing a problematic item, adding pretest items, or changing the status of anchors can be done much more quickly.
- Equivalency: Each candidate still receives a testing experience that meets the exam specifications and is a fair assessment of their competencies.