



Nursing Program

Proctored Critical Thinking Assessment Admission Exam

Health Sciences Reasoning Test (HSRT) Information

All students applying to the Oregon Coast Community College Associate of Applied Science Nursing Program will be required to take the Health Science Reasoning Test (HSRT) entrance exam which assesses critical thinking. The Assessment is computerized with 50 minutes (following instructions) allowed for completion. The HSRT exam will be offered on April 10, 2020 from 0830-1000 or 1030-1200 in Room 70 at OCCC Central Campus, 400 SE College Way, Newport, OR. Applicants will be required to sign-up for their preferred test time when they submit their application. Please stop by the office or call 541-867-8548 to sign up for the HSRT entrance exam.

Insight Assessment Critical Thinking Standardized Assessment

Skill in critical thinking, reasoning, problem solving, is essential to the role of the registered nurse. The Health Sciences Reasoning Test (HSRT) is a standardized assessment (33 multiple-choice questions in 50 minutes) exam produced by Insight Assessment. The HSRT assesses the critical thinking/reasoning skills of students prior to entering the RN program and will also be utilized within the program to evaluate growth. Information in the assessment is presented in text-based and diagrammatic formats: questions invite test taker to draw inferences, to make interpretations, to analyze information, to draw warranted inferences, to identify claims and reasons, and to evaluate the quality of arguments.

Please go to https://www.insightassessment.com/Resources/Teaching-Training-and-Learning-Tools/node_1487 to find 6 sample thinking skill questions. There is no study guide to purchase (although the company does have purchasable tools for self-evaluation and improvement found at the above link), but Insight Assessment has provided resources you may utilize at the following links:

Critical Thinking: What It Is and Why It Counts: an essay written by Dr. Peter Facione, a leading authority in critical thinking. This essay is periodically updated to capture new findings and discussion points to help trainees explore the domain of critical thinking in all aspects of life and work. The author and publisher hold copyright, ISBN 13: 978-1-891557-07-1. Permission is granted for paper, electronic, or digital copies to be made in unlimited amounts for purposes of advancing education and improving critical thinking, if distribution of copies is free of charge and properly cited when extracted in whole or in part.

Question Asking Skills: A Leadership Training Tool: Asking clear and relevant questions is an essential leadership skill. Well focused questions gather important information, identify unspoken assumptions, clarify issues, and explore options. Question asking is key in unfamiliar and uncertain problem situations. Building questioning skills is an important part of training thinking skills. Certain questions are associated with certain reasoning and decision skills.

“Snap Judgments – Risks and Benefits of Heuristic Thinking”: There are two important systems at work in human thinking and decision making. One is a highly reflective judgment process (referred to often as ‘System Two’) and the other (‘System One’) is a heuristic process that relies on previous learning and sensory input. Both systems are at work all the time. Both systems are valuable to survival, and they check and balance each other when humans think well. Both need to be monitored for error to prevent poor decision making and lost opportunity. This material describes System One and cautions against common errors that occur in System One thinking. These pages are extracted from THINK Critically, Facione & Gittens, Pearson Education (3rd edition) and offered here with the author’s permission.

More information may be found at the following link:

<https://www.insightassessment.com/Products/Products-Summary/Critical-Thinking-Skills-Tests/Health-Science-Reasoning-Test-Associate-Degree-HSRT-AD>

Students Requiring Session Accommodations:

Any student who feels that she/he may need an academic accommodation for any disability must make an appointment with the Dean of Students, Cindy Carlson and 541-867-8501 or at student.services@oregoncoastcc.org. Students are responsible for requesting, in a timely manner, any accommodation and documenting the nature and extent of their disability.

General Assessment Information:

- Any question that is not answered will be scored as incorrect.
- You can go forward and backward to questions during the Assessment, but at 50 minutes, the test will end.
- No communication is permitted between examinees while taking the Assessment.
- All students in the room will begin the Assessment at the same time.
- Proctors may not answer any questions concerning the content of the Assessment or any meaning of questions asked on the Assessment.
- Students participating in the Assessment will not be able to leave the computer lab classroom at any time until they have completed the Assessment and turned in the instructions and any scratch paper they were given.
- If a student leaves the classroom without permission, the student’s computer will be shut down and the student will not be permitted to return, and the student’s test will be voided.

- If the proctor suspects that a student is copying the answers of another student or obtaining information from another student in any way, the proctor will observe the examinee(s) for a period long enough to confirm any suspicion. Such activity will be may result in the individual's application/assessment being invalidated.
- Any student that is found to be using or making notes other than the scrap paper provided, will be dismissed from the Assessment and not permitted to return. Any such occurrence that comes to the attention of the program director will result in the student's Assessment results being invalidated.
- Students are not to share Assessment questions or Assessment information with any other student at any time. Any such occurrence that comes to the attention of the program director will result in the student's Assessment results being invalidated.

Assessment Administration:

- Proper identification must be provided as evidence for entry.
- Identification that will be allowed is a valid State Driver's License or State Identification Card
- Pre-registration is required, and applicants will be checked against a roster as they enter the computer lab classroom and only those on the roster will be allowed to enter.
- The following items are **PERMITTED** during the Assessment
 - Writing utensil – provided by the proctor and collected after the Assessment
 - Scratch paper - provided by the proctor and collected and destroyed after the Assessment
 - Ear plugs – provided by the proctor and collected and destroyed after the Assessment
- The following items are **PROHIBITED** during the Assessment:
 - Food or drink
 - Textbooks or reference books of any kind
 - Sunglasses, hats, hoods
 - Music
 - Communication or electronic devices

Only those materials required for taking the Assessment are to remain on the student's writing surface (i.e. pencils and scrap paper). Student's participating in the Assessment session should leave personal items at home or in their car, otherwise they will be placed outside the classroom on a table but not in a guaranteed secure area