

ABSN HESI A2 Exam - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the HESI A2 Exam?

The HESI A2 Exam is a high school level "pre-admission" exam used by the College of Nursing to evaluate applicants for admission to ECU's ABSN program. It is a computerized, proctored exam you take on site at a Prometric Testing Center (located all over the country) or remotely through the ProProctor system offered by Prometric.

What subjects does ECU require on the HESI A2 Exam?

Nursing schools can choose which subject areas they want to assess their applicants on. ECU has chosen to test students on these five areas:

- *Basic Math*
- *Vocabulary & General Knowledge*
- *Reading Comprehension*
- *Biology*
- *Anatomy & Physiology*

NOTE: Chemistry, Physics, and Grammar are also sections that are part of the HESI A2 Exam options, but ECU does NOT test students on these subjects, and they should be ignored in all study materials used.

How are HESI A2 scores used in the ABSN admission process?

Passing the HESI A2 exam requires a 75% or higher on all five (5) sections listed above. Passing all five sections is not required to apply to the ABSN program at ECU. However, students who achieve passing scores in all five subsections above receive preference in the ABSN admission process. Below is a sample of a student's HESI A2 score report with the required sections highlighted.

Subject Area	HESI Score
(1) Reading Comprehension	84.00%
(2) Meaning-Word Use	70.00%
(3) Conclusions	83.00%
(4) Implications	82.00%
(5) Understanding	91.00%
(6) Vocabulary & General Knowledge	80.00%
English Language Composite Score	81.33%
(8) Biology	80.00%
(9) Anatomy & Physiology	68.00%
Science Composite Score	76.00%
(10) Math	70.00%
Cumulative Score:	77.43%

The ABSN program calculates an average score to assign HESI points in the [ABSN ranking formula](#). If two exam attempts are completed, the highest score in each subject area is used when calculating the average score.

Is the HESI A2 Exam administered by ECU or the College of Nursing?

No. Registration and testing for the HESI A2 exam are handled by third party companies:

- Elsevier (exam registration)
- Prometric (exam testing)

When do I take the HESI A2 Exam?

You will need to complete both of your HESI A2 exam attempts (if applicable) prior to submitting your application on June 15th. The ABSN HESI A2 registration and testing window opens on September 1st every year and remains open until the application deadline.

How much does the HESI A2 Exam cost?

The current approximate exam fee is \$115-\$120 per exam attempt. The registration and testing fees required by Elsevier and Prometric are what comprise this total exam fee.

How do I register, schedule, and pay for my exam?

Registration is a two-step process. First, you register for "HESI A2 Access" through Elsevier. Once registered for access, you will receive instructions from Elsevier via email for contacting Prometric to schedule your exam date and time. Your exam fee is paid during step two with Prometric.

A registration screenshot tutorial can be found on the College of Nursing website [HERE](#).

Where can I take the HESI A2 Exam?

Prometric offers both in person and remote proctored exam options and either format is acceptable for applying to ECU's ABSN program.

However, the College of Nursing strongly advises students to complete their HESI A2 exam attempts in person, if possible, to significantly reduce the likelihood of technical issues occurring before or during your exam. Prometric offers in person testing locations all over the country. There is a Prometric testing center in Greenville, NC where many students complete their exam.

Students who choose to complete the HESI A2 exam through the remote proctored option do so at their own risk. Technical issues that arise prior to or during your remote exam may negatively impact your timeline for completing the exam by the application deadline. Because applicants can choose when and how they complete their exam, the College of Nursing does not grant exceptions or extensions for students who encounter difficulty in completing their exam.

How many times can I take the HESI A2 Exam?

You are permitted to take the exam a maximum of two (2) times total. Attempts do NOT reset if you apply to ECU's nursing program more than one time. The ABSN program allows applicants to complete the HESI A2 a third time if the original second exam attempt is two or more years old.

Students who believe they should receive a third exam attempt should consult the ABSN Advisor at CONAdvising@ecu.edu to learn if they are eligible and how the third attempt may impact their ABSN rank.

How long should I wait before retaking the HESI A2 Exam?

ECU requires a three (3) month waiting period between exam attempts.

Students should complete their first attempt on the exam early enough in their assigned testing time frame to ensure room for this waiting period in case they need to take it twice. The college strongly advises that students take the exam early in their testing window to avoid last minute retake attempts. The college will not grant exceptions to students who encounter difficulty in completing two exam attempts prior to their ABSN application deadline.

If I already took the HESI A2 exam twice for the BSN program, do I get two new attempts for the ABSN program?

No. The HESI A2 exam is the same for BSN and ABSN so you do not get a new set of exam attempts for changing to the ABSN pathway.

If you have taken the HESI A2 exam twice and your most recent set of score are two years old or older, you may be eligible for a third attempt. Please contact the ABSN Advisor at CONAdvising@ecu.edu to confirm your eligibility and learn how a third attempt may impact your HESI points in the ABSN ranking formula.

When should I begin studying for the HESI A2 Exam and what should I use to study?

While you have a required assigned window to register for and complete the HESI A2 exam, you can begin studying for it at any time. We recommend you begin studying 1-2 months out from your anticipated first exam attempt.

The College of Nursing does not endorse any specific study resource for the HESI A2 exam. Students are encouraged to search the Internet, Amazon, and the app store on their mobile device for current editions of study guides, practice exams and other tools to help prepare for the exam.

NOTE: Chemistry, Physics, and Grammar are also sections that are part of the HESI A2 Exam options, but ECU does NOT test students on these subjects, and they should be ignored in all study materials used. Scratch paper may or may not be provided. Students should contact their selected Prometric Testing Center location to confirm this information prior to their exam.

Can I use a calculator on the math section?

Yes, but you are not permitted to bring your own calculator or use your phone. A basic calculator is built into the math section of the exam that you can pull up on the computer screen.

I passed all five sections on my first attempt. Do I need to retake it to achieve higher scores?

The ABSN program at ECU uses the HESI A2 exam differently in their admission process compared to the traditional BSN program. In the [ABSN ranking formula](#), applicants earn points for how high their average HESI A2 score is on the five required subsections. Applicants not satisfied with how high their average score is, are

encouraged to take the exam a second time if time and resources permit. As previously noted, the highest score in each section between the two exam attempts will be used in calculating the average score.

Example: If you receive a 78 in Reading on your first HESI A2 attempt but receive an 86 in Reading on your second HESI A2 attempt, the 86 will be utilized in the calculation of the average score.

I need (or want) to retake the exam. Do I have to retake the entire exam again or just the sections I missed the first time?

If you need (or want) to take the exam a second time you will have to register for and pay for the full exam again. However, you only need to be concerned with passing the section(s) you missed on your first attempt or wish to receive a higher score in. For example, if you passed math, reading, and vocabulary the first time you only need to focus on passing biology and anatomy the second time. You will submit both score reports with your nursing application and the review committee will "super-score" your results. Your scores will be averaged, and ranking points will be applied based on the average score.

When do I receive my exam scores?

You will receive your score at the end of each section of the exam. This means you will know how you're doing while you're taking the exam. This is VERY IMPORTANT to understand going into the exam.

The goal on your first attempt is to pass as many of the five sections as you can (hopefully all of them). If you do not receive the preferred 75% on a section and still have other sections to complete, do NOT give up on the rest of the exam. While it may be disappointing to know you may have to take the exam a second time for a higher score, you want to minimize the number of sections you retake on that second attempt.

NOTE: Students have reported to advisors that you get to choose the order you take the sections on the exam. You can use this to your benefit. Some students choose to leave the sections they are most concerned about to the end while others take them first to get them out of the way. Do whatever feels right to you.

Does the College of Nursing automatically receive my exam scores?

No. Students are responsible for uploading their individual score report(s) with their online ABSN application.

Where can I get a copy of my PDF score report(s) for my ABSN application?

To view and download a PDF of your Summary Score Report:

- Log into your MyEvolve account
- Click on the "Student Access" link
- Click on the "My Exams" tab
- Click on blue link in the "Exam History" section toward the bottom of the page

This is the file you will need to include with your nursing application.

What happens if I do not receive a 75% on all five sections of the HESI A2 Exam between my two total attempts?

If you do not receive a 75% on all five sections of the HESI A2 exam you can still apply to ECU's ABSN program, but you will not be included in the preferred group of applicants. Because every admission cycle is unique, students are always encouraged to apply to the program if they meet all required eligibility criteria.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please email the ABSN Advisor at CONAdvising@ecu.edu.