ABSN HESI A2 Exam
Frequently Asked Questions & College Policies

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 ProPoctor 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?

Students will earn points in the College of Nursing Ranking formula for their highest average score on the HESI A2 exam. Averages are not rounded. Points are awarded based on the chart below:

97 – 100%	**6 points**
93 – 96.9%	**5 points**
89 – 92.9%	**4 points**
85 – 88.9%	**3 points**
81 – 84.9%	**2 points**
75 – 80.9%	**1 point**
0 – 74.9%	**0 points**

How many times can I take the HESI A2 Exam?

Students are limited to two (2) exam attempts total. ECU requires a three-month waiting period before completing a second and final attempt. Students should complete all five sections on each attempt of the exam.

Additional attempts for the HESI A2 exam do NOT reset with each admission cycle. If re-applying to the program, you must use your previous HESI A2 scores from your first two attempts. Exam scores do not expire.

If two HESI A2 attempts are completed, the average will be super scored using the highest score for each of the five required sections to calculate the highest possible average score for the ranking formula. Example:

HESI A2 Section:	Attempt 1	Attempt 2
Reading	90%	77%
Vocabulary	68%	82%
Math	94%	56%
Biology	54%	72%
A & P	74%	96%

90 + 82 + 94 + 72 + 96 = 434 / 5
86.8% = 3 points awarded in the ranking formula

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 scheduling & test administration)

When do I take the HESI A2 Exam?

You will need to complete a minimum of one attempt on HESI A2 exam prior to the published ABSN application deadline.

PLEASE NOTE: The last three days of the registration window are blacked out by Elsevier. You cannot begin the scheduling process during these three days. You can complete the exam on these dates, but the exam itself must be scheduled prior to this blackout window. As a result, students should not wait until the last minute to register for their exam.

How much does the HESI A2 Exam cost?

The current approximate exam fee is $125 per exam attempt. The registration and testing fees required by Elsevier and Prometric are what comprise this total exam fee. The fees are not charged by ECU. ECU does not have a waiver or voucher available for prospective applicants to use for exam fees.

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

Registration is a two-phase 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 phase 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.

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 in time for your application deadline. Because applicants can choose when and how they complete their exam, the College of Nursing is not obligated to offer exceptions or extensions for students who encounter difficulty in completing their exam attempts prior to the application deadline.

Students who believe they have extenuating circumstances that should be considered by the college can email CONAdvising@ecu.edu with a detailed explanation along with documentation from Prometric and/or Elsevier for review but there are no guarantees.

How many times can I take the HESI A2 Exam?

Students 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.

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

Students who have already completed the HESI A2 exam twice for the BSN program at ECU do not get a new set of two exam attempts when shifting to the ABSN pathway. The HESI A2 exam content is the same for both programs and scores are evaluated in the same way for both admission processes.

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 is not obligated to grant exceptions or extensions to students who encounter difficulty in completing exam attempts prior to their ABSN application deadline.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

I encountered an unforeseen circumstance on the day of my exam. What should I do?

While rare, applicants who encounter issues with completing their exam that are beyond their control should follow all guidance received by Prometric and Elsevier and keep all communication for documentation purposes. Applicants can also reach out to the College of Nursing Advising Center at CONAdvising@ecu.edu with all details and documentation of the situation if the issue may potentially impact their ability to submit their nursing application by the deadline. The College of Nursing is willing to review documentation related to issues on a case-by-case basis but is not obligated to grant exceptions or extensions.

QUESTIONS?

Questions related to how the HESI A2 exam relates to the ABSN admission and application processes should be directed to the College of Nursing's Student Services office by calling 252-744-6477 or emailing CONAdvising@ecu.edu. Current ECU students should reach out to their assigned academic advisor.

Questions related to requesting exam registration access or issues should be directed to Elsevier customer support by calling 1-800-222-9570 or by starting a customer service chat. Make sure you communicate your questions are about the HESI A2 exam specifically as there are other "HESI" products.

Questions related to exam date scheduling, rescheduling, cancellation, payment, etc. should be directed to Prometric Testing candidate care by calling 1-800-853-6769.