

**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 2014/2015 the HESI exit results were:

Table 1: HESI Results for 2015 graduating class

HESI Composite Score Category	Number writing (N=64)	Number in category	% passing in category	2014 comparison (N=77)	% Change
>=950 (Outstanding)	64	12	19%	30%	-37%
900-949 (Excellent)	64	12	19%	18%	5%
850-899 (Average)	64	18	7	11%	-36%
800-849 (Below average)	64	5	13	20%	-35%
750-799 (Additional preparation needed)	64	5	16	6%	166%
700-749 (Serious preparation needed)	64	6	8	8%	0
650-699 (Grave danger of failing licensure exam)	64	4	4	5%	-20%
<= 649 (Poor performance expected)	64	1	2%	19%	-89%

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 2015. 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 2015)</i>	<i>Number who passed (to December 2015)</i>	<i>% passing in 2014 graduating cohort From 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015</i>	<i>% passing from 2013 cohort (n=71 who wrote from 1/1/14 to 12/31/14)</i>	<i>Percent change</i>
<b>NCLEX Licensure Exam</b>	85 <i>(includes degrees conferred Jan, 2014 and May, 2014)</i>	82	66	80.49%	87.32	-7.82%

### **Curricular Improvements**

The number of students in serious or grave danger of passing the licensure examination (NCLEX) decreased significantly in this academic year, however the large majority of students who took the HESI examination still did not achieve a score in the range needed to reliably predict passage of the NCLEX. The number of students in these higher categories decreased during this academic year and this decrease is reflected in the 7.8% decrease in NCLEX passage rate. While this rate is still within the 80% pass rate required by the DC Board to maintain accreditation, it is much lower than the desired goal of 90% first time pass rate set by the School of Nursing. The following changes are being made to the curriculum to support a stronger result in the coming year:

Student Support:

- 1) 850 HESI Exit Examination required for graduation together with additional faculty coaching and counseling for students below the HESI passing standard.
- 2) Additional HESI subject examinations available to support student and faculty assessment in each course for which such an exam is available

- 3) Required completion of nationally normed and representative case studies and test bank questions for all students
- 4) Increased basic science GPA to 2.75 for admission into the nursing program
- 5) Required HESI nationally normed entrance examination > than or + to 75% in both the science and non-science portions of the exam prior to admission into the junior year of nursing
- 6) Required review course for the nursing licensure examination (NCLEX)

### **Additional Faculty and Administrative Supports**

- 1) Full-time clinical coordinator administrative position funded to manage clinical placements
- 2) Professional nurse academic counselor to support student success available to all professional nursing students (last two years of study)
- 3) Curriculum workshops offered to faculty by contracted curriculum experts to facilitate curriculum review and simulation teaching approaches
- 4) Faculty-sponsored workshop to orient faculty to techniques for intensive NCLEX review
- 5) Faculty funded by the School of Nursing to take the HESI examinations to gain knowledge of testing approach and content
- 6) Ongoing curriculum mapping and course content revision by undergraduate faculty