



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORIES: HESI TESTING & REMEDIATION

SCHOOL NAME: Ivy Tech Community College

INSTRUCTOR: Teresa Macauley

HESI helps students prepare for Certified Dental Assisting exam

Background: Ivy Tech Community College in Anderson, Indiana offers a one-year technical certificate program in dental assisting. The Dental Assisting Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Issue or Requirement: The Dental Assisting Program wanted to improve its already high pass rate on the three sections of the CDA.

Approach: Starting in August 2012, the program used the two sections of the HESI exam to prepare students for the DANB exam. With the new class, students will take the appropriate HESI exam at the end of each semester and before they take the corresponding section of the CDA exam. At the end of the first semester, which covers infection control, students will take the infection control section of HESI and then take the infection control section of the CDA exam. After the semester covering radiology, they will take the corresponding HESI section and then the radiation health and safety section of the CDA exam. At the end of the third and final semester, which covers general chairside, students will take that portion of the HESI exam and then the corresponding section of the CDA exam.

Each student will have the opportunity to review their results with an instructor, and students who score less than 650 will receive remediation. Student participation in HESI will be strongly encouraged.

Results: For the first time, 100% of students passed the CDA exam.

Benefits: HESI testing helps students feel more prepared for the CDA exam. The tests use questions and an exam format that matches the latest content outline from the CDA exam, which helps students feel more comfortable when taking the national exam. HESI results help students identify topic areas where they need remediation. Faculty can use HESI to compare what they are teaching to other dental assisting programs and make adjustments as needed.