

## *Assessment and Evaluation*

### *(Testing)*

The philosophy of the Nursing Program identifies assessment as a component of the teaching/learning process. Faculty members believe testing is a vital part of learning. It measures whether criteria have been met, the quality of the student performance, and program and individual achievement. Assessment, like learning, has cognitive, affective, and psychomotor components and the Nursing Program measures these through theory exams, performance exams, and clinical performance evaluations.

The course grade reflects the percent of theory content achieved. The grade also reflects clinical performance. A satisfactory clinical evaluation allows the course grade to remain as earned in the theory portion. An unsatisfactory clinical evaluation will drop the grade to a “D” or “F”. Satisfactory completion of a course requires mastery of 80% of its content. Review the grading scale and rounding policy for the Program. Performance of students indicate that an 80% baseline for passing correlates with success on NCLEX.

### *Theory Testing*

To link assessment and the curriculum, the Nursing Program has a Test Blueprint that guides faculty in the development of theory exams. The blueprint determines the level of difficulty at which content is tested and builds the level of thinking of the student.

The test blueprint uses Bloom’s Taxonomy to increase the level of complexity of testing. Bloom states there are six cognitive levels – knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Nursing faculty believe synthesis and evaluation are best measured by clinical performance. So, tests are divided between knowledge/comprehension and application/analysis. The percentages of questions in the lower two levels decreases throughout the curriculum and the upper two levels increase, working toward the NCLEX levels of 20% knowledge/comprehension and 80% application/analysis. Knowledge questions are simply memorization of content, definitions, norms, etc. It is information you have been told or read. Application questions require use of the content in patient situations. You must take the question apart and use problem solving and decision making to determine the answer.

The second part of the blueprint is nursing process. Every exam will have an equal number (20%) from each of the five steps of the nursing process. The level of difficulty of these process questions changes based on Bloom’s level for the course.

Review the test blueprint included. For example, notice in NSG 121 knowledge/comprehension questions are 60% of the exam, but in NSG 226 they are only 30%. Identify where you are entering the Program and at what level you will be tested.

Theory exams are a part of every course. They may be paper/pencil tests or computer tests taken in the Testing Center on the fourth floor of Building 10. If the exams are computerized, the LRP for the course will have specific instructions for the tests. Course calendars will always identify the dates for exams. The majority of the questions will be multiple choice and will be at the level consistent with the test blueprint. Questions are written to simulate NCLEX style and format. Content for questions is guided by the LRP for the course and is based on textbook readings, journal readings, videos, computer assisted programs, study guides, and class/conference material.