HESI Exam Security

HESI exams offer vital security features that preserve the integrity of test items and give you the peace of mind that comes with knowing the results will be reliable.

Exam Security is Our Priority

As a new semester begins we will begin to hear more about HESI exams being sold illegally online on such websites as: http://www.yourbestgrade.com; http://quizlet.com; http://studyblue.com; http://www.nursingtestbanks.com.

While these sites might claim to have HESI tests, in most cases this is just a ploy on behalf of the seller to leverage the HESI brand to sell their “versions” of tests. In particular, http://yourbestgrade.com is a study site that targets HESI customers but does not offer HESI content. There is no study material outside of Elsevier that is recommended for use with HESI exams. Another website that frequently hosts content claimed to be HESI is http://quizlet.com. Quizlet is a particularly pesky problem for publishers because students can post what they choose. The good news is that Quizlet is very publisher-friendly and responds to Take-Down-Notices quickly and comprehensively. In addition there are numerous blogs that claim to have current HESI content. Elsevier’s Test Security Task Force is on top of this. Because of efforts to thwart the distribution of any HESI content (even very old screenshots) these criminals are forced to use shady methods of attracting buyers and collecting money.

We have been hearing more about students cheating on our Case Studies and Practice Test products. Because these courses reside on Evolve, we don’t have the level of security wrapped around the preparation products like we do the secure testing products. This leaves the courses open to colluding or cheating even if student’s activities are done in a lab. We understand how frustrating this is. In all cases, we recommend strong and comprehensive Testing and Academic Honesty Policies that the school administrators and proctors talk about and stand behind. Faculty establishing a culture of honesty and maintaining a standard sends a strong signal to students who might consider academic dishonesty as a means to get through the program. Making ethics and integrity a key part of programs is the single best method for deterring collusion and cheating. An option for a program that has seen evidence of cheating with the practice products but still wishes to utilize these products, might be for the program to place more emphasis on the value of the experience in working through the cases, allowing for multiple attempts and giving participation grades instead of course grades. Working in groups and reviewing the information as a class encourages learning versus simply sharing responses.

Below is our standard response from Elsevier Legal that you can share with your faculty. If you are made aware of these situations, please obtain the exact website URL so that we can forward to our Elsevier Legal team for action.

It has come to our attention that students have been approached recently about making an illicit purchase of HESI exams. This action is illegal, and sometimes constitutes a hoax. Students who are violating their school’s academic honesty policies by completing purchases on these sites not only place their enrollment in jeopardy, but also often lose their money. In addition, delivered material is often not at all what the student expected (copies of the practice products, material that is not HESI, out-of-date material, or nothing is delivered). Naturally, this type of fraud is rarely reported by the victim because the student would not risk dismissal from the nursing program were the nature of this purchase exposed.

Any Elsevier content being sold by others constitutes illegal copyright infringement. Faculty utilizing HESI exams can be assured that all situations are immediately escalated to the Elsevier Legal department for action.

HESI exams contain numerous functionalities, including the downloading of a secure browser each time an exam is administered, that provide enhanced security of the test content. Further, the licensing agreement for users of HESI exams requires administration of these tests only within a proctored environment, and HESI reserves the right to take legal action in cases where users violate the terms of the licensing agreement. Elsevier has also been combating commercial sites that flout copyright law or deal in stolen content. These are a few of the methods and tactics that Elsevier is undertaking alone and in partnership with other test publishers, to address the troubling issue of online piracy and infringement.

Keeping examination content secure is a priority for Elsevier. If you ever become aware or are suspicious of activity relating to the copying, stealing, buying, or selling of Elsevier content, please contact your Elsevier Education Solutions Consultant.

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- **Regular Updates**: One-third of each exam is refreshed up to three times a year, maintaining the security of HESI test banks.
- **Time & Date Restrictions**: Test administrators can restrict the time period students can log into an exam. This can only be adjusted by the proctor.
- **Proctoring**: All HESI exam sessions must be proctored by a test administrator, which mitigates cheating and increases the likelihood of valid test scores.
- **Computer-Based Exams**: HESI exams can only be accessed online through a secure web browser, which locks out other use on the computer.
- **Randomization**: The order of exam questions and item distractors is random for each user. Most exams have two or more parallel versions.
- **Restricted IP Addresses**: HESI exams require the administrator to specify an IP address range that allows students to connect to the exam only from designated computers at their schools.
- **Piloting New Items**: New test items are continuously being written, piloted, and evaluated in real time to keep the item pool fresh.
- **Student Confidentiality Agreement**: Before each exam, each student must agree to access the exam in a responsible, secure manner and protect their personal user name and password.
- **Best Practices in Test Development**: Item and test statistics are used for exam creation and maintenance, allowing for exams that consistently match the blueprint and best practices in testing.
- **Piracy Monitoring**: There is a robust and vigilant team monitoring the web 24/7 for illicit and counterfeit use of Elsevier content.

Learn more at [elsevieradvantage.com/reviewandtesting](http://elsevieradvantage.com/reviewandtesting)