



Department of Nursing
Policy #019

Standardized Testing and Remediation

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| Status: | Approved 10.11.2016 |
| Effective: | 10.11.2016 |
| Initiated by: | Admission, Progression Retention and Graduation Committee |
| Relevant WAC, Standard or criterion: | WAC 246-840-519, WAC 246-840-537 |

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for standardized testing and remediation processes using the HESI (Health Education Systems, Inc.) examinations.

HESI Testing

The Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) exam is a computerized nursing test administered electronically, online.

There will be specific nursing courses where the student will take the assigned nationally normed HESI specialty exams as well as an EXIT HESI exam taken in the final semester of the program.

Purpose for HESI Testing

Research demonstrates that a 900 or higher score on the EXIT HESI exam is highly predictive of passing the NCLEX exam. Students should aim to achieve a score of 900 or higher on each HESI specialty exam, and if this is not achieved on the first exam attempt, remediation and retests should be offered, as available. In fact, remediation is required for all students – but extent of remediation required will be based on the score. Course heads will be encouraged to integrate HESI testing into courses, when available, and remediation may take place within a course, or as directed by the nursing department before the next semester begins.

Incorporation of the HESI Exam into HU Nursing Courses:

Exams are administered in various nursing courses on a date during the course determined by the course head. There are many resources available for student preparation including self-assessment questions in textbooks, class materials, NCLEX practice questions, and adaptive learning modules.

Each course head or the department chair (in the case of adjunct faculty course heads) should direct students to the available resources early in the term.

HESI specialty exams should be equivalent to 10 to 15 percent of a total course grade. Requests for an exception to the 10-15% guideline should be presented to the curriculum committee for approval.

- Students with a HESI specialty exam score of 900 or above who have met the remediation requirement should be awarded all of the assigned class points for the HESI specialty exam.
- Students receiving a HESI exam score less than 900 will receive a reduced proportion of the assigned course points as specified in the course syllabus by the course head.
- All students scoring less than 850 will be required to take a 2nd HESI exam, if available, and score at least 850 before moving on to clinical the following semester.
- Course heads may also set benchmarks (required minimum scores) to pass their course.

An example of incorporating the HESI exam into course points as originally used in the NURS 300A syllabus:

- c. A small portion of the exam will cover psychiatric and oncology drugs which will be included later in the nursing curriculum (not in NURS300A), so a buffer* (adjusted score) has been programmed into the scoring rubric below:

| Raw Recommended HESI Scoring Interval: | = Adjusted Score* (your HESI score) | Prediction of NCLEX Success: | NURS300A Course Points Awarded: |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ≥ 900 | ≥ 850 | “Recommended performance” | 30 points. |
| 850-899 | 800-849 | “Acceptable performance” | 27 points. |
| 800-849 | 750-799 | “Near acceptable performance” | 24 points. |
| 750-799 | 700-749 | “Below acceptable performance” | 20 points. |
| 700-749 | 650-699 | “Below acceptable performance” | 15 points. |
| ≤ 699 | ≤ 649 | “Well below acceptable performance.” | No points. |

The following is a list of the exams offered in RN Specialties and should therefore be used in the corresponding courses:

| HESI Specialty Exam: | Course: | Plan of Study: |
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| Pathophysiology | NURS 310 | Spring, Sophomore Year. |
| Health Assessment | NURS 292L | Spring, Sophomore Year. |

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| Pharmacology | NURS 300A | Spring, Sophomore Year. |
| Dosage Calculations | NURS 300AL | Spring, Sophomore Year. |
| Fundamentals | NURS 216 | Fall, Junior Year. |
| Nutrition | NURS 215 | Fall, Junior Year. |
| Critical Thinking | NURS 312, 314 | Spring Junior Year. |
| Psychiatric/Mental Health | NURS 314 | Spring, Junior Year. |
| Maternity Nursing | NURS 316 | Summer, Junior Year. |
| Pediatric Nursing | NURS 316 | Summer, Junior Year. |
| Medical-Surgical | NURS 322L | Fall, Senior Year. |
| Community Health | NURS 317 | Fall, Senior Year. |
| Management | NURS 318 | Fall or Spr, Senior Year. |
| <u>Other specialty exams that may be offered:</u> Critical Care? Gerontology? Research? | ? ? NURS 208? | ? ? <i>Fall, Sophomore Year?</i> |
| HESI EXIT EXAM | NURS 418L | Spring Senior Year. |

HESI Exit Exam:

The HESI Exit Exam is administered during the final semester of the BSN program during NURS 418L. Just like the specialty exams, a customized online remediation plan is created for each question missed. All students must remediate according to the following guidelines and submit proof of remediation before taking a second exit exam. Students should aim for a 900 or higher benchmark score on the HESI exam before sitting for the NCLEX exam. However, a score of 850 will be considered passing for the HESI exit exam.

The criteria for passing NURS 418 and the incorporated HESI EXIT EXAM will be outlined in the NURS 418 syllabus.

Remediation Process for all HESI Exams:

All students are required to remediate the recommended materials following any HESI exam. All students must demonstrate remediation to the course head or clinical faculty advisor. The remediation requirements are dependent on each individual student's HESI score associated with each exam.

After all students have taken the HESI exam, it is important for the course head to upload the results as soon as possible. It takes approximately 72 hours AFTER UPLOAD for remediation to be available to students.

Students may take a second version of the HESI in a course, if one is available, in coordination with the course head. There may be a cost to the student associated with this.

Before moving on to clinical the following semester, all students will be required to score at a minimum level of competency for HESI exams administered at the end of the previous term. The standard will be a minimum score of 850 on the HESI exam, which can be attained on the first or second attempt. Any students not attaining to the 850 score who wish to proceed to clinical courses the following semester, must be approved by the APRG committee.

Purpose of Remediation:

The purpose of remediation is to improve a student’s critical thinking skills, reasoning skills, and test taking strategies. These skills are required to be a successful bachelor of science trained registered nurse and perform at a level needed in order to achieve NCLEX success.

Procedure:

1. Immediately after taking a HESI exam, students receive a HESI Exam report.
2. From the HESI Exam student report, students will develop their personal plan for remediation using the following guidelines presented in the Remediation Guidelines below (unless otherwise instructed).

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| REMEDATION GUIDELINES DOCUMENT |
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| HESI Score 900 and above | Complete all online remediation provided in HESI Student Access specific to the Exam. A minimum of one hour of study is required.** |
| HESI Scores 850-899 | Complete all online remediation provided in HESI Student Access specific to the Exam. A minimum of two hours of study is required. |
| HESI Scores 800-849 | Complete all online remediation provided in HESI Student Access specific to the Exam. A minimum of four hours of study is required. Adaptive learning, adaptive quizzing***, and HESI case studies**** are all recommended additional tools to improve comprehension and clinical reasoning in areas of deficiency and are encouraged for those who pass, but especially those who need to remediate. Use of these additional tools is required for all students with a score less than 850 who need to take a 2 nd HESI exam. |
| HESI Score 700 – 799 | Complete online remediation provided in HESI Student Access |

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| | specific to the Exam. A minimum of ten hours of study is required. |
| HESI Score 600 - 699 | Complete online remediation provided in HESI Student Access specific to the Exam. A minimum of sixteen hours is required. |
| HESI Score 599 or below | Complete online remediation provided in HESI Student Access specific to the Exam. A minimum of twenty-four hours is required. |

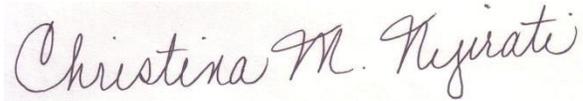
****Students must be logged into their HESI Student Access account and the online test specific remediation content for the number of hours specified. Do not print and log out of HESI remediation to study. Time spent in remediation content is monitored and students can break up the required remediation hours into multiple sessions.**

*****When using Adaptive Quizzing as remediation after HESI exams, use Custom Exams and not Mastery Exams. Additionally it is advised that only one content area be selected for each weakness area (as opposed to combining multiple topic areas into a quiz with more questions).**

******HESI Case Studies that are not used in class assignments can be used. Please ask the course instructor for additional assistance in choosing appropriate case studies as needed.**

Forms

There are no forms associated with this policy.



Signature: _____