



Department of Nursing

**Policy #019**  
**Standardized Testing and Remediation**

|                                             |                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Status:</b>                              | Originated 2016-10-11<br>Revised 2026-04-23, 2026-02-27, 2023-05-04, 2019-12-06, 2023- |
| <b>Effective:</b>                           | 2026-04-23                                                                             |
| <b>Initiated by:</b>                        | Admission, Progression, Retention, and Graduation Committee                            |
| <b>Relevant WAC, Standard or criterion:</b> | WAC 246-840-519, WAC 246-840-537                                                       |

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for standardized testing and remediation processes in the Heritage University Department of Nursing. The department integrates the Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) examinations with other evaluations of student learning. The primary purposes of integrating HESI exams throughout the BSN curriculum are to:

1. Assess students' current knowledge of specialty topics in nursing and to evaluate students' application of the nursing process to specialty areas on a standardized exam.
2. Provide students with the opportunity for guided remediation in such a way that will promote a process of life-long learning.
3. Provide targeted remediation that identifies knowledge gaps and problems in applying knowledge and provides a thorough method to get address areas of deficiency.
4. Assess trends in individual student achievement in standardized exams to identify students' strengths and areas for improvement and create plans for their success.
5. Provide students with NCLEX-style standardized test-taking experience.
6. Provide opportunities for focused remediation.
7. Provide aggregate data to faculty on student achievement in specialty areas of standardized testing for systematic improvement in methods used to help students eventually pass the NCLEX.

**AUDIENCE**

This policy applies to all students in the Department of Nursing.

**PLAN**

**HESI Testing**

The HESI exam is a standardized nursing test given online. It provides nursing students and faculty information on how well the student understands the content in a specific nursing course/topic relative to other students within their HU cohort and other students nationally. The HESI exam also helps familiarize students with NCLEX-style questions and standardized exam practices.

**Scheduling**

The dates of HESI exams must be provided in each class's syllabus or myHeritage. Faculty should coordinate HESI scheduling with the Academic Coordination before each term to ensure there are no scheduling conflicts (including with other HESI exams), and testing room and proctor availability. The

HESI Exit exam is administered during the final semester of the BSN Program at a time specific to the needs of each cohort taking into consideration start and end dates of senior clinical practicums.

A student who knows they will be unable to take a HESI exam at the scheduled time is required to negotiate an excused absence and the student must arrange to take the HESI exam earlier than the scheduled exam date and time. If the student misses the scheduled HESI exam for sudden unexpected illness or compassionate leave, the faculty will make special arrangements for the student to take an alternate version of the HESI exam at the earliest opportunity.

### **Mandatory HESI Exams**

There are eight HESI exams mandated by this policy:

- Dosage calculations
- 3P's Custom (or Pharmacology, Pathophysiology, and Physical Assessment taken separately)
- Pediatrics
- Women's Health and Maternity
- Critical Care
- Medical-surgical
- Fundamentals
- Exit Exam

### **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 must be explained in the course syllabus. The following HESI exams are optional and may be incorporated at the faculty's discretion in selected courses:

- Community Health
- Leadership and Management
- Nursing Research
- Nutrition
- Psychiatric Mental Health

| Term             | NURS Course            | HESI                         | Status          | Versions | # of Qs |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Sophomore Fall   | 208                    | Empirics                     | Optional        | 2        | 60      |
| Sophomore Spring | 300AL                  | Dosage Calculation           | <b>Mandated</b> | 2        | 60      |
| Sophomore Spring | 292L, 300A, 300AL, 310 | 3P's Custom HESI             | <b>Mandated</b> | 1        | 100     |
| Junior Fall      | 216                    | Fundamentals                 | <b>Mandated</b> | 2        | 60      |
| Junior Fall      | 215/L                  | Nutrition                    | Optional        | 1        | 60      |
| Junior Spring    | 312L                   | Medical-Surgical             | <b>Mandated</b> | 1        | 60      |
| Juniors Spring   | 314                    | Psychiatric-Mental Health    | Optional        | 2        | 60      |
| Junior Summer    | 312                    | Women's Health and Maternity | <b>Mandated</b> | 2        | 60      |
| Junior Summer    | 316                    | Pediatrics                   | <b>Mandated</b> | 2        | 60      |
| Senior Fall      | 322L                   | Critical Care                | <b>Mandated</b> | 2        | 60      |
| Senior Fall      | 317                    | Community Health             | Optional        | 1        | 60      |
| Senior Spring    | 318                    | Leadership and Management    | Optional        | 1        | 60      |
| Senior Spring    | 418L                   | Medical-Surgical             | <b>Mandated</b> | 1        | 60      |
| Senior Spring    | 418L                   | Exit Exam                    | <b>Mandated</b> | 2        | 150     |

### **Notes Regarding the HESI Dosage Calculations Exam**

The mandatory benchmark score for the Dosage Calculations HESI exam is  $\geq 900$ . Students who do not meet this benchmark on their first attempt will remediate under the supervision of the Course Head for NURS 300AL and/or the Nursing Student Success Specialist. Once remediation is complete, the students will take a second Dosage Calculations HESI Exam. Students who proceed to their next term without meeting the benchmark score will be permitted to administer medications but must be supervised by the Nursing Clinical Faculty according to Nursing Policy #035 Medication Administration, i.e. they may not receive oversight of medication administration by a nurse employed by the clinical agency. In the Junior Spring term and beyond, students may administer medication under the supervision of a nurse employed by the clinical agency.

### **Notes Regarding the HESI Exit Exam**

The HESI Exit Exam is administered during the final semester of the BSN program within NURS 418L. All Students will complete the HESI Exit remediation under the guidance of nursing faculty, regardless of score achieved. Each student will be assigned to a coach-mentor who will assure that students complete the remediation as indicated in the Personalized learning Plan provided by Evolve. Students who score  $< 850$  will receive additional coaching from the Nursing Student Success Specialist. Completion of all HESI Exit remediation is a course requirement for NURS 418L and must be described in further detail in the syllabus.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **Required HESI EXAMS and Course Points**

A course head can assign up to 10% of course points for a HESI Specialty exam based on a student's exam score. Course heads that utilize a HESI exam must state in their course syllabus how many points a HESI exam will contribute to the course grade and provide a table that describes how HESI scores will be translated into course points. All students must remediate their learning for each HESI exam, as described below. The course head may assign points for remediation of a HESI Exam, and the process and points available for remediation must be included in the course syllabus.

### **Time Limits**

Exam time limits are not set by this policy, but course heads may set a time limit for exams included in their courses. Practical limitations on time may include proctor availability, testing room availability, classes following the exam, etc. Most HESI exams are 60 items meaning a 2-hour block would permit over 2 minutes per question.

### **Exam Security and Academic Honesty**

HESI test items, including the post-exam review with rationale, are secure items and must not be removed from the testing room. 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**

- 1) All students will remain at their testing station to review missed questions after completion of their HESI exam. This is a one-time only opportunity to directly review the exam questions and rationales – exam questions and answers are not available for review once an exam is closed. Students are

encouraged to take notes to reinforce understanding, however, these notes cannot be taken from the testing room.

- 2) Evolve provides the students with a Personalized Learning Plan. The Personalized Learning Plan materials can be accessed through students' personal Evolve account after completion of the HESI exam. Students shall take remediation notes based on the material provided to them by Evolve that will be called their "remediation journal" or in some cases their "remediation notes". The Heritage Nursing Curriculum Committee recommends the following minimum expectations for HESI Personalized Learning Plans to the faculty:

| HESI Exam Score     | Personalized Learning Plan Expectations                                                                                                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>900 or above</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review: 4 readings or videos</li><li>• Apply: 1 case study</li><li>• Assess: 5 quiz questions</li></ul>   |
| <b>850-899</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review: 7 readings or videos</li><li>• Apply: 1 case study</li><li>• Assess: 10 quiz questions</li></ul>  |
| <b>750-849</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review: 9 readings or videos</li><li>• Apply: 2 case study</li><li>• Assess: 15 quiz questions</li></ul>  |
| <b>Below 750</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review: 12 readings or videos</li><li>• Apply: 2 case study</li><li>• Assess: 20 quiz questions</li></ul> |

- 3) Remediation check-in appointments will occur with the Nursing Student Success Specialist and/or faculty at the completion of ~50% of the students Personalized Learning Plan to determine that the student is learning and addressing gaps in understanding. Faculty can view individual students' remediation materials and their progress in the HESI portal. Faculty should review each student's exam report as well as the entire test group's report to view individual and group areas of strengths and weakness in knowledge, knowledge domain, and in nursing step/action. Remediation appointments are required for:
- all Sophomores on all HESI Exams
  - Juniors and Seniors scoring <850 on all HESI Exams
  - all Seniors for the HESI Exit Exam
- 4) All students are required to complete all remediation materials following each HESI exam. Additional remediation activities may be required by faculty and will also be described in the course syllabus.
- 5) Students will submit their remediation journal per instructions in each class syllabus to be assessed for completeness and quality by the Nursing Student Success Specialist and/or faculty.
- 6) Remediation deadlines must be provided in each class's syllabus or my Heritage and remediation must be completed before the end of the term so that any associate grading can be included in final grades.

### **Basic Remediation Practices**

The term "remediation" means "the process of correcting." In the context of education and HESI exams the functional interpretation should be, "to study again." Students should use the same study techniques that they have developed that work for their learning, as well as explore other methods. These techniques include but are not limited to things like:

- Summarize content in your own words and/or reduce to bullet points

- Pretend you are explaining a concept to someone with no background knowledge and/or in as simple terms as possible.
- Define all terminology and explain/summarize it in your own words.
- Identify exemplars of concepts from clinical experience, narrative stories, or online resources
- Draw it out: create a cartoon, a flow chart, use color-coding, etc.
- Write your own quiz items about the material and quiz a classmate. Discuss rationales.
- Compare and contrast how one concept or process is similar and different to something else you know about.
- Make your own flash cards to quiz concepts and general objectives.
- If 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). Ask the course instructor or Nursing Student Success Specialist for additional assistance in choosing appropriate Adaptive Quizzing content as needed.
- HESI Case Studies that are not used in class assignments can be used. Ask the course instructor for additional assistance in choosing appropriate case studies as needed.

#### **CITED AND RELATED POLICIES**

##### **Cited**

- Nursing Policy #035 Medication Administration

##### **Related**

- Nursing Policy #018 Grading and Evaluation of Student Performance
- Nursing Policy #029 Attendance
- Nursing Policy #038 Preparation for the NCLEX and Application for RN License

#### **POLICY REVIEWERS**

Proposed revisions of this policy should be reviewed by:

- 1) Curriculum Committee
- 2) Bylaws, Policies, and Handbooks Committee
- 3) Nursing Faculty Assembly

#### **FORMS**

No forms are associated with this policy.

#### **REFERENCES**

No references are associated with this policy.

Nursing Director Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. C. Clark', is written over a horizontal line.