

**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. The 2014 graduating class is the cohort selected for this report since the NCLEX examination results are not available for the 2015 graduating cohort. During the academic year 2013/2014 the HESI exit results were:

Table 1: HESI Results for 2014 graduating class

HESI Composite Score Category	Number writing (N=77)	Number in category	% passing in category	2013 comparison (N=78)	% Change
>=950 (Outstanding)	77	22	30%	10%	20%
900-949 (Excellent)	77	14	18%	14%	4%
850-899 (Average)	77	18	23%	10%	13%
800-849 (Below average)	77	5	6%	14%	-8%
750-799 (Additional preparation needed)	77	5	6%	15%	-9%
700-749 (Serious preparation needed)	77	6	8%	10%	-2%
650-699 (Grave danger of failing licensure exam)	77	4	5%	8%	-3%
<= 649 (Poor performance expected)	77	3	4%	19%	-15%

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. The DC Board of Nursing reports results by graduating cohorts. The results reported below were for those from the 2014 graduating class who wrote the NCLEX exam in 2014. Only the first-time writing results are reported here.

Table 2 NCLEX First Attempt Results for 2014 Graduating Class Cohort.

<i>Title of Certification Examination</i>	<i>Number eligible to write</i>	<i>Number who took exam (to December 2014)</i>	<i>Number who passed (to December 2014)</i>	<i>% passing in 2014 graduating cohort From 1/1/2014 to 12/31/2014</i>	<i>% passing from 2013 cohort (n=71 who wrote from 1/1/13 to 12/31/13)</i>	<i>Percent change</i>
<i>NCLEX Licensure Exam</i>	<i>78 (includes degrees conferred Jan, 2014 and May, 2014)</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>87.32%</i>	<i>69.01%</i>	<i>+18.31%</i>

### **Curricular Improvements**

Performance on the NCLEX examination shows an 18.31% increase in those students who pass on the first attempt of writing the licensure examination. The School of Nursing requires a score of 850 or better on the HESI exit examination as a condition for graduation. Students may repeat the HESI as often as necessary, however the benchmark results reported here are for first attempts. Students gain valuable information about their readiness to take the NCLEX examination through analysis of their HESI results and the suggested remediation plans provided by the testing service. Other student support measures include intensive support from the course instructors and the Center for Academic success. Additional measures taken to improve student nursing skill and knowledge as reflected in HESI and NCLEX pass rates are as follows:

- Effective with the entering class of fall 2014 the School of Nursing has instituted a pre-nursing program in cooperation with the School of Arts and Sciences. This program will require a two year pre-nursing component that includes all basic sciences and social sciences courses as well as the first year experience. Students will be required to have a overall GPA of 2.5 with a science GPA of 2.75 to qualify for entry into the last two years of the nursing program. They will also have to earn at least a 75% score on the HESI

entrance examination that measures basic skill in science, mathematics, and writing.

- Redesign of the last two years of the undergraduate nursing curriculum to assure that students are exposed to intensive coursework in nursing science. This intensive course of study assures that nursing knowledge is current and that the student is fully prepared for the rigorous NCLEX licensure examination.
- Consistent faculty support and mentoring to assure that undergraduate nursing teaching strategies are effective and consistent. All full-time undergraduate nursing faculty participate in the curriculum planning and evaluation meetings in which best practices in nursing education and evaluation are discussed. A pilot peer review of teaching program was completed and a full peer review program for nursing faculty will be instituted beginning in the Fall 2015 semester.
- Improved training and support for pre-nursing academic advisors to assure that students are assisted to make the best course selections to assure academic success. Student who appear to be struggling with the science content are encouraged to seek experience in other academic subjects in order to broaden their academic and career choices.
- New pre-nursing student advising and tracking criteria have been designed by Arts and Sciences to assist students to be successful in their academic preparation for entry into nursing studies.
- Consistent and effective recruitment of nursing faculty to assure that fully qualified and experienced faculty are available to teach undergraduate nursing students. The reduction of one support staff position in the undergraduate nursing office will be challenging given the level of support needed for this rigorous academic program.