



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORIES: HESI TESTING & REMEDIATION

SCHOOL NAME: St. Johns River State College

INSTRUCTORS: Kathy Hagy

Integration of HESI improves NCLEX scores

Background: *St. Johns River State College, which has three campuses in Florida (Palatka, St. Augustine, and Orange Park), offers an associate degree in nursing.*

Issue: *St. Johns River State College wanted to improve nursing students' NCLEX scores, which were in the 70th percentile.*

Approach: *The college integrated HESI throughout its nursing program. Applicants to the program take the HESI Admission Assessment Exam. Test results, completion of prerequisite courses, and grade point average are used to place students into one of three categories, with those in category one selected first for the program. These students must have a composite score of 85 or better. Scores for those in category 2 must be 80 or better and scores for those in category 3 must be 75 or better.*

HESI Case Studies, Practice Tests, Specialty Exams, and Patient Reviews are all part of the nursing curriculum. Students apply what they learn through tools such as Case Studies in the clinical setting.

Senior students take the HESI Exit Exam before graduating to determine their readiness for NCLEX. The exam is given about 3 weeks into the semester. Students then complete a remediation plan, which includes HESI Patient Reviews, and then take a second HESI Exit Exam 2 or 3 weeks before graduation. St. Johns recommends a score of 900 on the Exit Exam, which has found to be 98 percent predictive of passing the NCLEX. The HESI Exit Exam score accounts for 60 percent of the final course grade.

Results: *NCLEX scores for the nursing program increased from the 70th percentile to the 96th percentile, higher than the state and national averages.*

Faculty perceive that using the HESI Admission Assessment Exam has resulted in students being more adequately prepared for the program and that cases studies and other tests help students become more clinically proficient.

Faculty members have also used HESI reports to revise the nursing curriculum to enhance its effectiveness.

Benefits: *Faculty perceive that using the HESI Admission Assessment Exam has resulted in students being more adequately prepared for the program and that cases studies and other tests help students become more clinically proficient. Faculty members have also used HESI reports to revise the nursing curriculum to enhance its effectiveness.*