



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORIES: HESI TESTING & REMEDIATION

SCHOOL NAME: Milwaukee Area Technical College

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HESI testing helps reverse trend in decline NCLEX pass rates

Background: *The School of Health Sciences at Milwaukee Area Technical College in Wisconsin offers an Associate Degree in Nursing and a Technical Diploma in Practical Nursing. The nursing programs are accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and have about 400 full-time nursing students.*

Issue: *In 2007, the nursing programs in the School of Health Sciences had been placed on probation because of declining student pass rates on the NCLEX exam.*

Approach: *As part of an overall academic improvement plan, the Health Sciences program implemented the HESI Exit Exam in 2007 and the HESI Mid-Curricular Exam in 2008. The HESI Exit Exam comprises 10-15 points of a student's grade final grade in the capstone course. The HESI Mid-Curricular Exam is administered during each level of the Practical and Registered Nurse Programs. For example, when a student completes their obstetrical, med-surg or mental health rotations. Faculty monitored student pass rates on NCLEX.*

Results: *NCLEX scores increased over a four-year time frame and as of early 2013, the college has a 100 percent pass rate for five quarters. Students have to answer fewer questions than they expected on the NCLEX exam before finishing.*

Benefits: *Remediation allows students to focus their study after testing more in their lower scoring areas so they can strengthen their knowledge and better prepare for the NCLEX exam. Students are able to improve their critical thinking skills, which facilitates better problem solving.*

The analytical report from HESI enables faculty to identify areas of curriculum that need to be revised. For example, the community health instruction was revised after students did not score as high as desired on that component of HESI.

The Health Sciences program also finds that adding the HESI Admission Assessment in 2012 is enabling them to better fill their competitive program slots in all its allied health programs and to identify students who may need academic assistance.