



HESI® Preparation Suite Duo

Best Practices



Understanding the HESI Practice Tests

HESI Practice Tests – are pre-built exams designed to assess application of knowledge while also introducing students to standardized testing with NCLEX® exam style questions. There are two versions in most specialty areas; the Practice Version and the Assignment Version. There are also comprehensive exams following the NCLEX® blueprint and a multidisciplinary quiz. Correct answers and detailed rationales are provided for each question.

Key Point:

These resources are used across the curriculum and are often mapped to specific courses.

Implementing Patient Reviews

- Patient Reviews are a great resource to use when content is introduced.
- These can be assigned and used as a ticket to class.
- Patient Reviews can also be used in class to facilitate discussion and learning or for a virtual patient care experience
- Consider assigning Patient Reviews prior to clinical as they can help students learn more about skills and organizing patient care.

Implementing Practice Tests

- Use practice tests before administering standardized exams as a homework assignment grade or as a requirement to take the proctored exam (ticket for entry).
- Use the questions in class to discuss test taking strategies.
- After students take the practice test, use item analysis to guide class discussion on frequently missed questions.
- During class, administer a practice exam or quiz to allow students to experience the proctored environment.
- Assign the practice test as a remediation tool post specialty exam.



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Understanding the HESI Case Studies

HESI Case Studies – HESI Case Studies provide application-based questions to introduce students to real-world care scenarios. This helps students learn to manage complex patient conditions and practice clinical decision making. Questions cover nursing care with a wide range of physiological and psychosocial alterations, as well as related management, pharmacology, and nursing concepts.

Implementing Case Studies

Use Case Studies in your class:

- Assign a Case Study prior to class. Review the item analysis. During class, review and discuss frequently missed questions including rationales and/or testing strategies utilized.
- Case studies are great to use in class to bring clinical to the classroom. Students can complete a case study in small groups then discuss as a class.
 - Have each group report to the class what they found to be the most interesting or valuable
 - Consider posing “What if” questions to expand on the case outcome
- Have students write an SBAR of the case study and share with their peer(s).
- Discuss what needs to be charted in an EHR for this case study and document in an EHR as available.
- Place a revised question from a case study into an exam
- Use a Case Study as a post class assignment.
 - This could be a group project for discussion or assigned individually.
 - Students could also be required to find a research article associated with the case study supporting nursing best practices.

Use Case Studies in Clinical:

- Case studies can be used as a post- conference activity in the clinical setting.
- Case studies can also be used for virtual patient care experiences.

Use Case Studies as a part of remediation:

- Work with students to identify areas of weakness (either the HESI report or faculty made exam) and complete related case studies.



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Additional Thoughts

- Clearly discuss with students if the Case Study/Patient Review/Practice Test assignments are a shared experience or if it is meant to be independently completed for a grade. This might be a good time to reinforce an academic honesty policy and what work students are expected to do on their own.
- Discuss testing techniques and strategies for student success. Use the Test Taking Skills slides (found in the HESI Case Studies) in student orientation and during the first few classes. You might want to move this Test Taking Strategies folder to the top of the list, so the students see them FIRST thing!
- For first semester students discuss Critical Thinking test items and how they are written at a higher level on Blooms. Help students understand the new level of application and higher-level questions they will have in tests.