

Progression Policy

Associate in Applied Science Nursing Program

A student's progression through the A.A.S. nursing program requires maintaining appropriate grades, demonstrating academic and skills-based competence, and evidence of professional, safe and ethical behaviors. The Catherine McAuley School of Nursing reserves the right to evaluate the student's ability to practice safely and competently at any time.

Progression refers to the movement of a student from one semester to the next, and the academic journey through all of the nursing program's requirements. Students must meet all of the following criteria for program progression.

I. Course Performance

Students must achieve a grade of "C" or better in all courses in order to progress. A student who does not pass one of the required nursing or science courses in the nursing program (including A&P I with Lab, A&P II with Lab, Microbiology with Lab) but who remains enrolled in the program will need to repeat that course before they are allowed to continue taking additional nursing courses.

Any failure of a course that is a prerequisite to another course, including Liberal Arts courses, will need to be repeated in order to progress. A course failure defined as receiving a grade of C-, D+, D, F, WA, or WF.

Program Dismissal

Students enrolled in the A.A.S. Nursing program will be academically dismissed from the program (but not necessarily from the college) for any of the following reasons:

- course failure of any combination of two "NU" or "BIO" required courses
 - any nursing course with an "NU" designation
 - any science course required in the program: BIO 131, BIO 131L, BIO 223, BIO 223L
- course failure of the same nursing or science required course
 - any nursing course with an "NU" designation
 - any science course required in the program: BIO 131, BIO 131L, BIO 223, BIO 223L
- withdrawing from the same "NU" or "BIO" required course twice
- failing and withdrawing from the same "NU", or 'BIO" required course

Examples

- Failing the same "NU" or "BIO" course twice
- Failing two individual "NU" or "BIO" courses
- Withdrawing from the same "NU" or "BIO" course twice
- Having a course failure and withdrawal for the same "NU" or "BIO" course

II. Clinical Performance

Failing the clinical component of any course will result in a course failure. If the clinical failure occurs during the semester, a course grade of “F” will be entered and the student will not be permitted to attend the class.

III. Cumulative GPA

While enrolled in the nursing programs, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or greater. A student who has a cumulative GPA that falls below 2.0 will be dismissed from the nursing program.

Students who have a semester GPA below a 2.0 will be placed on Academic Probation with the College. Refer to the College Catalog for additional information on Academic Probation.

IV. HESI Testing

The Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) tests are designed to help nursing students prepare and pass the licensure exam. Students are required to take HESI exams throughout the program as part of the program progression and completion policy.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd semesters of the AAS Nursing program

Students are required to take a Specialty HESI exam each semester for program progression. To be eligible for progression, the associated benchmark score must be achieved. For each semester, students will have up to three attempts to achieve the benchmark score.

For each semester’s progression HESI exam, there are three versions (V1, V2, and V3). The three versions are equivalent in the concepts that are evaluated. Passing any one of the three versions at the benchmark level qualifies the student for progression to the next semester.

- **HESI V1:** Students will take the HESI V1 exam that is associated with their semester of enrollment. If the benchmark score is obtained on HESI V1, the student is eligible for progression to the next semester. If the benchmark score is not obtained, the student must take the HESI V2.
- **HESI V2:** Students needing to take the HESI V2 will need to meet the semester benchmark in order to qualify for progression to the next semester. If the benchmark score is not obtained, the student must take the HESI V3.
- **HESI V3:** Students needing to take the HESI V3 must pay for the exam. If the benchmark score is obtained on HESI V3, the student is eligible to progress pending cohort space.

If the benchmark score for the semester is not obtained within the three attempts, the student is not eligible for immediate progression. However, the student may re-take the HESI exam during future HESI testing windows. Once the HESI benchmark score is obtained, the student is eligible to progress to the next semester.

4th semester of the AAS Nursing program

Students in the 4th semester of the AAS Nursing program will take an Exit HESI exam. Students will have two attempts (V1 and V2) to meet the benchmark score.

- **HESI V1:** Students will take the Exit HESI V1 exam. If the benchmark score is obtained on HESI V1, the student has met the HESI criteria. If the benchmark score is not obtained, the student must take HESI V2.
- **HESI V2:** Students needing to take the HESI V2 will need to meet the semester benchmark.

If the benchmark score is not obtained within the two attempts, the student is required to complete tailored NCLEX remediation provided by the College prior to being certified to write the NCLEX-RN exam.

Fall 2023-Spring 2024 HESI Progression Benchmark Scores

HESI Progression Benchmark Scores- A.A.S. Nursing Program		
Semester	HESI Exam	Benchmark
1	Health Assessment	750
2	Fundamentals	775
3	Medical/Surgical	800
4	Exit	825

V. Professionalism

Defined by the American Nurses Association (2017), “nursing is the protection, promotion, an optimization of health and abilities; prevention of illness and injury; facilitation of healing; alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response; and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations.” The nursing profession exists to achieve the most positive patient care outcomes while keeping nursing as a social construct and obligation to society. Defined by Coa et al. (2023) “Nursing professionalism is a multidimensional concept manifested by the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors that underlie successful clinical practice. Nursing professionalism is dynamicized through a process of socialization in formal nursing education. This feature is also reflected in the process of interaction. Therefore, nursing professionalism should match its rooted culture. The connotations of nursing professionalism include professional, caring, and altruism (page 9).” As a nurse, elements of professionalism are rooted in every day encounters.

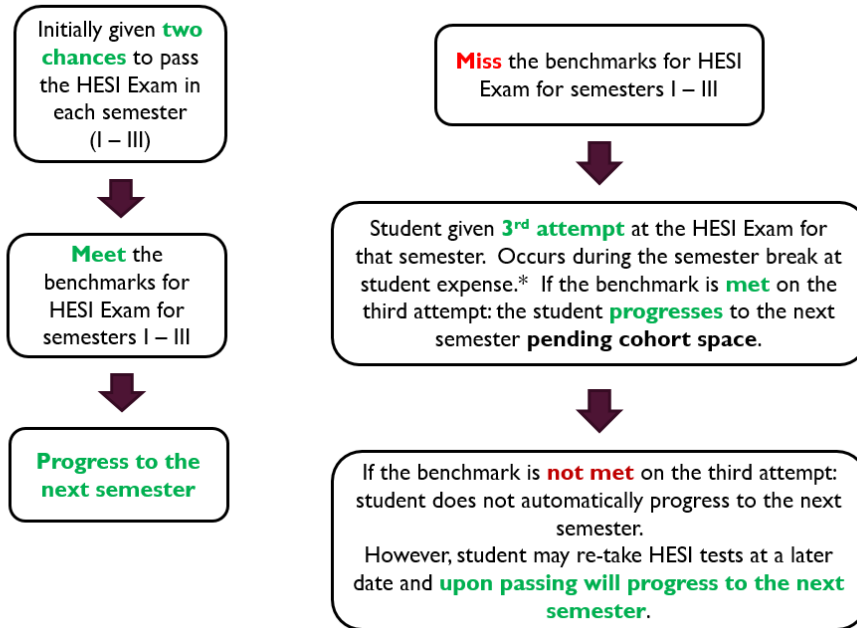
Upon review, a student who is reported by faculty, staff, or a clinical partner as engaging in unprofessional (i.e., unsafe, unethical, and/or illegal) behavior may be dismissed from the program. Reports of unprofessional behavior will be reviewed by the Program Director and Dean. Students may appeal their dismissal for unprofessional behavior by following the academic appeal policy as outlined in the College Catalog.

References

- Cao, H., Song, Y., Wu, Y., Du, Y., He, X., Chen, Y., Wang, Q., & Yang, H. (2023). What is nursing professionalism? A concept analysis. *BMC Nursing*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12912-022-01161-0>
- Nursing scope of practice: American Nurses Association*. ANA. (2017, October 14). <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/scope-of-practice/>

AAS Nursing Progression Policy- HESI Requirement

AAS Nursing Progression Policy – Semester I - III



AAS Nursing Progression Policy – Semester IV

