

W H I T H HEALTH SCIENCE Educator

Tips, ideas and opinions for Health Science Education



December 2020

ASSESSMENT EDITION



A free publication for professionals who choose to make a difference in the classroom – or working from a home office.

You inspire the heroes of healthcare!

On some kinds of tests, particularly multiple choice, we learn from answering incorrectly – especially when given the correct answer soon afterward.

– **Benedict Carey**

★ EDUCATION NEWS: **ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR POSTSECONDARY HSE PROGRAMS**

Let's begin at the end.

Most health careers require some form of certification or licensure exam. Without the necessary credential, individuals cannot practice the profession for which they have prepared.

Not only must your students “pass the test” in order to be credentialed, quite often a test is part of the process for acceptance in a postsecondary health science program.

What does that mean for Health Science Education?

It means that, whether we like it or not, part of our job is preparing our students to pass a test. We need to understand what is tested and characteristics of the test, AND, we need to help our students learn how to take the test.

Internal and External Practice

Internal strategies include teacher-led content learning and test practice. We must never lose sight of the fact that if they don't learn the content, all the test practice in the world will not help them achieve their goals.



At the same time, we should assure that our classroom assessments include questions that are similar to the types of questions that our students will see on admission and certification exams.

External practice includes additional learning outside the classroom in student-friendly formats. The process of answering questions with immediate feedback using a smart phone app can add a layer of learning with significant achievement gains.

★ EDUCATION NEWS: *ENTRANCE EXAMS*

What entrance exams are common in health science education?

HESI A2

The HESI A2 is a common nursing school computer-based entrance exam. It is sometimes called the Evolve Reach Admissions Assessment. It consists of 8 test areas, including math, reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, biology, chemistry, anatomy & physiology and physics. Colleges will designate which test areas the candidate must take.

- Mostly multiple choice
- \$40 to take the test
- Passing depends on the college, usually 70-80% per area
- Can be repeated after 60 days but only 3 times per year

ATI TEAS

This Test of Essential Academic Skills is designed specifically to measure a student's preparedness for pursuing a health profession.

- 170 multiple choice questions
- Tests reading, math, science, English and language usage
- In person or remote (varies by school)
- \$81 to take the test
- Repeat testing option varies by school

NLN PAX

The National League for Nursing Pre-Admission Exam is a standardized test for nursing school in the United States.

- Minimum passing standards vary
- Must have a high school diploma to take the test
- Consists of three, separate multiple-choice exams: verbal ability, math and science
- \$45 - \$100
- Repeat testing varies by school but usually after 6-month waiting period

KNAT

The Kaplan Nursing Admissions Test consists of four sections with a total of 91 questions. The total test time is 165 minutes (2 hours, 45 minutes).

- Reading, math, writing and science
- Intended to be taken one time only
- Cost varies by school

How to Prepare Entrance Exams

Now is the time for your students to find out if an entrance exam is required by the school(s) for which they plan to apply.



Start 3 months before the exam and do 75 practice questions every day.

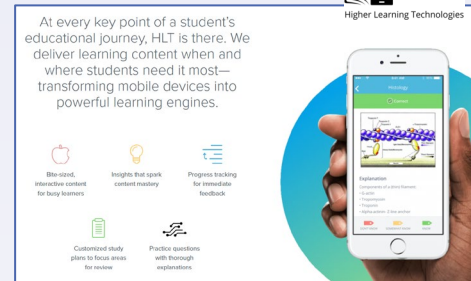
How??

There are many resources available to supplement student learning. Two things to take into consideration:

1. **They already have you.**
Instead of offering additional classroom instruction in a virtual format, look for something that you aren't already doing.
2. **You may not have the time**
to include some of the math, reading, grammar, etc. that is included on the test.

We like the idea of an affordable, smart phone test practice app that provides immediate feedback and tracks progress. Many options are available, for example:

[Products | Higher Learning Technologies \(builtbyhlt.com\)](#)



HESI A2
Mastery

If you're about to take the HESI A2 Exam, you will love this.



TEAS Mastery
Dominate your ATI TEAS exam with this best selling app.

HAPPY

HEALTH SCIENCE *Holidays* TRIVIA

It is said that the tradition of using bright lights on holiday trees and homes started as a way to prevent the development of seasonal affective disorder. What factors are believed to cause or contribute to seasonal affective disorder? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

- ☐ Watching too many holiday movies
- ☐ Your biological clock (circadian rhythm)
- ☐ Melatonin
- ☐ Financial stress
- ☐ Serotonin
- ☐ Actin and myosin

If a music therapist wanted to play the most popular holiday songs of all time for a client celebration, which ones are from the *Billboard* top ten playlist? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

- ☐ "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby
- ☐ "O Holy Night" by Josh Groban
- ☐ "A Holly Jolly Christmas" by Burl Ives
- ☐ "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey
- ☐ "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" by Elmo and Patsy
- ☐ "The Hanukkah Song" by Adam Sandler

What holiday treat or snack is approximately 110 calories? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

- ☐ One 1 oz candy cane
- ☐ One Ghirardelli dark chocolate peppermint Square
- ☐ Eggnog, ½ cup
- ☐ Fruitcake, one slice
- ☐ Milk chocolate Santa, 2 oz
- ☐ Apple pie, one slice
- ☐ Chestnuts, 3 oz

What are the symptoms of Christmas Tree Syndrome? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

- ☐ Nausea and vomiting
- ☐ Skin rash
- ☐ Sneezing
- ☐ Hair falling out
- ☐ Distended abdomen
- ☐ Runny nose
- ☐ Multi-colored spots all over the body

Which statements are true about mistletoe?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- ☐ The white berries are toxic to humans
- ☐ Mistletoe grows as a parasite on trees
- ☐ European mistletoe has been used to treat cancer
- ☐ Mistletoe tea relieves arthritis pain
- ☐ The leaves are safe for animals to eat
- ☐ 92% of mistletoe consumption calls to the poison control center involve men over the age of 65

Cultural sensitivity in healthcare is important all year but particularly so during the December holidays. What should the healthcare team member know about holiday celebrations? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

- ☐ Kwanzaa is a way to celebrate important aspects of African-American life.
- ☐ There are no specific Muslim holidays in December 2020.
- ☐ A popular Buddhist holiday, Bodhi Day, features multicolored lights on a tree.
- ☐ Kwanzaa is celebrated December 26 – January 1.
- ☐ Catholics celebrate the Festival of the Lights on December 10.
- ☐ The centerpiece of the Jewish Hanukkah celebration is the menorah.

What are the top three reasons for a visit to the emergency room during the holiday season?

SELECT THREE

- ☐ Overeating
- ☐ Excessive alcohol consumption
- ☐ Poisoning
- ☐ Falls
- ☐ Automobile accidents
- ☐ The flu
- ☐ Frostbite

Which nuts are rich in omega 3 fatty acids?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- ☐ Cashews
- ☐ Almonds
- ☐ Peanuts
- ☐ Walnuts
- ☐ Macadamia nuts



Are you familiar with the ?

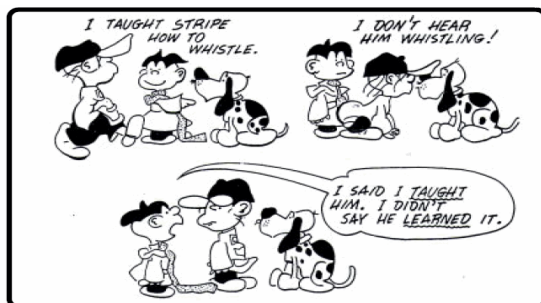
Health Science Education is an ALL HEALTH PROFESSIONS program. Changes in one profession can sometimes impact other health professions.

Take a look at what is happening with Next Generation testing for nursing. Is this approach already implemented in non-nursing testing? If not, will it become a part of certification and licensure in other healthcare careers? As a health science educator, what do you need to know about Next Generation testing?

There is a lot to like about multiple choice tests. They are easy to grade and provide for consistent measurement. But we can all agree that they are not perfect for all students and all situations.

Take a look at the Next Generation project. [Next Generation NCLEX Project | NCSBN](#) For everyone who has argued against “standardized multiple-choice tests” it looks like your desire for change might actually happen.

What really matters is if our students know and can do the things we teach them. The challenge becomes, **how do we measure if they know what they need to know?**



We don't know if the Next Generation format is the best answer, or the right answer, but we do know that it's an effort to assure a meaningful format for assessing competence. In health science, we “teach it” and then do our best to assure our students “learned it.”

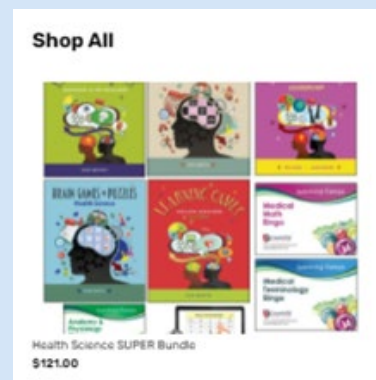
The Next Generation project involves a variety of question types, including SATA (Select All That Apply). To introduce you to that type of question, we have provided a holiday trivia quiz on the preceding page to use in your classroom. The answers will be posted at [Books and Games | CreativEd Services](#) Enjoy...and happy holidays!



IMPORTANT

Do you know of any new programs or of anyone who isn't using our products designed for Health Science Education?

Check out this and other AMAZING deals!



60% discount!

This is a \$302 value for the bundle price of only \$121 and includes:

- *Learning Games: Leadership* (print)
- *Learning Games: Health Science 2E* (flash drive)
- *Learning Games: Anatomy & Physiology* (flash drive)
- *Brain Games and Puzzles: Health Science* (flash drive)
- *Brain Games and Puzzles: Anatomy & Physiology* (flash drive)
- *Medical Terminology Bingo* (classroom game for 25 and electronic PDF cards)
- *Medical Math Bingo* (classroom game for 25 and electronic PDF cards)
- *Anatomy & Physiology Bingo* (classroom game for 30)

We'll ship your box UPS ground. You pay \$7.75 for shipping. We pay the rest. Order it only at www.CreativEdServices.com/books-and-games

The Health Science Educator, published by CreativEd Services in collaboration with NCHSE, is a free monthly newsletter for health science professionals at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels.



Kim Smith, the author of *The Health Science Educator*, is an instructional designer and Certified Professional in Talent Development. She is a retired RN and former Health Science Teacher, Health Science State Supervisor, and Assistant Director of National HOSA.