Imperial Valley College Nursing Program

Assessment Testing (ATI) Processes and Grading (July 2009)

I) **Purpose:** Tests from Assessment Technologies, Inc. (ATI) are designed to evaluate knowledge level and application of theory level as students progress throughout the program

A) Computerized comprehensive tests are given prior to the completion of nursing courses and/or semesters to compare student progress to other students at a national level

B) The Content Mastery Series is designed to assess student knowledge and decision-making skills in six areas: Critical Thinking, Fundamentals, Maternity, Pediatrics, Medical-Surgical/Geriatrics, and Mental Health

C) A Comprehensive Predictor exam is given prior to exiting the program to determine the student readiness for National Certification and Licensing Examination (NCLEX)

II) **Testing Sequence**

A) First Semester:
   1) **Critical Thinking Entrance Exam:** Assessment of ability to use the phases of the critical thinking process
   2) **Fundamentals of Nursing:** Assessment of the student’s basic comprehension and mastery of the fundamental principles in nursing

B) Second Semester:
   1) **Maternal Newborn Care:** Assessment of women’s health care, physiological and psychological changes in pregnancy; normal and complicated antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum care; normal and complicated newborn care, pharmacologic interventions, nutritional care, and cultural considerations
   2) **Pharmacology of Nursing Practice:** Assessment covering dosage and fluid calculations, interactions, administration, and general pharmacological principles. May be given in 3rd Semester; check with the instructor.

C) Third Semester:
   1) **Nursing Care of Children:** Assessment includes bodily systems, growth and development, pharmacotherapeutics, fluid, electrolytes, and nutritional care of the child
   2) **Pharmacology of Nursing Practice:** Assessment covering dosage and fluid calculations, interactions, administration, and general pharmacological principles
   3) **Mental Health:** Assessment covers various mental health disorders, therapeutic milieu, stress, and crisis management, and issues related to special populations

D) Fourth Semester:
   1) **Medical-Surgical Nursing:** Assessment covers bodily systems, pharmacology, fluids, electrolytes, nutritional care, communication techniques and cultural considerations
   2) **Leadership in Nursing:** Assessment of decision-making, management skills, safety, planning, supervision, counseling, delegation, collaboration, and identification of client and staff needs
   3) **NCLEX RN Comprehensive Predictor:** Comprehensive assessment across the lifespan medical-surgical, mental health, pediatric, maternal-newborn, leadership, management, pharmacology, community health nursing, growth and development, cultural considerations, therapeutic relationships, and nursing process
4) **Critical Thinking Exit:** Measures changes in each student’s critical thinking ability

E) **Fourth Semester and Post Graduation**

1) **Virtual ATI:** Computerized process whereby the graduates prepare for the NCLEX examination through individualized on-line testing, guided study plan, and email with on-line ATI instructor. A “gmail” account/address is required

III) **Testing Fees:**

A) Fees are due at the time of registration

1) Fees must be paid directly to ATI by the first week of each semester

2) Check with the Division Office for current cost (subject to change)

B) Fees are not refundable and are not carried into the next semester. All students owe the fee regardless of status in the program; i.e. even if withdraw or failure.

IV) **Scheduling and Preparation**

A) ATI exams are scheduled by the instructor and dates are given to you in class

B) Secured exams are taken online in the Nursing Computer Lab

C) Students with a documented disability must inform the instructor early in the semester and may make other arrangements

D) Proctored exams cannot be taken until the student submits a non-proctored exam with a score of 90% or higher

E) Review modules for each test along with applicable DVDs will be available once fee is paid.

V) **ATI Exam Sequence, Equivalency, and Scoring**

A) Each ATI exam provides the student with an ATI Proficiency Level and an ‘Individual Score’

B) The following exams are equal to a course assignment as determined by the individual faculty member. For exams graded using ATI Proficiency Levels, the grid below will determine the student’s ATI grade. The instructor will determine which exams will use the grid for grading and this will be explained during the class orientation session.

1) 1st Semester
   RN Fundamentals

2) 2nd Semester
   RN Maternal-Newborn

3) 3rd Semester
   RN Nursing Care of Children
   RN Pharmacology of Nursing Practice – (may be given in 2nd)
   RN Mental Health Nursing

4) 4th Semester
   RN Medical-Surgical
   RN Comprehensive Predictor-cut score defined by instructor
   Critical Thinking Exit
### ATI Levels / Scoring Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of 1st ATI Exam</th>
<th>Individual Score</th>
<th>Retake</th>
<th>Level of 2nd ATI Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Receive highest score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>a) Remain at Level 2 = 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>b) Level 3 = increase score to 88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>a) Remain at Level 1 = 75%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>b) Level 2 = increase score to 80%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>c) Level 3 = increase score to 85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below Level 1</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>a) Remain &lt; Level 1 = keep initial score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>b) Level 1, 2, 3 = increase score to 75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VI) ATI Remediation and Retakes

**A)** ATI Exams may be re-taken [one time and](#) at least one week must pass before the retake.

**B)** Potential for increasing the initial score is noted in the ATI Level / Scoring Grid.

**C)** The [student is responsible](#) for developing a personal remediation plan. Remediation may begin as soon as the student is ready to make an appointment with the Nursing Learning Center tutor.

**A)** In developing a personal remediation plan, the student should reflect and consider possible reasons for low score and methods to improve study habits, test taking strategies, time management, and retention of knowledge.

**B)** Suggested Remediation Tips

1) Use the “Topics to Review” section from the Individual Performance Profile, look up each area in the appropriate ATI book(s) and DVD(s)

2) Outline the nursing process (assessment, diagnosis, goals, and interventions) to follow when caring for a specific identified disease process or situation

3) Complete a non-proctored ATI test with a score of 100%