



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORIES: HESI TESTING & REMEDIATION

SCHOOL NAME: Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach, Virginia

INSTRUCTORS: Jennifer Ferguson

HESI Respiratory Therapy Exit Exam helps prepare students for national examination

Background: Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach, Virginia, offers an Associate of Applied Sciences: Respiratory Therapy degree, which prepares students to become a certified or registered Respiratory Therapist by successfully passing the Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination from the National Board of Respiratory Care. The Respiratory Care Program, which takes six semesters to complete, is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care.

Issue: Students need to be prepared to take the computer-based Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination, offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care.

Approach: In 2014, Tidewater Community College's Respiratory Therapy Program began offering the HESI Respiratory Care Exit Exam for all students. Students scheduled to graduate in May take the Exit Exam in January to identify their readiness to successfully pass the national examination. Scores are divided into green, yellow, and red categories based upon scoring benchmarks achieved. Students at the green level (recommended level) can use provided feedback to further prepare for the national examination. Faculty meet with students in the yellow and red categories to create an individualized remediation plan. In addition to scoring analysis, the HESI exam provides supplement remediation for individual's weak scoring areas which can be access directly from the provided remediation plan. Those students subsequently take another test after completing the outlined remediation.

Results: Faculty have found the HESI Respiratory Care Exit Exam prepares students well for the national examination because of the computer-based format and the use of questions that follow the test plan for the national test.

Benefits: The HESI Respiratory Care Exit Exam is a computer-based, high-quality test that identifies whether students are prepared to take the national Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination and provides specific feedback so students and faculty can create an individualized study plan to enhance student success in passing the national examination. Faculty can use reports from the HESI Respiratory Care Exit Exam to assist students with identifying their strengths and weaknesses, to prepare reports for accrediting bodies, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the program's curriculum.