

**Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
School of Nursing Undergraduate Bachelors Program in Nursing
Key Assessment Findings**

The School of Nursing has two main outcome measures that are used in the undergraduate program. The first is the HESI© National End of Program examination and the second is the NCLEX nursing licensure examination. The HESI examination is taken in the last semester of the senior year of the nursing undergraduate program. The results are predictive of performance on the NCLEX examination and are referenced to that examination. The score categories reference the prediction of performance on the NCLEX examination. During the academic year 2010/2011 the students were advised to take the HESI test results very seriously. If students did not achieve at least a 750 score on the HESI exit examination they were required to take an NCLEX review course and retest after course completion. The tables following report results for the 2011 graduating cohort. The 2012 cohort results are not yet available although preliminary data indicate some improvement in pass rates for this group (87.50% second quarter 2012).

Table 1: HESI Results for 2011 graduating class

HESI Composite Score Category	Number writing (N=64)	Number in category	% passing in category	2011 comparison (N=66)	% Change
>=950 (Outstanding)	64	3	5%	5%	0%
900-949 (Excellent)	64	4	6%	5%	+1%
850-899 (Average)	64	3	5%	6%	-1%
800-849 (Below average)	64	7	11%	9%	+2%
750-799 (Additional preparation needed)	64	7	11%	14%	+3%
700-749 (Serious preparation needed)	64	9	14%	21%	-7%
650-699 (Grave danger of failing licensure exam)	64	13	20%	17%	+3%
<= 649 (Poor performance expected)	64	18	28%	24%	+4%

The NCLEX nursing licensure examination is the second outcome measure for the undergraduate program. Graduating students must write the NCLEX examination before they are allowed to practice nursing. Students are encouraged to take this examination in the summer after they graduate so that their knowledge is current. Results are reported quarterly to each program by the State Board of Nursing. The School of Nursing analyzes NCLEX performance by graduating cohort including October and January graduates.

Table 2 NCLEX Results for 2011 Graduating Class Cohort.

<i>Title of Certification Examination</i>	<i>Number eligible to write</i>	<i>Number who took exam (to December 2011)</i>	<i>Number who passed (to December 2011)</i>	<i>% passing 2011 cohort</i>	<i>% passing 2010 cohort</i>
<i>NCLEX Licensure Exam</i>	<i>66 (includes grads from October 10 and January 11)</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>74.2% (N=66)</i>	<i>76.75% (N=68)</i>

Curricular Improvements

Performance on the HESI examinations has declined and is still well below the target goal of 850 for all students. The School of Nursing continues to improve integration of the HESI subject examinations into the undergraduate curriculum as well as allocating more of the course grade to the HESI subject examination in appropriate courses. The baccalaureate faculty has increased the weight of the HESI subject specific examinations in all courses that have appropriate HESI tests, and have added NCLEX-type questions to examinations in those that do not use a HESI subject examination. Additionally the requirement to earn at least a score of 850 on the HESI exit examination has been reinstated. The 2012 graduating class was required to earn the threshold score or participate in required remedial activities before they are approved to write the NCLEX examination. Test results for the full cohort of 2012 graduates are not yet available; the results reported above reflect the performance of the 2011 graduating cohort.

Additional measures taken to improve pass rates are as follows:

- More stringent entry requirements for prospective nursing students. As of January, 2012 no transfer students will be accepted into the School of Nursing. Additionally, the accelerated nursing program will require a 4 year degree as a condition of acceptance rather than 60 college credits. The defined pre-requisites and required GPA of 3.0 will remain in place. Entering 4-year students will be required to have at least 1150

composite SAT scores, a high-school science GPA of 3.0 and an increased overall high-school GPA.

- Further integration of the HESI subject examinations in each of the relevant nursing classes, and assignment of a percentage of the class grade (no less than 20%) to the HESI nationally normed examination. Faculty will also be required to use NCLEX type objective testing in all lecture classes. Extra credit assignments are not available in undergraduate classes.
- New instructional technology is now in use in pathophysiology and other undergraduate classes that increases student participation in class and allows the instructors to better assess student understanding of the material. Students are expected to be proactive in defining learning remediation if they are not achieving passing grades in course examinations.
- Curriculum redesign to increase the credit concentration in basic nursing applications as well as to provide for a senior practicum for excellent students.
- Expansion of the physical assessment course for all students so that all students, including those in the second degree program, receive a minimum of 15 weeks of physical assessment training.
- Continuing emphasis on student preparation to take the NCLEX. Effective with the 2012 student cohort, a Hurst NCLEX review class is required for all students who score below 850 on the HESI exit examination. Students will not be approved to take the NCLEX examination until they achieve an 850 or better on the HESI examination.
- Increased emphasis on undergraduate course student learning objectives that are integrated with the AACN Essentials of Baccalaureate Education. Student learning objectives for each undergraduate course will be linked directly to one of the AACN Essentials to assure curriculum coverage of all content areas.