Sherpath®

A Complete Guide

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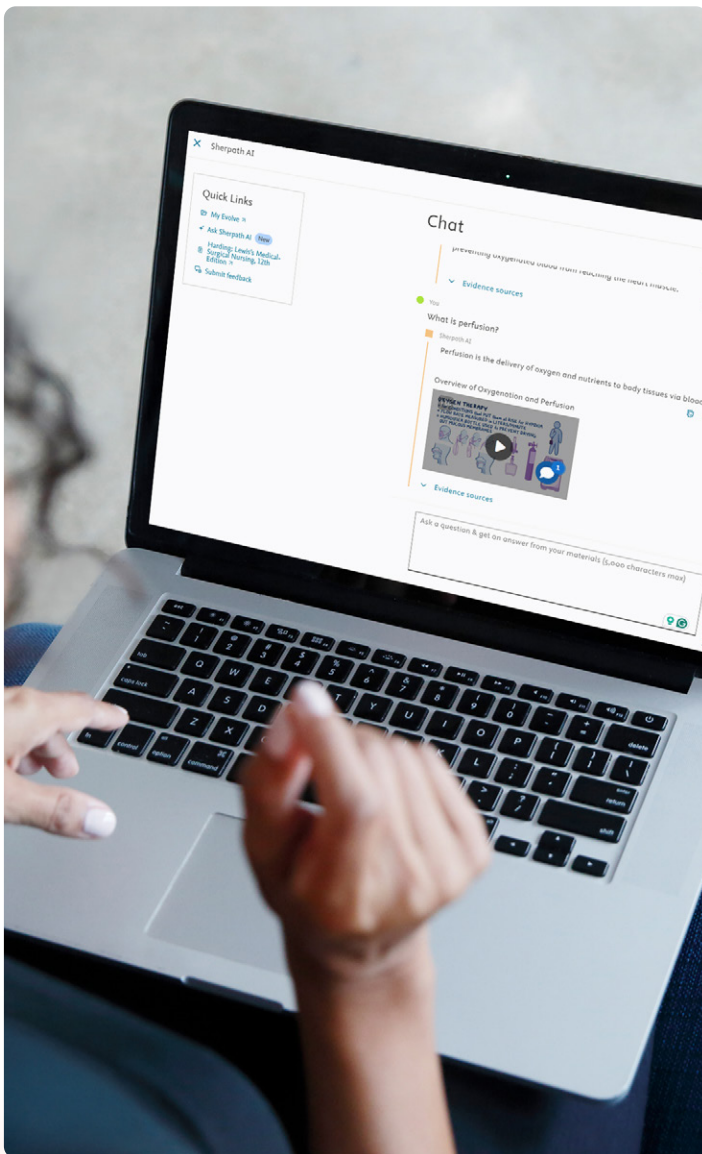
Introduction and Overview

WHAT IS **SHERPATH?**

Sherpath is a teaching and learning tool for healthcare education that integrates into your existing learning management system. It provides interactive course content, assessments, and teaching resources. It's designed to help students learn and apply their knowledge in a more engaging way.

Sherpath offers:

- **Interactive content:** Videos, images, case studies, and micro simulations
- **Assessments:** Built-in assessments, adaptive quizzing, and skills exercises
- **Teaching resources:** Online tutorials, guides, and teaching tools
- **Learning analytics:** Performance dashboards that provide insight into how students are interacting with the content
- **AI Chat:** A conversational tool that provides evidence-based responses to nursing-related questions

Sherpath helps prepare students for the Next Generation NCLEX® (NGN), evaluates student competency, strengthens nursing competency and clinical judgment, improves course outcomes, and simplifies your course planning.

SHERPATH **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

There are many ways to learn about Sherpath and how it can be used in your course.

Here are the available training resources:

Asynchronous Faculty Training

Provides a broad overview of Sherpath and each of its components

→

Creating Your Sherpath Course

→

Organizing and Planning Your Sherpath Course

→

## Creating Assignments within Your Sherpath Course

→

EBOOKS

The ebook is a digital textbook integrated within the Sherpath learning platform that combines the traditional textbook content with some interactive elements.
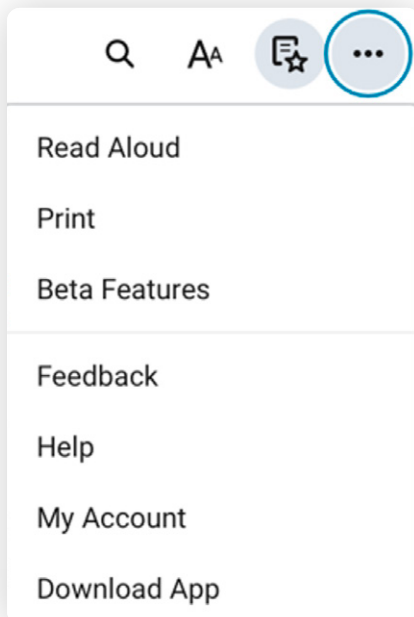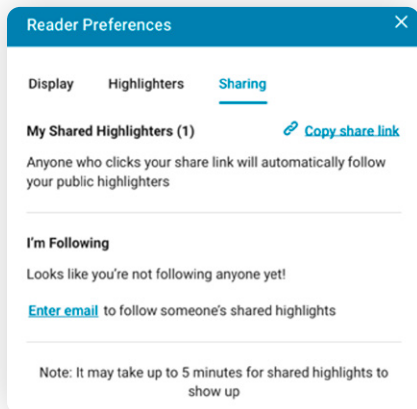
eBook Functionality

The magnifying glass in the upper right side of your screen opens the search bar. This will allow you to search for a keyword in the book. Once any word or phrase is searched, it will bring up all content or figures and charts within the text that include the search term. It also pulls up anything saved in your workbook, including any notes and flashcards that include the term.
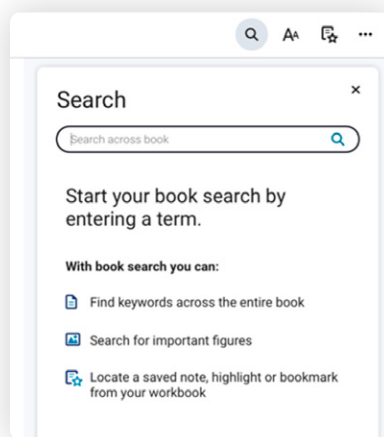
The next icon is the *Reader Preferences* tab. Here you can change the size, style, and font of the text, switch between display modes, and even change margin size and line height. All of these are customizable for ease of reading.
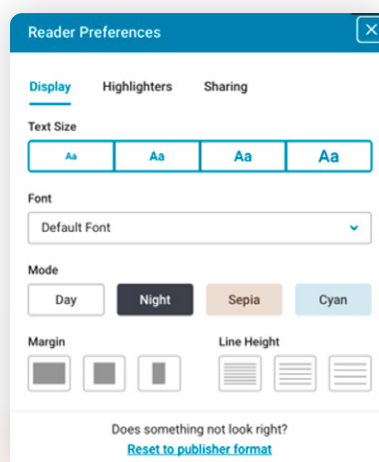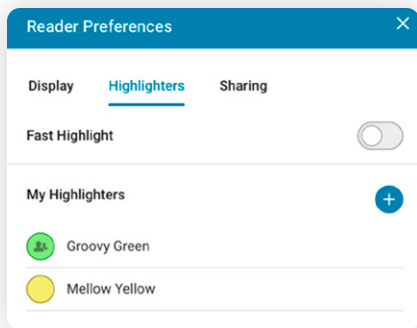
eBook Functionality, cont.

The next icon is the *Highlighters* tab where you can create highlights to call out important concepts to your students. You can even leave notes or questions to make the experience more personalized to your class — if done well, it turns reading from a solitary experience into more of a class activity.

Click the highlighter color you'd like to use and select the text to highlight (please note that you can use more than one color at a time). You can use different colors to signify different things. For example, you can use one color for standard highlighting of important concepts for students, then another for questions you'd like students to come to class prepared to answer, and another for clinical impact.

Finally, and this is the most important part — you can make the highlights shareable for your students. Simply click the plus sign on the far right of your highlights box and then click on *Copy share link*. You can then put that link in your LMS or email it to your students. By clicking the link, they will then be subscribed to your highlights and will be able to see any of your public highlights in mutual texts.

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Don't forget, you can also add notes to your highlights. Consider posing a few Focused Reading Questions to guide students to read with a purpose. It helps students determine the "need-to-know" content when reading their textbooks.

Using eBooks in Your Course

- **Engage students as they read by providing instructor highlights.** Go through the reading yourself first and share your highlights with students to reinforce the important topics they should understand ahead of class.
- **Consider adding focused reading questions or comments** within the reading to guide students. This helps students determine the "need-to-know" content when reading their textbooks.
- **Help your students read with a purpose!** Have students complete the lesson first, then write down three topics they feel are important to explore further. They can then focus on reviewing those three topics in the ebook.
- **Give students the option to have the book read to them** with the *Read Aloud* function.
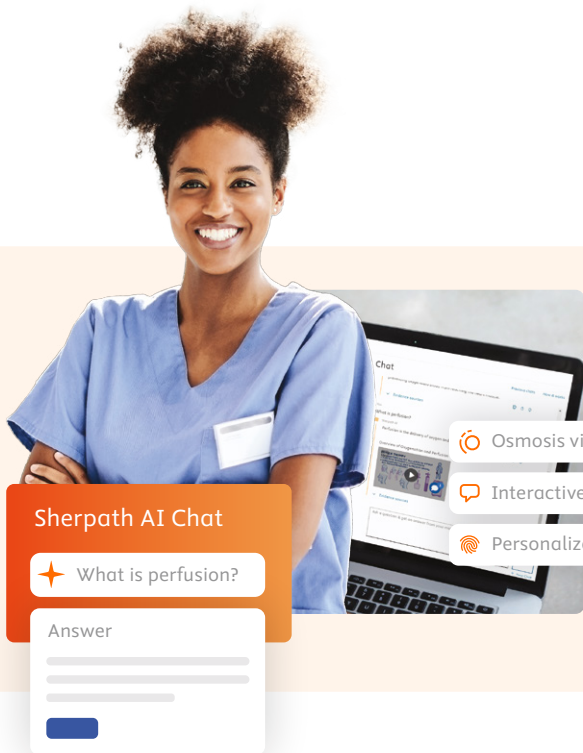
Sherpath AI ✦

Sherpath AI (SPAI) combines Elsevier's trusted, evidence-based educational content with advanced generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI), offering valuable and timely support for students and educators navigating course-level learning, exam preparation, and transition to practice.

Sherpath AI Chat

✦ What is perfusion?

Answer

⊙ Osmosis videos
💬 Interactive dialogue
🔶 Personalized answers

Using Sherpath AI in your Course

With Sherpth AI, your students can:

- **Ask AI clarifying questions about content** instead of emailing faculty and waiting for an answer. They will receive an immediate answer with citations from their text.

- **Pull practice questions** outside of what is assigned as a low-stakes way to test their knowledge. Make sure they ask for the answers and rationales to reinforce their understanding of the concepts and ensure they get the complete learning experience!

- **Use AI to help prepare for class.** AI can create a content outline on any specific topic from the textbook. This is a good, reliable source to help prepare and organize students to learn the week's content.

- **Better understand clinical patients.** Students can ask SPAI why a patient with a particular diagnosis may be receiving a medication, or what may be causing abnormal lab values.

Faculty can:

- **Get an organized summary or create an outline for your course.** Ask for summarized information or lists to put on slides or create a full outline of your course.

- **Refresh on content.** Ask questions about topic(s) you don't teach often to get an overview and summary of what your textbook includes.

- **Find another way to say it.** Use Sherpath AI to find "another way" to talk about or explain a difficult concept.

- **Answer difficult student questions.** Use Sherpath AI to find answers to those in-depth or difficult questions students sometimes ask!

- **Get ideas for engaging class activities in a specific area.** Ask for a class activity to teach students that relates to the content of the class and a particular concept.

- **Get ideas for how to assess students in a specific area.** Ask how to assess students in relation to the content of the class and a particular concept.

- **Create a case study.** Ask SPAI to create a case with a given diagnosis, ask to have the case unfold, and even ask for questions about the case.

LESSONS

Digital lessons create an engaging, didactic experience to help students better achieve learning objectives. Relevant, need-to-know content includes multimedia, interspersed micro quizzes, and post-lesson assessments to gauge proficiency. The HESI Focus Chapters identify key content that aligns with HESI Specialty Exams.

Lessons are a great way to reinforce important content that you want to ensure students have fully grasped. There can be multiple lessons a week, so how do you choose what to assign without overloading your students?

Using Lessons in Your Course

Guidelines for using lessons:

- Assign a total of 2 – 3 lessons each week
- If you are covering more than three chapters per week, assign one lesson per chapter
- Prioritize lessons:
  - from HESI Focus Chapters
  - that include Osmosis videos
  - that deal with a difficult concept students may need help reinforcing
  - that help meet course objectives
- Many students enjoy the lessons. They find it easier to learn from them as opposed to just reading the ebook. Make the remaining lessons visible so students can use them independently for self-studying.

ELSEVIER
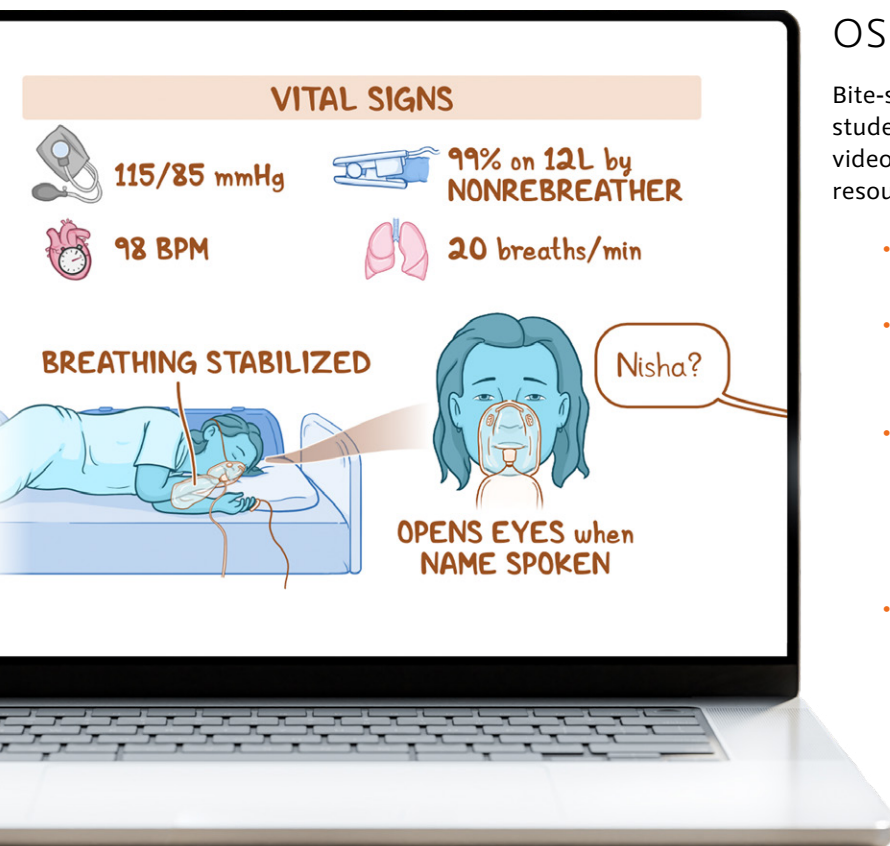
OSMOSIS® VIDEOS

Bite-sized, illustrated health education videos help support student understanding of critical content. These on-demand videos are available both inside lessons and as stand-alone resources.

- Students can learn from these videos at home or in the classroom.
- Assign Osmosis videos whenever you see them in your course, giving students credit for completing each video, but not a numeric score.
- Videos are available within Sherpath:
  - on the *Course Plan*
  - on the *Resources and eBooks* page
  - embedded in select lessons
- Video case studies focus on taking action and use a case-study format to show application of concepts, CJMM cognitive skills, and nursing processes.

Using Osmosis Videos in Your Course

- **Pre-work:** Assign for flipped classrooms, small group sessions, or case-based learning, so students come prepared to participate in class.
- **In-class:** Videos and assessment items can be played during class to support student engagement in a group or during pair-and-share sessions.
- **Active, self-directed learning:** Students make playlists, watch videos, and quiz themselves on weak or borderline topics, while tracking progress through their analytics dashboard.
- **Early course correction and remediation:** Students create playlists or watch videos assigned by faculty to strengthen knowledge deficits. Dashboard analytics help guide discussions between students and faculty on areas of focus.

ELSEVIER ADAPTIVE QUIZZING (EAQ)

Adaptive quizzing allows you to create relevant quizzes on a wide variety of topics to facilitate student knowledge application with high-quality practice questions. This personalized, formative quizzing tool allows you and your students to ensure content mastery, better understand areas of weakness, and implement targeted remediation.

- **Mastery Quizzing:** Adaptive quizzing allows students to practice with personalized questions based on their performance, progressing through multiple mastery levels to achieve a deeper understanding of a subject.
  - Adaptive quizzing to three different levels — Novice, Intermediate, and Proficient
  - The number of questions a student will see is based on student performance.
- **Custom Quizzing:** Instructors or students can create personalized quizzes by selecting specific topics or questions from a large question bank, allowing for targeted practice on areas of study. Unlike mastery quizzing that automatically adjusts difficulty based on performance, custom quizzing lets users design quizzes with a specific set of questions tailored to their needs.
  - **Custom:** Questions are randomly selected for each student based on their topic mastery level
  - **Custom by Question:** Instructor chooses questions and all students receive the same questions

Using EAQ in Your Course

✓ **Make EAQ part of the weekly routine.** If you are covering multiple chapters per week, include both Mastery and Custom quizzes.

- Choose one chapter for Mastery quizzing, and then make a custom quiz that includes the other chapters you're covering.
  - The Mastery Quiz should be used for the "most important" topics and concepts. Use the HESI Focus Chapters as your guide.
  - Recommended Setting: Intermediate mastery
- Assign 1 – 2 Custom Quizzes for the remainder of the chapters.
  - Multiple chapters or concepts can be included in single custom quiz.

✓ **Consider using the *Custom by Question* quizzing option** to choose a few questions to use in class each week. Use these to spark class discussion and assist students with test-taking strategies.

✓ **Students can do additional self-quizzing at any time!** Encourage them to set a goal to answer a minimum number of questions for independent practice. They can prioritize topics of personal weakness and those of most importance on course exams for their self-study efforts.

NGN Case Studies

NGN case studies are realistic patient scenario designed to help students develop critical thinking and clinical judgment skills.

Using NGN Case Studies in Your Course

- Include NGN cases as appropriate. These quizzes are a great way to bring patients to class while helping students practice their clinical judgment.
- NGN cases are assignable, but not scored, making these a formative assessment of learning.
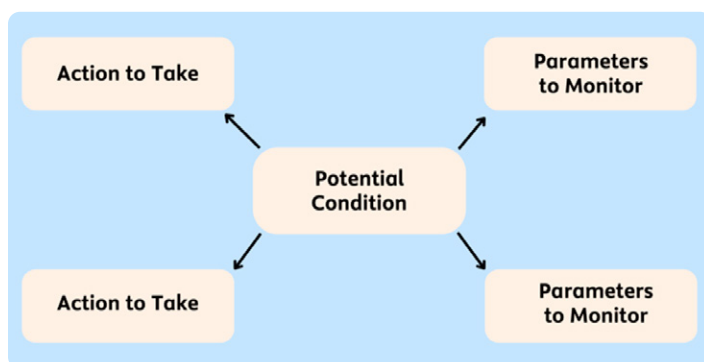
VIRTUAL SIMULATIONS

Sherpath® Virtual Simulations

These case-based simulation scenarios enable students to safely practice clinical decision-making and interact with patients in an immersive, digital environment.

Using Sherpath Virtual Simulations in Your Course

These easy-to-understand scenarios allow students to practice basic nursing skills. Assign these as necessary when they match the content you are teaching for the week.

Shadow Health®

If you're using Sherpath Vantage, Shadow Health is also included. Shadow Health's Digital Clinical Experiences™ (DCEs) provide a safe, standardized environment for students to develop their clinical reasoning and therapeutic communication skills through realistic interactions with diverse Digital Standardized Patients. These high-fidelity simulations, with a conversation engine that can answer more than 2.6 million questions, help build fluency, confidence, and expertise in patient interview and assessment.

Using Shadow Health in Your Course

Shadow Health allows your students to apply the knowledge they've learned in class to clinical situations in a safe, low-stakes virtual simulation. **Matching the content of the Digital Clinical Experience (DCE) patient case with the course material for that week is easy, and it helps students put that content into action and solidify their knowledge before heading into their clinical experiences.** It is recommended that you use all the Shadow Health case studies that are available to you. There are several different ways to use these patient cases in your course.

Understanding Use Cases

Asynchronous Case Study: DCEs serve as an opportunity for students to apply course content and give them additional opportunities to apply content knowledge in a high-fidelity learning environment. The patient exam component can be used as part of pre-work for a flipped classroom with care plan, other post-simulation activities, and/or debrief completed during class time.

Synchronous Learning Activity: DCEs can be used in a discussion, think-aloud, small-group discussion/ activity, discuss class stats, or debrief sessions after students have completed the patient cases on their own. This is an engaging way to discuss concepts, skills, and learning experiences in the classroom.

Clinical Hour Replacement: There is a range of ratios of hours in the DCE to hours in a clinical experience. These vary by state and/or institution. The most common ratios are 1:1 or 2:1. This use case can be applied when there is a shortage of clinical sites, difficulty placing students, or even cancelled clinical days due to weather. This is most commonly used in pre-licensure undergraduate programs.

Lab/Clinical Pass: Require students to complete a DCE prior to coming to class, lab, or clinical. It serves to maximize student preparation for a lab or clinical experience, making time spent in class more efficient. This can be unitized when students are not coming prepared. DCEs act as an application activity to hold students accountable for preparation. This is used for building confidence, efficiency, and fluency; providing opportunities for effective practice, resources, and content to solidify knowledge prior to practicing and/or learning.

Recorded Exam or Video Replacement: The DCE provides faculty with a streamlined and standardized way to ensure all students are proficient in patient assessment and interviewing. This can help solve logistical difficulties that exist when students in online programs create a video in an uncontrolled setting, as well as alleviate the time required for faculty to grade submissions.

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Understanding Assignment Options

Flexible settings on patient cases allow you to choose how high the stakes are on these assignments for your students.

Reopening: Students can go back in and reopen a completed assignment. Once a student is done reviewing the immediate feedback after submitting an attempt, they may reopen the attempt, apply the immediate feedback, and make any desired revisions. This places them back at the beginning of the assignment, while retaining all the data and progress from the previous session. This feature is a great tool to promote self-learning and help improve student scores.

Interview Guide: The guide provides students with additional help collecting subjective data during patient encounters in the form of an expandable menu. This menu shows the essential patient interview topics students must cover in their interview and a progress bar, so they know they're on the right track with collecting subjective data.

Flexible Turn-In: Students can choose which assignment attempt to turn in prior to the due date. This option allows students to remediate, while also encouraging repetition to achieve mastery. Enabling this setting gives students the option of completing multiple attempts from scratch and then allows them to turn in their best attempt to be considered for grading.

How to Use These Assignment Options

Mastery Learning or Practice for Students: Allows for continual practice to achieve mastery. Students are given the opportunity to remediate after completing an assignment, review immediate feedback, and consider how to improve, followed by executing these changes. Students can achieve a high level of proficiency if they are willing to put in the work of reflecting and remediating.

⊕ **Key Options** — Interview Guide On, Flexible Turn-In, Allow Reopening

Clinical Reasoning Check or as a High-Stakes Grade: This use case is for faculty who want to differentiate between below-average, average, and above-average students to inform future instruction. In this scenario, assignments are treated as assessments of content knowledge. This use case benchmarks students throughout the term, allowing both students and faculty to see any possible deficiencies.

⊕ **Key Options** — Interview Guide Off, First Turn-In, No Reopening

COURSE-BASED SIMCHART

This learning tool is available as an addition to many courses and includes two components — a simplified, user-friendly EHR with pre-built case studies, and blank charting opportunities. Both resources can be used for assignments or active-learning exercises in the classroom.

Course-Based SimChart case studies present patients in an unfolding scenario, where students retrieve and document information. These case studies are integrated with Sherpath, so the content and quiz questions align to the content of the course. They provide an opportunity for students to practice clinical judgment; develop key skills in documenting, monitoring, and analyzing patient data; and build confidence in navigating a patient chart.

SimChart empty electronic health records (EHRs) are a simplified blank chart that can be used for documentation of care or as a learning tool in class. You can have students document their clinical experience; work through a scenario in class or the lab and document the patient's details; or explore the EHR with your students and discuss what kind of documentation is appropriate for different scenarios.

Using Course-Based SimChart in Your Course
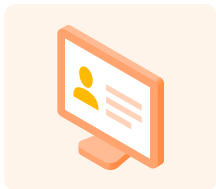
Case Studies in the Classroom, Clinical, and Lab Assignment

- Assign a case study to help students apply what they've learned.
- Use the case study's quiz as a grade. Consider reviewing the case in class to provide insight into relevant documentation or clarity for difficult concepts.

Teaching Activity

- Work through the case and role model appropriate documentation with the class.
- Use this time to make connections between theory and clinical practice and to help students navigate the patient chart.

Outside the Classroom

- Consider assigning a case study to be completed as part of lab or simulation as a way to connect all domains of learning.

Group Activity

- Have students work in learning pairs or small groups to complete the case study during class.
- Consider adding some additional considerations for students, such as the priority nursing assessments or interventions for the patient, important patient data necessary to plan care for the patient or expected provider orders.

ELSEVIER

EHRs in the Classroom, Clinical, or Lab

Use these blank charts to replace passive classroom delivery with engaging activities. For example:

⊘ When teaching disease processes or exemplars, instead of giving students a slide with clinical manifestations, have students document the "expected" assessment findings in SimChart.

⊘ Select a picture or video to show the class that is in line with the topic you are covering that day. Have the students practice correctly documenting what they are seeing (for example, when teaching skin integrity, use a photo of a wound).

⊘ Use it in conjunction with a patient scenario, such as those from the text or a HESI Case Study.

⊘ Have students work with a partner or in a small group to complete the patient case and use a blank EHR to document pertinent patient data.

⊘ Have students complete and document a teaching plan in the blank EHR for a case study patient or course patient of the day.

⊘ Ask students to document their clinical or lab experience.

⊘ Explore the EHR with your students and discuss what kind of documentation is appropriate for different scenarios.
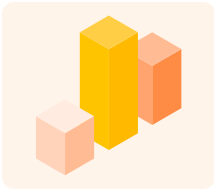
USING SHERPATH PERFORMANCE DATA: HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

The performance dashboards and learning analytics in Sherpath give you evidence-based insights to help track student performance, engagement, and preparation for their HESI exams. This data enables you to plan appropriate interventions for struggling students and make important curricular decisions to improve outcomes.

The **Performance Summary** provides a quick overview of how students are progressing in the course. This view highlights the number of completed assignments and high-performing students (that is, the number of students who are consistently achieving a score of 75% or higher on most assignments) at the top, with a summary of upcoming assignments that are due at the bottom.

Sherpath Performance & Grades Dashboard
‹ Back to Sherpath

Access All Dashboards

Viewing Course: View My Course Plan   [View all Courses]

Performance Summary   Gradebook   Engagement   Assignment Summary   EAQ Topic Report   HESI Specialty Exam Readiness

How are my students progressing in this course?   🔄 Take a Tour   🔍 Search for Student

☑ Completed Assignments ⓘ
3 of 61

View all incomplete assignments   ›
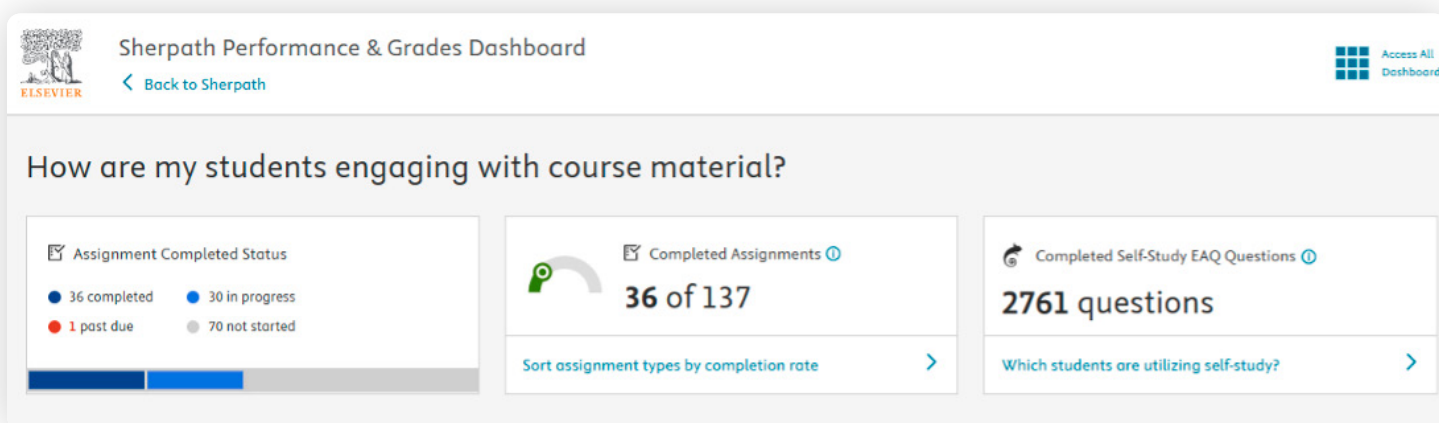
📊 High Performing Students ⓘ
34 of 38

Who are my high performing students?   ›

🔬 Summary of Assignments Due This Week

Displaying 4 assignments due soon. See all assignments ›   Sort by   Due Date ∨

Welcome to Shadowville
ShadowHealth
Due Date: 1/27/2025

Completion Rate
60.53%
12 students not started

Class Avg Score
100%
(100/100 points)
0 students below class avg

Class Avg Time Spent
10 min
Range: 4-24 minutes

2-Ch 6 EAQ
EAQ Mastery
Due Date: 1/27/2025

Completion Rate
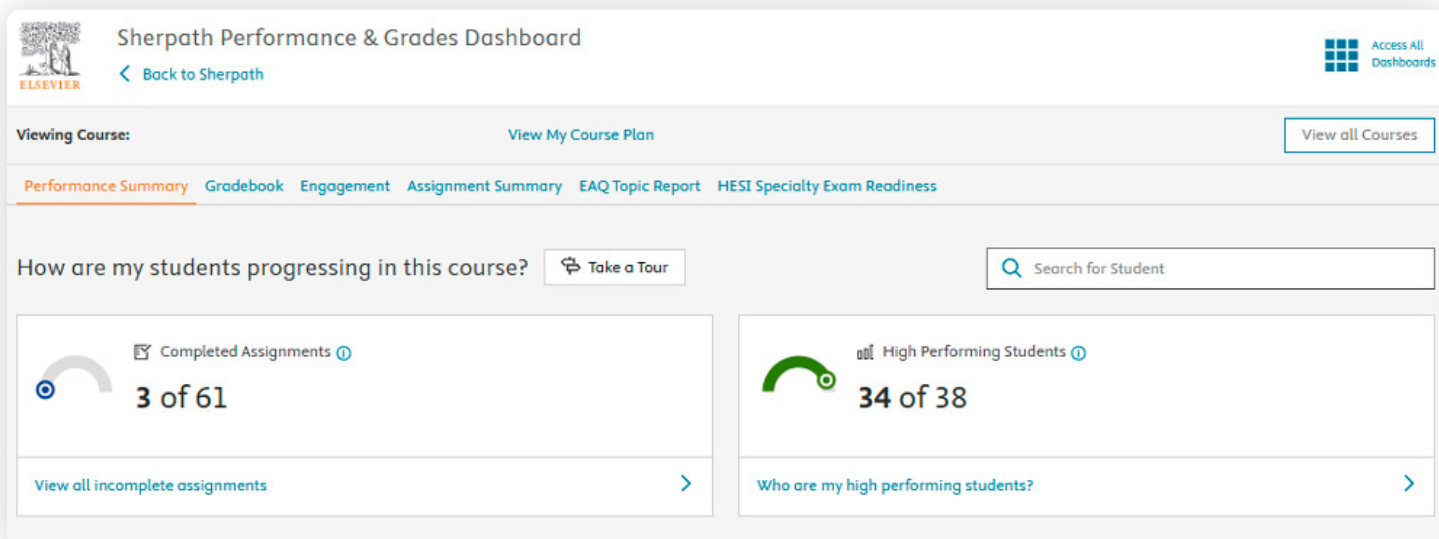**73.68%**
8 students not started

Class Avg Score
100% Passed
(1/1 points)
0 students below class avg

Class Avg Time Spent
25 min
Range: 0-134 minutes

The **Gradebook** page provides scores for students on anything that was assigned in the course. You can use the dropdown menu to choose to see results by first attempt, last attempt, best attempt, or average score — before or after the assignment due date. Assignments are grouped by assignment type (lesson, EAQ, etc.). Clicking on a student's name allows you to see detail of that student's assignment summary and engagement.

The **Engagement** page offers insights into how students are engaging with course material. On the top left you can see how many assignments are completed, in progress, past due, and not started for the course.

The **Completed Assignments** box allows you to track completion and sort the assignment type boxes below to show which types of assignments have the highest completion rates, and where there is room to encourage students.

The third box on the top right highlights how many self-study EAQ questions students have completed. These are questions that a student completes on their own outside of assigned EAQ quizzes and are a good indicator of student engagement. You can click to see a list of students in the course and their quizzing history. You can even get details about the average time a student is spending per quiz question and how they compare to their classmates. This is a fantastic tool to use for 1:1 conversations with students who may be seeking additional support or who aren't performing well in the course.

Sherpath Performance & Grades Dashboard
‹ Back to Sherpath

How are my students engaging with course material?

Assignment Completed Status

- 36 completed
- 1 past due
- 30 in progress
- 70 not started

Completed Assignments ⓘ
36 of 137

Sort assignment types by completion rate ›

Completed Self-Study EAQ Questions ⓘ
2761 questions

Which students are utilizing self-study? ›
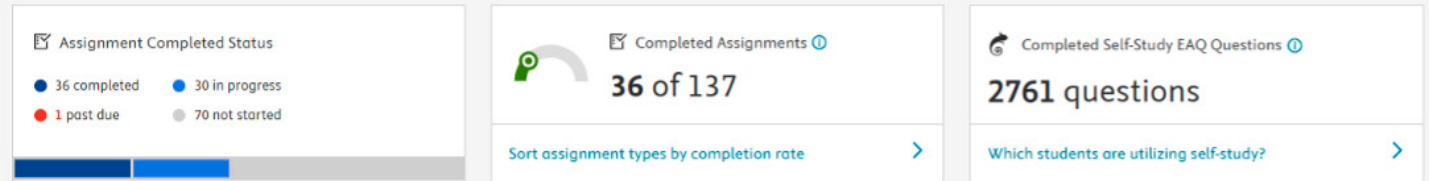
Engagement Summary By Assignment Type

Sort By Assignment Completion ⌄

EAQ NGN (13 assigned assignments)

Assignment Completion ⓘ
93% Completed

Past Due Assignment ⓘ
21 of 45 students with past due

Class Avg Time Spent per Question ⓘ
3 min per question

Avg # Self-Study Ques.Attempted
1 questions

EAQ Custom Quiz by Question (2 assigned assignments)

Assignment Completion ⓘ
90% Completed

Past Due Assignment ⓘ
9 of 45 students with past due

Class Avg Time Spent per Question ⓘ
1 min per question

Avg # Self-Study Ques.Attempted
0 questions

EAQ Mastery (28 assigned assignments)

Assignment Completion ⓘ
84% Completed

Past Due Assignment ⓘ
30 of 45 students with past due

ShadowHealth (1 assigned assignments)

Assignment Completion ⓘ
52% Completed

Past Due Assignment ⓘ
21 of 45 students with past due

The **Assignment Summary** captures student progress on assignments and calls out assignments with low performance. This allows you to see where students may need additional support.

At the bottom you will get a detailed look at every assignment in the course. You can filter this by type of assignment or assignment due date, as well as filter for only those assignments that are graded.
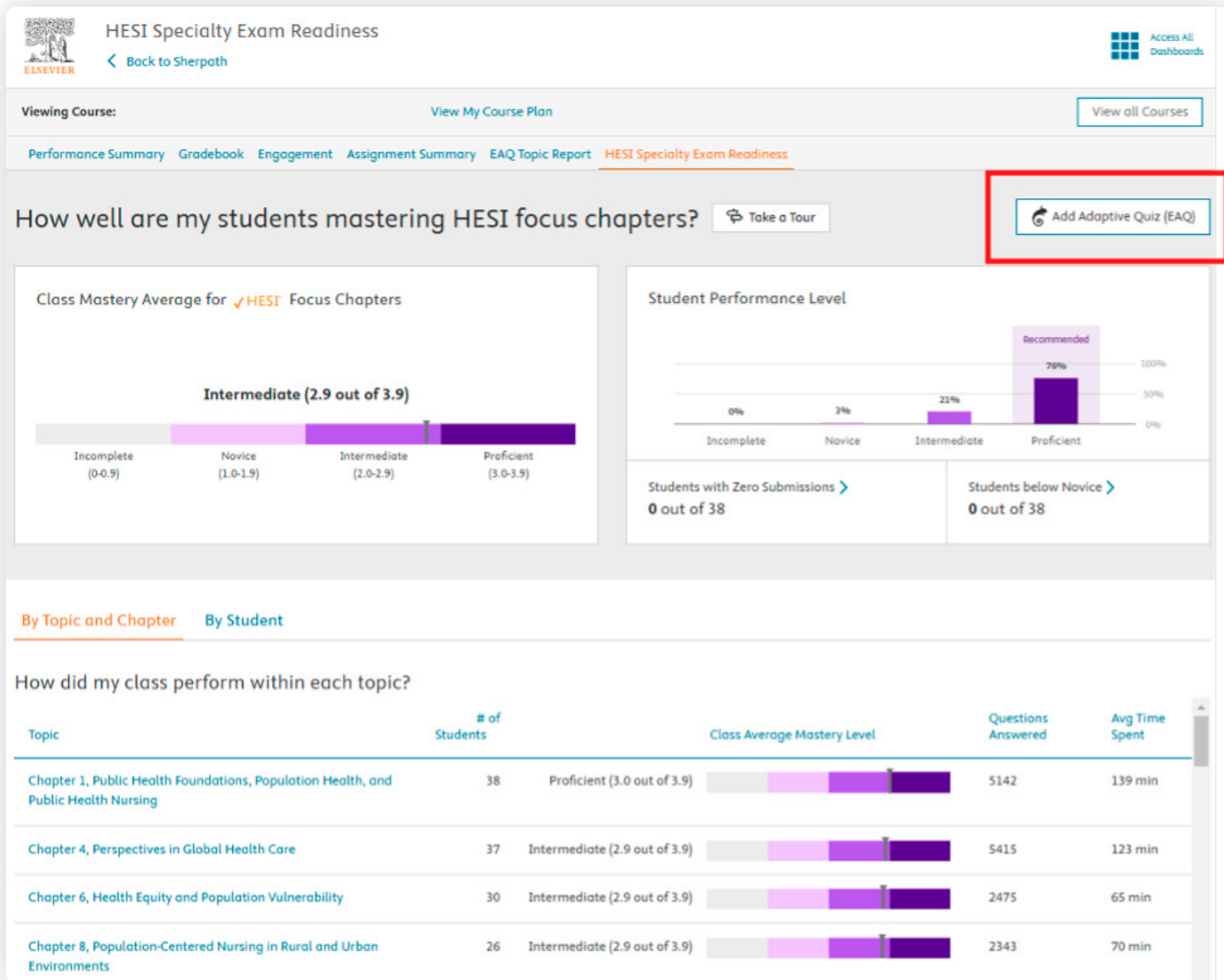
HESI Specialty Exam Readiness

Our research shows that higher-level mastery in HESI Focus Chapters yields improved scores on the HESI Specialty Exams. So, the **HESI Specialty Exam Readiness Dashboard** provides insight into student preparation for their HESI exam by monitoring progress toward proficient-level mastery in HESI Focus Chapters within the Sherpath course. The top of the dashboard shows the class average mastery level in HESI Focus Chapters as well as a detailed breakdown of the course distribution across mastery levels.

Above, you can see detail for each assigned HESI Focus Chapter for the cohort, including the number of students who have quizzed in that chapter, average mastery level, number of questions answered, and average time spent.

Choosing the **By Student** option provides this level of information by student, allowing you to pinpoint underperforming students and guide them to remediate in specific weak areas to ensure they are prepared for their HESI Specialty Exam.

There is even an **Add Adaptive Quiz (EAQ)** option on this page so you can quickly create and assign a quiz to one, some, or all students — creating an easy path to providing customized support for each student.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Elsevier Certified Expert Program

Take your professional development a step further by joining this program that's designed for nursing faculty who are committed to leading the charge. Join us to enhance your product knowledge and implementation skills, cultivate your expertise, and become a leader in nursing education. You will earn exclusive access to national webinars, branded merchandise and special gifts, and a certification badge and customized personal certificate.

Learn more about the Elsevier Expert Certification and become an expert!

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Sherpath®