HESI Veterinary Technology Exit Exam helps prepare students for VTNE

**Background:** Manor College in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, offers an Associate Degree in Veterinary Technology that prepares students to become a certified veterinary technician by successfully completing the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). The Program of Veterinary Technology has been accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association since 1992.

**Issue:** Faculty were using paper/pencil based practice tests in the review course that prepares students for taking the VTNE and wanted something that more accurately replicated the computer-based testing that students would encounter.

**Approach:** The HESI Veterinary Technology Exit Exam was added to the program’s review course, which is taken during or immediately after the externship experience that comprises the fifth semester of the program. Students are encouraged to score 650 or higher on the exam, so they are more fully prepared. The exam is used to identify students’ knowledge strengths and weaknesses.

**Results:** Faculty have found the HESI Exit Exam score to correlate with success on the VTNE. For example, during the pilot phase three (out of ten) students who scored lower than the acceptable score also did not pass the VTNE. Those students who achieved the recommended score passed the VTNE.

**Benefits:** The HESI Exit Exam is composed of questions that align well with the VTNE content outline and therefore serves as a great tool to determine if students have learned the information necessary to pass our program and the VTNE. After the exam, students can review the questions they missed and read rationales for correct and incorrect answers. This information helps them identify knowledge deficit areas where further study is needed. The experience of having to adhere to a time frame, choosing answers electronically, and using an online calculator also reduces anxiety about the VTNE.

Overall, the HESI Veterinary Technology Exit Exam provides students with high-quality questions and a computer-based testing experience that prepares them well for the VTNE.