

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is ATI?

- ❖ ATI stands for Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI). ATI offers an Assessment-Driven Review (ADR) program designed to increase student pass rates on the nursing licensing exam and lower program attrition.
- ❖ The ATI comprehensive program is utilized from the sophomore to the senior year in the undergraduate nursing program.
- ❖ ATI tools can help students prepare more efficiently, as well as increase confidence and familiarity with content and computerized NCLEX-RN testing.
- ❖ The ATI program includes books, DVD's, and online practice and proctored testing over the major content areas in nursing.

### **I am a freshman enrolled in the campus-based Baccalaureate Nursing Program. How can ATI help?**

The Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) scores are used as one of the determining factors for eligibility to the nursing major. You will purchase the TEAS package which includes a soft cover review book, access to on-line practice tests, and access to two proctored tests during the first year.

You should take the 1<sup>st</sup> proctored test early enough to allow time for remediation and retesting if necessary to meet minimum requirements for admission. Your TEAS scores and information to guide your review can be accessed on-line. Only 2 test attempts are allowed per semester. At least 30 days is recommended between tests. Admission deadlines are November 1 for spring admission and June 1 for fall admission.

### **I am enrolled in Nursing Courses in the beginning of the sophomore year. How should I use my ATI materials?**

In some courses you will have a soft cover review book, online practice tests, and a DVD. In conjunction with your course assignments, you can use these resources as a way to help you study and review throughout each course. Your instructor will provide you with a test code to access the online practice tests that should be used to assess your learning. Near the end of the course, you will take a comprehensive online proctored test. This will tell you how you did in comparison to other nursing students from BS nursing programs across the nation. A part of your course grade will reflect this performance (see the section below on grading). You will be required to remediate if you did not score at a proficiency level two or above. This is further explained under remediation (below). Some semesters you will take several ATI tests, depending on the content areas you studied.

## **What is a Proficiency Level?**

Nurse-educator content experts from around the USA participated in setting a national standard for the ATI scores on each Content Mastery Test (not the Comprehensive Predictor Test) that relate to different levels of proficiency. Listed below you will find a description of what each proficiency level means:

Proficiency Level 3—indicates student is likely to exceed NCLEX-RN® performance standards in this content area. Students are encouraged to engage in continuous focused review to maintain and improve their knowledge of this content.

Proficiency Level 2--indicates a student is fairly certain to meet NCLEX-RN® performance standards in this content area. Students are encouraged to engage in continuous focused review in order to improve their knowledge of this content.

Proficiency Level 1-- indicates a student is likely to just meet NCLEX-RN® performance standards in this content area. Students are encouraged to develop and complete a rigorous plan of focused review in order to achieve a firmer grasp of this content.

## **What is Remediation?**

Remediation means to review information you answered correctly on the first testing and to clarify or improve knowledge in areas in which your knowledge is deficient. Your ATI exam results will show a printout of the topics you need to review, in a list format. You should print these results and use them to study. The remediation policy will guide you through the remediation process of preparing to retest.

## **What about when I am a senior preparing to graduate?**

During your last semester in nursing school, you will receive online test codes to access content mastery practice exams in order to review prior content. You will also take a critical thinking exit test (all students) and a comprehensive predictor test (campus-based and LPN to BS students). The Comprehensive Predictor Assessment is a 180-item assessment designed to reflect the content areas of the current NCLEX® (RN licensing examination) blueprint. This tool provides information on the student's probability of NCLEX® success, as well as detailed information about strengths and weaknesses. A portion of your NURS 486 grade will be based upon your ATI performance.

## How do I order my ATI materials/ exams?

You must order the entire ATI package from the Indiana State University bookstore.

**Distance Students:** You need to call the ISU bookstore (812-237-3500) to order/purchase your ATI package, or order on-line [www.whywaitforbooks.com](http://www.whywaitforbooks.com) (click on Indiana State).

**The ATI package MUST be purchased prior to registering for any nursing courses (NURS 208 beginning spring 2009; NURS 300 beginning fall 2009).**

**Campus Students:** You must order/purchase your materials at the bookstore on campus.

**The ATI package MUST be purchased by Friday of the first full week of classes** in order for the final order to be shipped, and the online test environment prepared for you. The materials will be distributed early in the semester. Even if you will not be testing until later in the semester, you must still purchase the materials on time. You will not be able to purchase the materials at a later date in the semester. Do NOT go online to purchase an individual ATI package.

*ALL STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE:* You cannot “borrow” the ATI program from a buddy, purchase a used ATI program, or use program materials purchased while enrolled in an LPN program. Transfer students who have previously purchased the ATI-RN package through their previous institution must consult with the ATI coordinator regarding transferability of the testing service to the ISU nursing program. (Proof of purchase is required). *Purchasing the entire package ensures access to the testing services and currency of the study materials.*

## How do you know I have purchased my ATI material?

**Distance Students:** The ATI office on campus (812-237-2726) will receive notification from the bookstore of distance student’s purchase. The bookstore will be shipping your ATI materials to you once they are received from ATI.

**Campus Students:** Campus students will receive a receipt for purchase from the bookstore at time of order. **This receipt will be REQUIRED** to receive the books and DVD’s when they arrive at the bookstore. You will need to bring your receipt to the ATI Office in room 405 in the nursing building to have the receipt copied. This will allow you to gain access to online practice testing and proctored testing service.

### **What if I cannot take my scheduled ATI exam due to a class conflict or an emergency?**

- ❖ You must notify your instructor and the ATI office (812-237-2726) of your inability to test in order to make arrangements for another testing opportunity.
- ❖ Distance students also need to notify their proctor of the conflict with testing as soon as possible.

There are limited spaces and time constraints due to the large numbers of students needing to test during the semester.

### **What if I did not take my ATI test during the semester?**

Rescheduling after the end of the semester is restricted. Availability of testing after the end of the semester may be limited or unavailable until the subsequent semester and may result in an incomplete grade. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the ATI office.

### **What if I am repeating or re-enrolling in a dropped course that has required ATI testing?**

<b>Testing Scenario</b>	<b>Semester in Which Repeating</b>
Purchased but never tested for a specific content area	Two proctored tests are available No action needed
Purchased and taken only one proctored exam for a specific content area	One proctored exam available to take. If needing to retest a second time must contact ATI office to make arrangements to purchase one exam
Purchased and have already taken the two proctored exams for a specific content area	Must contact ATI coordinator in beginning of semester to purchase testing for that specific content area

## Implementation Policy for Assessment, Remediation and Preparation for NCLEX-RN: Utilizing Assessment Technologies Institute Program

### Content Mastery Scores and Testing

- Level 2 will be the benchmark for all Content Mastery exams. **(60<sup>th</sup> percentile level for Program type will no longer be used as previously recommended by ATI)**
- Students who do not achieve the benchmark on the 1<sup>st</sup> proctored Content Mastery exam in a course/content area must remediate and retake the exam. (See remediation plan below)
- The same form of the exam will be administered on any 2<sup>nd</sup> attempts in a content area.
- **Only students who have not achieved at or above the benchmark may repeat the test in a specific course/content area.**
- The highest score of two attempts in the same content area will count toward the course grade.
- All Content Mastery exams will count as 10% of the grade for the course in which it is administered. (Exception: TEAS, Critical Thinking and RN Comprehensive Predictor)
  - Students achieving Proficiency Level 2 or 3 will receive 100% of the possible points assigned by the course instructor to this ATI test (10% of the total course points)
  - Students achieving Proficiency Level 1 will receive 50% of the possible points assigned by the course instructor to this ATI test (0.5 x 10% of the total course points)
  - Students not reaching Level 1 will not receive any of the possible points assigned by the course instructor to this ATI test.

### Remediation for Content Mastery Testing

- The purpose of remediation is to correct or improve a deficiency in a specific content area that has been identified by the ATI Content Mastery Examination with the intent of ultimately improving student success on NCLEX-RN.
- Students who do not reach Proficiency Level 2 on a Content Mastery Exam on first attempt must immediately schedule a retest to be taken within the available time frames specified by the ATI Coordinator and Course faculty.
- Students must show proof of remediation before test codes are released for the second attempt (distance students); or in order to gain entrance into the testing environment for the second attempt (campus students).
- Mandatory Plan:
  - Students must access the results from the ATI exam in which the individual score fell below Level 2.

- Using the ATI Content Mastery Series Review Module and course reference materials/notes, the student will review items/topics that were missed (see list on the results print out).
- The student will then submit a handwritten paragraph about each topic or concept that was missed (include page number and title of references in which the information was found and student's handwritten signature on each page).
- Prior to taking the second test: **Campus students** must turn the remediation notes in to the ATI Office room 405. The student must again sign the notes with ATI Coordinator or Assistant as witness. The notes will be returned to the student's mailbox after being stamped to validate remediation. **Distance students** must FAX the hand written and signed notes to 812-237-4300 (Att: ATI Remediation) and retain a copy for themselves. The student signature will be compared to the signature on the proctor form. This procedure is to promote academic integrity.
- Optional Remediation Strategies that an instructor may choose to adopt in addition to the required plan:
  - 1000 (or quantity specified by instructor) NCLEX style practice items required at 80% proficiency.
  - Small Group Review Session: A group session may be held where the instructor or Supplemental Instruction leader assists the group to review the topics that were commonly missed. The format may vary based on the individual need of the group. A post test (e.g., non-proctored ATI practice exam, teacher made exam) may be recommended after the session.
  - ATI Non-proctored Practice Test Remediation: A test code for one of the two practice tests may be reserved for remediation between exams. It is recommended that following required remediation the test code be released to the student who will take the practice test until a score at or above 90% is achieved. No more than 1 week should be given to achieve proficiency. Additional points may be given for this activity.

## **RN Comprehensive Predictor**

- The RN Comprehensive Predictor will count as 15% of the course grade in NURS 486.
  - An incomplete grade (IN) will be assigned in NURS 486 to students who do not complete the RN Comprehensive Predictor protocol to assess NCLEX-RN readiness.
- An ATI practice test will be recommended during the first week of the semester. A self-remediation plan to correct deficiencies is recommended. A second practice test will be given one week prior to midterm in preparation for the 1<sup>st</sup> proctored exam.
- At midterm the 1<sup>st</sup> proctored exam will be scheduled.

- Students achieving  $\geq 72\%$  will receive 100% of the possible points assigned by the course instructor to this ATI test (15 % of the total course points)
- Remediation *required* if the individual adjusted score is  $< 72\%$ .
- Remediation options will be specified by the course instructor and may include, but are not limited to the mandatory and optional strategies found in the Remediation for Content Mastery Testing in this document.
- Second proctored exam scheduled (must be at least 1 month after the 1<sup>st</sup> proctored exam).
  - Students achieving  $\geq 72\%$  will receive 90% of the possible points assigned by the course instructor to this ATI test (.9 x 15 % of the total course points)
  - Remediation *required* if the individual adjusted score is  $< 72\%$ .
  - Remediation options will be specified by the course instructor and may include, but are not limited to the mandatory and optional strategies found in the Remediation for Content Mastery Testing in this document.
- Third proctored RN Comprehensive Predictor exam scheduled.
  - Prior to purchase of additional RN Comprehensive Predictor testing the instructor must obtain the Index for the test and provide it to the student.
  - Students provide the Index for the exam to the Controller with payment.
  - The receipt must be submitted to the ATI Office.
  - Students achieving  $\geq 72\%$  will receive 80% of the possible points assigned by the course instructor to this ATI test (0.8 x 15 % of the total course points)
  - Students achieving between 65% and 71.9% will receive 50% of the possible points assigned by the course instructor to this ATI test (0.5 x 15 % of the total course points)
  - Students achieving  $< 65\%$  will receive none of the possible points assigned by the course instructor to this ATI test.
  - Continuing self remediation highly recommended if the individual adjusted score is  $< 72\%$ .

### **Critical Thinking**

- The critical thinking entrance (taken in NURS 204 or NURS 208) and exit (taken in NURS 486) will each count as 5% of the respective course grade.

### **Utilization of Data for Curricular Improvement**

- Faculty in the courses where ATI testing is placed throughout the Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program will access aggregate reports

of student performance for their respective courses once the exam is closed at the end of the semester. For exams that test content covered in multiple courses, faculty should share the report with other relevant course faculty. The data will then be used for course improvement.

- Review of aggregate reports for implications relevant to the overall curriculum will be the responsibility of the Associate Dean Academics – Executive Director of Nursing Programs or an appropriate body designated by the Associate Dean.

### ATI Test Placement (Rev 12/22/08)

#### LPN to BS Track

Course Number	ATI Test
NURS 208	Critical Thinking Entrance
NURS 318	Mental Health (Implement fall 2009)
NURS 424	Comprehensive Medical Surgical Pharmacology Critical Care (Optional)
NURS 450	Community Health
NURS 470	Leadership
NURS 486	Comprehensive Predictor Critical Thinking Exit

#### RN to BS Track (Implement fall 2009)

Course Number	ATI Test
NURS 300	Critical Thinking Entrance
NURS 450	Community Health
NURS 470	Leadership
NURS 486	Critical Thinking Exit

#### Traditional BS Track

Course Number	ATI Test
NURS 106	Test of Essential Academic Skill (TEAS)
NURS 204	Critical Thinking Entrance
NURS 224	Fundamentals
NURS 318	Mental Health (Implement fall 2009)
NURS 328	Nursing Care of Children

NURS 330	Maternal Newborn
NURS 424	Comprehensive Medical Surgical Pharmacology Critical Care (Optional)
NURS 450	Community Health
NURS 470	Leadership
NURS 486	Comprehensive Predictor Critical Thinking Exit