



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORIES: HESI TESTING & REMEDIATION

SCHOOL NAME: Dunigan Family Department of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Evansville, Indiana

INSTRUCTORS: Amy Hall

HESI reports assist development of students and curriculum

Background: Dunigan Family Department of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Evansville, Indiana, offers a four-year baccalaureate degree. Students are admitted directly into the nursing program during their freshman year and have the opportunity to study nursing abroad without extending graduation time.

Issue: Faculty in the nursing and health sciences department at the University of Evansville, Indiana, wanted to analyze HESI reports to identify students with learning deficiencies and to improve its overall program.

Approach: In addition to the HESI Admission Assessment Exam, the University of Evansville uses the HESI Practice Test, Specialty Exams, Case Studies, Mid-Curricular Exam (a customized exam), and Exit Exam. HESI scores account for 10% of the course grade.

Throughout the nursing program, faculty members use HESI reports to analyze students' areas of strength and weakness. They review reports with the students, noting recommended resources that can be used to develop a remediation plan. All students who take the HESI Exit Exam must complete remediation, no matter what their score. Students take the Exit Exam in the middle of the last semester; those who do not score at least 900 must retake a second Exit Exam at the end of the semester.

Faculty use aggregate level HESI reports to evaluate how the nursing program is performing against other BSN schools, and keep year-to-year data so they can evaluate trends. The program also uses data from students' HESI scores in its NLNAC accreditation reports to show that students are achieving learning outcomes.

At the end of each year, faculty review HESI test results, particularly those for the Mid-Curricular and Exit Exams, in the context of the curriculum so that needed changes can be identified.

Results: Students are completing remediation plans to increase their knowledge, and there has been an increase in HESI scores.

The year-end analysis has resulted in curriculum changes at the University of Evansville. For example, students were not performing well on dosage calculations, so several calculation questions were added to other exams. The faculty is now seeing almost 100 percent accuracy on the HESI Dosage Calculation Exam.

Benefits: The year-end analysis has resulted in positive curriculum changes at the University of Evansville. For example, students were not performing well on dosage calculations, so several calculation questions were added to other exams. The faculty is now seeing almost 100 percent accuracy on the HESI Dosage Calculation Exam.