



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORIES: HESI TESTING & REMEDIATION

SCHOOL NAME: College of Nursing & Health Sciences at Florida International University

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Using HESI builds students' critical thinking skills

Background: *The College of Nursing & Health Sciences at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami offers baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degree programs in nursing. FIU has over 4,000 nursing graduates.*

Issue: *FIU faculty wanted to help students prepare for the NCLEX by improving their critical thinking skills and identifying areas of knowledge deficits.*

Approach: *FIU uses the HESI Admission Assessment Exam, Specialty Exams, and the Exit Exam in its BSN program. Specialty Exams are given at the end of each course and sometimes count towards the student's final grade.*

HESI tools are used to identify students' strengths and weaknesses. Identified weaknesses are addressed through an individualized remediation program. Students choose from a variety of resources to fit their preferred learning style.

Results: *Because HESI tests questions require students to apply, analyze, and synthesize knowledge, students' critical thinking skills improved. Students build their expertise as they progress through the program, and remediation improves classroom and clinical performance.*

Benefits: *Faculty at FIU credit HESI with enabling them to maintain a strong student pass rate on the NCLEX. In addition to developing critical thinking skills, simply taking a computerized exam helps students prepare for the NCLEX. The ability to monitor remediation progress prevents students from "falling through the cracks," and missing out on the help they need.*

Students' ability to think critically also prepares them to provide quality patient care in an environment where the scope of practice is expanding. Students like the immediate feedback and using electronic resources to enhance their learning.