



Department of Nursing
Policy #019

Standardized Testing and Remediation

Status:	Approved 10.11.2016, Revised 12.6.2019
Effective:	12.6.2019
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 Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) examinations. The main purpose of integrating HESI exams throughout the BSN curriculum is to:

1. Allow students to assess their current knowledge and development on topic, concept, and nursing process areas on a standardized exam; and provide information and motivation for students to begin the process of life-long learning.
2. Facilitate targeted remediation that first identifies knowledge deficiencies and then provides a thorough method to get up to speed on areas of deficiency.
3. Provide a benchmark or a standardized way of calculating course points and to identify at-risk students for the exams which are highly predictive of NCLEX success.
4. Provide a benchmark for exams that help demonstrate patient safety (e.g., medication calculations) on clinical rotations and for clinical practice.
5. Gain NCLEX-style standardized test-taking experience.

HESI Testing

The HESI exam is a computerized nursing test given online. It provides the nursing student and faculty information on how well the student understands the content in a specific nursing course, relative to other students nationally, and also in their cohort. The HESI exam also helps familiarize students with NCLEX-style questions and standardized exam practices. Additionally, research demonstrates that a 900 or higher score on the EXIT HESI exam is highly predictive of passing the NCLEX exam.. Thus, it is also important that students aim to achieve a score of 900 or higher on each HESI exam.

Scheduling:

HESI exams that are part of a course will be scheduled toward the end of the course (e.g., during weeks 13-15). It is important that if a student has an excused absence that the student must arrange to take the HESI exam **earlier**, and not later than the scheduled date so that all students are granted ample time for remediation. Remediation materials do not become available until all exams are completed.

Incorporation of the HESI Exam into HU Nursing Courses:

There are eight (8) HESI exams mandated by this policy:

- Medication calculations
- 3 P's Custom HESI (or Pharmacology, Pathophysiology, and Physical Assessment, separately).
- Pediatrics
- Maternity
- Critical Care
- Medical-surgical
- Fundamentals
- Exit HESI

Mandated HESI Exams with Established Benchmarks:

1. HESI Dosage Calculations Exam:

The benchmark for the Calculations HESI exam is ≥ 900 . Students who do not meet this benchmark on the first exam will remediate under the supervision of the Course Head for NURS 300AL. Once remediation is complete, the students will take a second Calculations HESI Exam. Students who proceed to the junior year without meeting this benchmark will be supervised at the level of a sophomore student.

2. HESI Exit Exam:

The HESI Exit Exam is administered during the final semester of the BSN program within NURS 418L. 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.

Required HESI EXAMS and Course Points:

Other required HESI exams should contribute approximately 10% to overall course points; they can range between 7 and 15% of the total course points. See Exhibit A below for an example of how a 10% contribution to a course grade affects a course grade and ability to pass a course.

Each course that uses a HESI exam must state the points allotted to the HESI exam, the total number of points a student would receive, and the number of remediation hours and process a student must complete in order for the remediation to be considered a complete and successful.

There are two main options for assigning course points for a HESI exam which can be chosen by the course head: see Exhibit B below. Factors that would favor "option 1" are in courses offered

early in the BSN program (i.e., sophomores) and the relative importance/predictability of NCLEX success of that given exam. Factors that would favor “option 2” are students in their senior year taking exams with high predictability of NCLEX success (e.g., the Exit HESI).

Other HESI Exams:

Other specialty HESI exams not listed as mandated exams are integrated into courses at the discretion of each course head and guidelines for scoring and remediation should be explained in the course syllabus.

HESI Second Versions/Retakes for Required HESI Exams:

All mandated HESI exams above have a second version available to serve as a retake option after a student has completed remediation. If the second take of a HESI exam potentially contributes to course points, it should be scheduled at least one day before grades are due to the Registrar. There may be an additional cost to the student in order to take a second HESI exam.

Exam Security and Academic Honesty:

HESI test items, including the post-exam review with rationale are secure items and must not be copied or pictures taken of exam items, and exam items must otherwise not be shared. Any notes taken during the exam must be turned in to the proctor at the completion of the exam. Any distribution of exam items or rationales, or any academic dishonesty on the HESI exam will be dealt with in strict accordance with Department of Nursing and Heritage University professionalism policies, other applicable policies, and the student handbook.

Remediation Process for all HESI Exams:

All students are required to remediate the recommended materials following each HESI exam. The remediation requirements are dependent on each individual student’s HESI score associated with each exam and should be clearly stated in the course syllabus. The required hours for remediation, and most importantly the process by which a faculty member will determine when enough remediation has been achieved should also be explained in the syllabus. Remediation check-in appointments are highly encouraged to facilitate student learning and have already been implemented successfully as the standard in the sophomore year. Research indicates that proper remediation improves a student’s critical thinking, reasoning, and test taking skills.

Procedure for Remediation:

1. After taking a HESI exam, students receive a HESI exam report with their score.
2. Once all students in a cohort have completed the HESI exam, the exams are uploaded for processing in order to generate the remediation materials.
3. Following generation of remediation materials, students will receive targeted remediation materials online in their HESI portal. They should be instructed to complete their remediation while logged in so that the remediation counts toward their required remediation time. The amount of remediation time is based on their HESI exam score and should be stated in the course syllabus.
4. Faculty will meet with remediating students prior to the end of the course to determine that the student is learning and filling in gaps in understanding key concepts. Each course syllabus will outline the amount of remediation required and the process for the required remediation check-ins.

5. 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.
6. 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).
7. 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.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Is there a time limit?

A: No, this policy does not set a time limit for taking HESI exams. There are of course practical limits on time due to availability of a proctor, availability of the testing room, the time a student's next class begins, etc. Course heads may set a specific time limit. Most specialty HESI exams are 55 items, meaning a 2 hour block would permit over 2 minutes per question.

Q: Can different students take the exam at different times?

A: Potentially yes, but keep in mind the exam cannot be closed until all students take the exam, and the specific remediation materials may not become available to the student for approximately 24 hours after exam closure.

Q: Which exams have second versions/retakes?

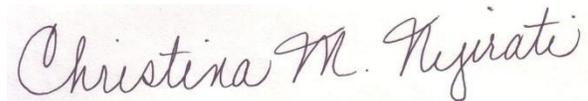
A: All of the mandated exams per this policy have second versions available for purchase except the 3 P's because it is a custom-built HESI. However, students may be able to take the individual specialty "Assessment," "Pharmacology," and/or "Pathophysiology" HESI exams as second take options, if needed.

Q: Can faculty view a student's remediation topics?

A: Yes. Faculty should meet with students after students have completed at least half (and/or all) of their remediation review time. Faculty can view the accessed materials in the HESI portal. Faculty should review each student's exam report and the entire student group's report to view individual and group areas of strengths and weakness in knowledge, knowledge domain, and in nursing step/action.

Forms

There are no forms associated with this policy.



Signature: _____

Exhibit A: How Assigning 10% of a Course’s Points to the HESI Exam Affects the Overall Course Score/Grade.

Example 1: demonstrates that a student who comes into the HESI exam with a 92.5% of other course points in the course, will not fail the course due to the HESI exam.

Example 1: 92.5% = A-

Other Course Points/%		Current Grade	HESI Score	HESI Points	Course Score	Final Grade
333	92.5%	A-	>900	40	0.9325	A
333	92.5%	A-	850-899	38	0.9275	A-
333	92.5%	A-	800-849	35	0.92	A-
333	92.5%	A-	750-799	30	0.9075	A-
333	92.5%	A-	700-749	24	0.8925	B+
333	92.5%	A-	<699	0	0.8325	B

Example 2: demonstrates that a student coming in with a higher B grade in the course could potentially fail the course (C+) if he/she performed poorly on the HESI exam. This person could potentially improve their course grade to a B+ if he/she does well on the HESI exam.

Example 2: 87.5% = B

Other Course Points/%		HESI Score	HESI Points	Course Score	Grade
315	87.5%	>900	40	0.8875	B+
315	87.5%	850-899	38	0.8825	B+
315	87.5%	800-849	35	0.875	B
315	87.5%	750-799	30	0.8625	B
315	87.5%	700-749	20	0.8375	B
315	87.5%	<699	0	0.7875	C+

Example 3: demonstrates that a student coming into the HESI with a B- needs to score at least 750 on the exam to maintain a grade of B- in the course. A score of 749 would result in a grade of C or C+ and a score of 850 or greater would result in a grade of B in the course.

Example 3: 81.9% = B-

Other Course Points/%		HESI Score	HESI Points	Course Score	Final Grade
295	81.9%	>900	40	0.8375	B
295	81.9%	850-899	38	0.8325	B
295	81.9%	800-849	35	0.825	B-
295	81.9%	750-799	30	0.8125	B-
295	81.9%	700-749	20	0.7875	C+
295	81.9%	<699	0	0.7375	C

Example 4: demonstrates that a student coming into the HESI exam with a 77.8% in the course could potentially pass the course, but the absolute best the student could achieve is a grade of B- for the course.

Example 4: 77.8% = C

Other Course Points/%		HESI Score	HESI Points	Course Score	Final Grade
280	77.8%	>900	40	0.8	B-
280	77.8%	850-899	38	0.795	C+
280	77.8%	800-849	35	0.7875	C+
280	77.8%	750-799	30	0.775	C
280	77.8%	700-749	24	0.76	C
280	77.8%	<699	0	0.7	C-

Exhibit B: Main Options for Assigning Course Points for a HESI Exam

Adjust accordingly dependent on individual course points.

Option 1:

HESI Score	Prediction of NCLEX Success	NURS300A Course Points	Required Online Remediation Time
≥ 900	“Recommended performance”	40 points (100%)	2 hours (no check-in required)
850-899	“Acceptable performance”	37 points (92.5%)	4 hours (no check-in required)
800-849	“Near acceptable performance”	32 points (80%)	8 hours
750-799	“Below acceptable performance”	27 points (67.5%)	12 hours
700-749	“Well below acceptable; needs further preparation”	22 points (55%)	16 hours
600-699	“Well below acceptable; needs further preparation”	15 points (37.5%)	20 hours
≤ 599	“Well below acceptable; needs further preparation”	0 points	24 hours

Option 2:

HESI Score:	Prediction of NCLEX Success:	NURS418L Course Points:
≥ 900	“Recommended performance”	40 points
850-899	“Acceptable performance”	35 points (87.5%)
800-849	“Near acceptable performance”	30 points (75%)
≤799	“Below acceptable performance”	0 points