
SCHOOL NAME: Kankakee Community College (KCC) in Kankakee, Illinois

INSTRUCTOR: Kellee Hayes

Faculty successfully responds to new NCLEX® test plan

Background: The Health Career Programs at Kankakee Community College (KCC) in Kankakee, Illinois, include an Associate Degree in Nursing program, with an advanced placement pathway for Licensed Practical Nurses. The Nursing education program, which has completed its site visit for accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, admits 70 students each year.

Issue or Requirement: The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) revises the test plan for NCLEX® every three years, with the most recent revision in 2013. This revision included an increase in the passing standard. The faculty at KCC needed to ensure that students were prepared for the new exam.

Approach: When the last new test plan was released in 2013, the director of the nursing program and the faculty, which have been using HESI products for several years, took steps to make a smooth transition to ensure the program's high pass rates continued. "We sat down and went through the test plan together," Kellee Hayes says, adding that the group also reviewed past NCLEX reports to identify weak areas. "Then we divided up the HESI case studies by faculty member so we would make sure we used them throughout the curriculum."

Because Elsevier updates HESI products to reflect new test plans, the faculty could concentrate on continually improving the learning experience for students. This was particularly important given that the NCLEX pass score increased in 2013. They also maintained their policy of reviewing HESI reports to identify potential areas for improvement. One of the challenges with a new test plan is that typically it is not available until April, only a month before graduating students have to take the new NCLEX exam. Hayes credits HESI with preparing students so the program maintained a successful pass rate even with the increased passing score.

Results: The nursing program maintained a successful pass rate even with the increased passing standard. The program's three-year average pass rate is 95%, including a 98% pass rate in 2013.

Benefits: HESI exams were updated to reflect the revised NCLEX test plans, so the director and Nursing faculty could concentrate on how to best use HESI to prepare students and to explore other

opportunities for improvement. HESI reports helped faculty identify areas where the curriculum needed to be fine-tuned, and adaptive quizzing facilitated ongoing student engagement. The HESI Exit Exam helped identify whether students were prepared for NCLEX.