

Rogue Community College Nursing Program
Proctored Critical Thinking Assessment
Security and Other Information
2015/16

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) 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 takers 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/CT-Resources/node_1487 to find 6 sample thinking skills 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. Author and the 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, provided that 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 an 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.

The assessment is computerized with 50 minutes (following instructions) allowed for completion. The top 85 applicants will take the assessment following a break after the essay session is completed. Students within the program will take the assessment at the date/time shown on their term calendar. Call the Nursing program at 541-956-7308 for information.

Students Requiring Session Accommodations:

Any student who feels that she or he may need an academic accommodation for any disability should make an appointment with the Disability Services Office. Contact the office of Disability Services at 541-956-7337 (Wiseman Center, RWC, Grants Pass) no later than **two weeks before the scheduled assessment** to discuss an accommodation request for the HSRT. Once the Disability Services office notifies the program director of a requested accommodation, accommodations deemed by the faculty to be reasonable for the profession and the program will be allowed. These accommodations will not substitute for the basic requirements for entrance or academic and technical standards (essential functions) required for successful completion of the nursing program. With or without accommodation, the HSRT assessment must be taken at RWC on the scheduled date.

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 should 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 should not expect to leave the computer lab room 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 room without permission, the student's computer will be shut down and the student will not be permitted to return.
- If the proctor suspects that a student is copying the answers of another or obtaining information from another in any way, the proctor will observe the examinee(s) for a period long enough to confirm such suspicion. Such activity will be reported to appropriate RCC faculty/administration and may result in the individual's application/assessment being invalidated.
- Any student that is found to be using or making notes other than on the scrap paper provided will be dismissed from the assessment and not permitted to

return. The proctor will take the notes and return them to the appropriate RCC faculty/administrator.

- Students are not to share assessment questions or assessment information with any other student at any time, including after the assessment session. Any such occurrence that comes to the attention of the program faculty will result in the student's assessment results being invalidated.

Assessment Administration:

- Proper identification must be provided as evidence for entry.
- Identification does not have to be a driver's license, but must include
 - A current photograph
 - Examinee's signature
 - A permanent address
- Pre-registration is required, applicants will be checked against a roster as they enter the computer lab room 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 following the assessment
 - Ear plugs, after they are inspected and noted on the roster by the proctor
- The following items are **PROHIBITED** during the Assessment:
 - Food or Drink (no fluids of any kind are allowed near the computers)
 - Textbooks or reference books of any kind
 - Sunglasses, hats or a hood
 - Music (CD players, MP3 players, iPods, etc.)
 - Communication or electronic device (cell phones, pagers, PDA's, etc.)

Only those materials required for taking the assessment (i.e. pencils and scrap paper) are to remain on an student's writing surface. Students participating in the proctored assessment session should leave personal items at home or in their car; otherwise they must leave overcoats, books, papers, cameras, calculators, tape recorders, large bags, notebooks, PDAs and cell phones (turned off) at the front of the room with the proctor. They may obtain any bags or devices left with the proctor only as they exit the computer lab room.