

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

The School of Nursing (SON) has two main outcome measures that are used in the undergraduate program. The first is the nationally normed HESI© National End of Program examination and the second is the NCLEX-RN © (NCLEX) nursing licensure examination. The HESI examination is taken in the last semester of the senior year of the nursing undergraduate program. HESI 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 2015 graduating class is the cohort selected for this report since the NCLEX examination results are not available for the 2016 graduating cohort. During the academic year 2015/2016 the HESI exit results were:

Table 1: HESI Results for 2016 graduating class

HESI Composite Score Category	Number writing (N=57)	Number in category	% passing in category	2015 comparison (N=83)	% Change
>=950 (Outstanding)	57	21	37%	18%	19%
900-949 (Excellent)	57	12	21%	16%	5%
850-899 (Average)	57	10	17%	13%	4%
800-849 (Below average)	57	8	14%	21%	-7%
750-799 (Additional preparation needed)	57	3	5%	14%	-9%
700-749 (Serious preparation needed)	57	1	2%	10%	-8%
650-699 (Grave danger of failing licensure exam)	57	1	2%	7%	-5%
<= 649 (Poor performance expected)	57	1	2%	1%	1%

The NCLEX 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 SON 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 test-taker results are reported here, with all test-taker rates much higher.

Table 2 NCLEX First Attempt Results for 2016 Graduating Class Cohort.

<i>Title of Certification Examination</i>	<i>Number eligible to write</i>	<i>Number who took exam (to September 2016)</i>	<i>Number who passed (to September 2016)</i>	<i>% passing in 2016 graduating cohort From 1/1/2016 to 9/30/2016</i>	<i>% passing from 2015 cohort (n=71 who wrote from 1/1/15 to 12/31/15)</i>	<i>Percent change</i>
<i>NCLEX Licensure Exam</i>	<i>57 (includes degrees conferred Jan, 2016 and May, 2016)</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>86.79</i>	<i>87.93</i>	<i>-1.14%</i>

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. Both the DC Board of Nursing and our accreditor, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education have established a pass rate of 80% as the benchmark. While we have exceeded this metric by about 8%, we have still not met our goal of a 90% first-time NCLEX pass rate. Consequently, the following changes are being made to the curriculum to support a stronger result in the coming year:

Student Support:

- 1) Additional faculty coaching and counseling for students below the HESI passing standard.
- 2) Increased 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 matriculation from pre-nursing 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)
- 7) Students must obtain a score of 850 or higher on the HESI Exit examination to graduate. Those who do not meet this standard participate in all commencement activities, and we offer them intensive remediation. To date, all students have been successful with intensive remediation.

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
- 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 to take the HESI examinations by the SON to gain knowledge of testing approach and content
- 6) Ongoing curriculum mapping and course content revision by undergraduate faculty

Of particular note, in October 2017, the SON hosted an on-site accreditation visit by CCNE. The BSN program was found to meet all CCNE standards and there were no compliance concerns with any key elements. Over the course of the next several months, CCNE will review our self-study materials, the report of the on-site evaluators, and review by their accreditation review committee at which time they will determine our accreditation status and period of accreditation. The maximum period which can be granted is 10 years.