

HESI® Exit Exams

Best Practices



Understanding HESI Exit Exams

HESI Exit Exams are designed to gauge a student's readiness for the NCLEX with all 15 new NGN question types and an exam blueprint matching the latest NCLEX-RN test plan. When used toward the end of a program, students will be able to see their specific areas of weakness, helping them develop a plan of study for NCLEX success.



Key Point: Recent HESI data science analysis revealed the average first-time pass rate for students achieving a 900 HESI recommended benchmark score was 97.3% and those achieving the 850 acceptable benchmark score had a first-time pass rate of 96.3%.

Optimizing HESI Exit Exams in Your Program

The first step to success with HESI is a strong testing policy that outlines the intention of standardized exams in the program and the expectations for students. To optimize HESI Exit Exams in your program, consider implementing the following practices.

Strategies for Integrating Exit Exams into the Curriculum

- **Build a solid foundation that includes HESI Specialty exams through the program.** Students who take HESI Specialty exams through their program have improved performance on their HESI Exit Exam.
 **Review research that establishes how incorporating Specialty Exams promotes student success with Exit Exams**
- **Establish a consistent benchmark score through the program.** Students should know what is expected from them on all HESI exams. Setting a consistent target threshold score helps motivate students and sets consistent expectations through the program.
- **Rotate the version(s) of HESI Exit Exam(s) used each term.** HESI offers 4 parallel versions of the Exit Exam. We recommend rotating between all 4 versions and never letting students know which version they will take.
- **Ensure the HESI Exit Exam has weight in an associated end-of-program course.** While we do not recommend these exams be considered high-stakes, research shows that students perform better when there is grade weight associated. We recommend all policies and practices comply with the NLN Fair Testing Guidelines.
- **Offer a second attempt on Exit Exams,** when possible, for students who aren't successful on the first attempt. Students who take the second exam will receive new remediation based on their performance on that exam.

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Strategies for Utilizing Exit Exam Results and Remediation

- **Encourage students to review their exam performance** and identify individual strengths and weaknesses.
▶ **Share how they can review their HESI Performance Dashboards and use the data to improve**
- **Encourage faculty to review exam results.** Every HESI Exam provides detailed performance data for the cohort and for each individual student. Faculty can use this data to identify and assist at-risk students, to provide cohort-level intervention in areas of weakness, as well as to identify any potential curricular gaps.
▶ **Use our asynchronous resources to learn how to view and interpret your students' exam results**
- **Require remediation.** The HESI Exit exams include multimodal remediation, including packets of content individualized to each student's areas of weakness along with pertinent HESI Case Studies to allow students to apply their knowledge. You may also choose to include self-quizzing in relevant content areas or client needs categories using a tool such as EAQ for the NCLEX.
▶ **Ensure your students are familiar with how to complete exam remediation**

Remediation with EAQ for NCLEX

▶ Students can first use the HESI Dashboard to identify knowledge gaps then **create personalized quizzes with EAQ for NCLEX**