

BSN Program Testing Policy 3.12

Original Implementation: January 2024

Number of Exams and Exam Items

The number of items on an exam should reflect the number of learning outcomes or objectives to be evaluated. The following nursing courses NURS 3606, 3207, 3308, 3630, 3431, 3232, 4606, 4407, 4208, 4431, 4432 must give unit exams and a comprehensive final.

Exam Blueprint

The exam blueprint is designed to aid faculty in developing exams. Faculty will blueprint each test item to the following: unit objectives, Bloom's Taxonomy, and NCLEX Test Plan Categories. Exam items will be labeled in ExamSoft to create an exam blueprint. The percentage of difficulty of items and the types of exam items will progress throughout the program. See the chart below for the progression. The Exam Blueprint Student Summary will be shared with students at least three days prior to the exam.

	First Semester	Second Semester	Third Semester	Fourth Semester
Remembering/Understanding	30-40%	20-30%	10-20%	0-10%
Applying	60-70%	70-80%	80-90%	90-100%
Analyzing and above	10-20%	20-30%	30-40%	Up to 50%
NextGen items	5-10%	10-15%	15-20%	Up to 20%
Mastery items	<10%			

Dosage Calculation Items

To align with the NCLEX Test Plan, rounding should only be done at the end of the calculation. Each item that varies from this standard must include specific instructions within the item.

Exam Item Development

The goal of item writing is to evaluate the clinical decision-making skills and/or clinical judgment of students. The faculty of the DeWitt School of Nursing shall strive to develop exam items following guidelines in accordance with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the National League of Nursing in order to promote consistency across the curriculum in removing bias and promoting fair testing.

Testing Environment

Students are asked not to wait outside of the testing room for more than 5 minutes prior to their scheduled exam time. (This is a courtesy to keep the hallway quiet for those in the testing room prior). Students will be assigned randomized seating by faculty. Students will only be allowed a pen/pencil, earplugs, and headphones at their seat. Students are encouraged to leave their belongings in their car. Personal items must be left at the front of the classroom. All electronic devices must be turned off. Students are not allowed to wear head coverings except for religious

reasons, sunglasses, or smart watches. Students may be asked to raise sleeves or to remove outerwear such as coats, jackets, or hoodies. Any scratch paper/analysis forms will be handed out by the proctoring faculty after all students have downloaded the exam. Students are not allowed to increase the font size of their computer screen. Students who need a larger font size will be encouraged to request accommodations from Disability Services. Students may not talk, gesture, or communicate with other students once the exam has started. Students are to look directly at their computer screen. Students looking at other computers during the testing period may be removed from the exam. During the exam, faculty will only answer questions regarding technical issues with the computer/testing software. No content questions will be answered. Students are not allowed to leave the education building. Students will return any scratch paper/analysis forms to proctoring faculty.

Exam Timing

Per NCSBN guidelines, students will be given 2 minutes per item. Students requiring more time will be advised to request accommodations from Disability Services.

Late Arrivals

Students arriving late will not be allowed to begin the exam if any student has left the testing room. Late arrival after a student has left the testing room will be considered an unexcused absence. Students that begin the exam late will complete the exam with only the remaining time available. No time extensions will be given.

Exam Absences

At the discretion of the instructor, students may be excused from exam attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in an approved university-sponsored event(s). However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. If so directed by the instructor, the student must bring a written excuse from the professional healthcare provider. If the absence is not excused, the maximum grade is 75. To calculate the grade, the ratio/proportion method will be used (i.e., 90 on unexcused absence makeup exam would be $90/100 : x/75$, where $x = 67.5$). Make-up exams may be in an alternate format and/or include a different number of items at the faculty's discretion. Students are responsible for contacting faculty to schedule make-up exams. Make-up exams will be scheduled in accordance with faculty and student availability.

Test Review and Item Analysis

All exams should be reviewed and item analysis should be performed. Course instructors should complete the Summary of Test Review form for each instructor-made exam given. Items with an item difficulty level (p value) of less than 0.3 should be reviewed. Faculty should consider giving credit to all test takers on the item or accepting additional answers. Items that have an item discrimination value (PBI) of less than 0.25 with an item difficulty level of less than 0.5 should be reviewed. Items that are reviewed should be considered for revision before using on a future exam.

Peer Review Process

It is highly recommended that all faculty written exams have at least one faculty member of their choice to review exam items prior to testing.

Test Remediation

Students who score below 75% on an exam are encouraged to make a remediation appointment with the designated course faculty within two weeks of the grade posting. Instructors will not show exam items to students during remediation meetings in order to maintain test security.