



**HESI ADMISSION ASSESSMENT™ (A<sup>2</sup>)  
ENTRANCE EXAM FOR PRACTICAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM - FALL 2023**

**For more information, contact Heidi Mackey, Senior Admissions Counselor, at Tel. 508-270-4016 or Email [hmackey@massbay.edu](mailto:hmackey@massbay.edu)**

The HESI Admission Assessment™ (A<sup>2</sup>) is an internet based, timed (4-hour), multiple choice exam evaluating your knowledge in four major categories: English language, math, science, and personality. For MassBay's Practical Nursing ("PN") program, these exams include five academic subjects: reading comprehension; vocabulary and general knowledge; grammar; anatomy and physiology; and basic math skills. The exam also offers an optional opportunity to evaluate your personality and learning styles, although these components are not required or considered in the admission decision. The exam is taken at a Prometric Test Center of the applicant's choice. Prometric operates a network of 8,000 test centers making it easy for test takers to find a site near them. There are several Prometric Testing Center locations provided for you to pick from, located in the greater Boston and surrounding area. The HESI A<sup>2</sup> exam that MassBay PN program applicants take is only administered at Prometric Testing Centers. It is not administered or taken at any MassBay campus location. You will need the following exam sub-test modules for MassBay's PN program:

**Reading Comprehension:** 50-item exam. Provides reading scenarios in order to measure reading comprehension, including: identifying the main idea, finding meaning of words in context, passage comprehension, making logical inferences, etc. The reading scenarios are provided as screen pop-ups, and students can move around the windows to see the entire scenario.

**Vocabulary and General Knowledge:** 50-item exam. Contains basic vocabulary terms that are commonly used in both general English speaking and in the health care fields.

**Grammar:** 50-item exam. Contains basic grammar, including: parts of speech, important terms and their uses in grammar, commonly occurring grammatical errors, etc.

**Anatomy and Physiology (A&P):** 25-item exam. Provides coverage of general terminology and anatomical structures and systems.

**Math:** 50-item exam. Focuses on math skills needed for health care fields, including basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions, decimals, ratio and proportion, household measures, general math facts, etc.

*Note: Although a covered topic in the HESI Admission Exam review book, MassBay does not require applicants to take the Physics sub-test.*

**2023 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS  
HESI A<sup>2</sup> Requirements for MassBay Practical Nursing ("PN") Program**

Program	Minimum HESI A2 Sub-Test Scores Required					
	Reading Comp	Vocabulary	Grammar	A&P	Math	Overall Composite
Practical Nursing ("PN")	*	*	*	*	*	70%

\* No minimum sub-test score is required. However, HESI (A<sup>2</sup>) exam scores of 70% or better in Overall Composite (all five subjects combined/averaged) is required.

## ELIGIBILITY

Practical Nursing applicants may take the **HESI A<sup>2</sup>** exam for at a Prometric Test Center under MassBay Dept. ID **200717**.

Elsevier provides two versions of the HESI A2 examination (version 1 and version 2), each version of the exam is based on the same on the same blueprint but is comprised of different test questions which preserves the reliability and validity of the exam:

Test Window	Start	End	A2 Version
1	9/15/2022	12/31/2022	V1
2	1/12/2023	3/31/2023	V2
3	4/1/2023	6/30/2023	V1

### Who is HESI?

“HESI” stands for Health Education Systems Inc. and specializes in developing testing products, such as the A<sup>2</sup> Exam, for nursing programs. Elsevier, a giant healthcare related publishing company, owns HESI. And Evolve is the part of the HESI/Elsevier corporate organization that is Elsevier’s online portal, through which students register for HESI exams and also get access to all HESI Exam products and results via an online account.

## REGISTERING and PAYING FOR THE EXAM

The **HESI A<sup>2</sup>** exam is offered on a regular basis at various Prometric Test Centers in the greater Boston area. It is recommended that applicants for the **Fall Semester 2023** class prepare for the exam early and register to take the test as soon as they feel prepared. Registration and payment for the **HESI A<sup>2</sup>** test is done online through HESI and Prometric. Please click on [Prometric Testing Registration Instructions](#) for details. Be sure to enter **200717** in the Dept. ID field. If you need help registering for the **HESI A<sup>2</sup>** or have other questions, call HESI/Elsevier Support toll free at 800.222.9570, press 2 for student assistance.

## PREPARATION FOR THE HESI A<sup>2</sup>

**Students are strongly encouraged to prepare for this exam. Be sure to use the HESI Admission Assessment Exam Review, 4th Edition.** This [review book](#) can be purchased thru Amazon or at bookstores such as Barnes and Noble, and is also available for purchase through MassBay’s campus bookstore. The book will include samples of test questions from the subject areas that will be covered on the exam as well as information regarding test question formats. It will highlight important concepts and provide tips for studying and test-taking. It also offers a 25-question pre-test at the beginning of the text helps you assess your areas of strength and weakness before using the text, and a 50-question comprehensive post-test that covers all of the text’s subject areas. MassBay also offers HESI preparation assistance through our [MassBay Academic Achievement Center \(“AAC”\)](#) at several different times and campus locations. Please contact the ACC for more information.

## ADMISSION TO THE TEST

Report to the Prometric Test Center at least fifteen minutes before the start time of your test appointment.

**Students arriving late will not be admitted to the testing session and will forfeit the testing fee (approximately \$105).**

You should bring: (1) A Government-issued photo ID; (2) Eligibility ID; and (3) Car keys and your HESI username and password. No other items will be allowed in the testing lab. The identification document must contain your photograph. All other personal items must be locked in a locker for test security purposes, so please limit what you bring to the testing center. It is very important that you register for the exam under the same name and personal information listed on your government-issued ID. You will not be admitted into the testing lab if there is any discrepancy between what is entered into the system (by Elsevier) and what is presented on your ID. Failure to meet this requirement will result in forfeiture of your testing appointment and associated fees.

## IS THE EXAM TIMED?

Yes, you will be given four (4) hours to complete all sections of the exam. At the end of 4-hours, the exam shuts off. You must attempt and complete ALL five academic subject sub-tests within the 4-hour period. Otherwise, your score report will be considered incomplete. Students who have incomplete scores for any of the academic subject sub-tests will not be eligible for the nursing program admission review process. Please manage your allotted 4-hour test time accordingly.

## SCORING

Students receive their individual **HESI A<sup>2</sup>** score reports immediately upon completion of the exam. Students can also access their

score reports by logging into their Evolve student accounts. HESI makes the student's scores available to the Admissions Office at MassBay CC for the student's file. However, students should also submit a copy of the scores with their completed program application packet.

### **WILL MASSBAY ACCEPT MY HESI A<sup>2</sup> SCORE I HAVE TAKEN AT ANOTHER COLLEGE?**

MassBay will accept an applicant's HESI A2 scores if the applicant has taken the exam through an approved Elsevier testing site within the previous 12-months, and if the score report indicates completion of all sections of the exam required by MassBay's PN program.

### **RETEST POLICY**

Elsevier provides two versions of the HESI A2 examination (version 1 and version 2) allowing PN applicants to retest in an attempt to improve in their performance. Each version of the exam is based on the same blueprint but is comprised of different test questions which preserves the reliability and validity of the exam. Student can retake the exam (per test administration fees paid by applicant) up to a total of 4 times. If an applicant repeats the tests on the same version, the admissions office will deem the repeat scores invalid. Applicants who take their first HESI exam after April 1st will not be able to retest in enough time (by May 25<sup>th</sup>) to apply for the upcoming admission cycle. HESI exam scores are valid for one year at which time the exam must be retaken.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

MassBay CC will not provide information to any external sources regarding an individual's test scores unless written permission is received from the student. This policy is in accordance with the student confidentiality policy of MassBay CC.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Accommodations at the Prometric Test Center are available to students with documented disabilities. MassBay CC Students should speak with their disability counselor and must provide all required documents to MassBay's Office of Disability Services [MassBay Disability Services](#) for review and approval. The process for MassBay to assess for accommodations may take several weeks to a few months. There may be an additional wait period of 2 to 4 weeks to arrange your testing date once your disability has been registered. We suggest that any student requiring a special accommodation begin this process as soon as possible.