

CUESTA COLLEGE

TEAS INFORMATION

Approved and Effective May 8, 2008

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

California Community Colleges are required by Senate Bill 1309 to administer a Nursing Assessment Readiness Test. Cuesta College uses the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) to test prospective nursing students.

The TEAS is designed to test the foundational academic knowledge that is required for the student to understand and master nursing course work. The TEAS is a predictor of academic success in nursing school.

WHAT IS THE TEST OF ESSENTIAL ACADEMIC SKILLS (TEAS)?

The TEAS is a multiple-choice exam that consists of four sections, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and English and Language Usage.

Reading – paragraph comprehension, passage comprehension, and inferences/conclusions (40 items, 50 minutes)

Math – whole numbers, metric conversion, fractions, decimals, algebraic equations, percentages, and ratio/proportion (45 items, 56 minutes)

Science – science reasoning, science knowledge, biology, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, basic physical principles, and general science (30 items, 38 minutes)

English and Language Usage – punctuation, grammar, sentence structure, contextual words, and spelling (55 items, 65 minutes)

For additional information on the content of the TEAS refer to the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) website www.atitesting.com

Currently at Cuesta College, applicants take the paper and pencil TEAS.

Applicants must attain a minimum composite score of 67% on the TEAS. The composite score is the average of the four individual sections of the TEAS.

PREPARING FOR THE TEAS:

ATI has two products, the TEAS Pre-Test Study Manual and a TEAS Online Practice Assessment, available to guide review and to provide feedback about individual study progress. Information about purchasing these materials is available at www.atitesting.com.

Copies of the TEAS Study Manual are available on reserve in the libraries at the Cuesta College main campus, the North County campus, and at Arroyo Grande campus. The package including the TEAS Study Manual and the TEAS Online Practice Assessment is also available for purchase at the Cuesta College Bookstore.

- ✓ An early practice test (such as the TEAS Online Practice Assessment) can point out areas of weakness and help determine how to set up study and review time for the actual test.
- ✓ Reviewing and studying academic textbooks and course notes that are related to the content areas of the TEAS *and* to future nursing coursework is extremely valuable and an ideal way to study for the TEAS.

HOW SOON SHOULD AN APPLICANT START PREPARING FOR THE TEAS?

Each applicant has a different learning style, and varying amounts of time may have passed since the applicant took the academic courses that are covered in the TEAS. But all test takers should keep in mind that preparation and review will result in higher scores. To properly review and study material for this exam, we recommend a *minimum* study schedule of 50 hours.

- ✓ Remember that the academic knowledge covered in the TEAS is vital for success in nursing school, so while studying for the TEAS, applicants are also preparing to do well in the rigorous academic coursework of the nursing program.
- ✓ Applicants who struggle with Text Anxiety or need Study or Test Taking Tips, should contact their school's Academic Skills office for information on workshops on these topics. At Cuesta, contact the Academic Support Department at (805) 546-3148 or <http://academic.cuesta.edu/acasupp/as>

WHEN TO TEST:

Specific information regarding TEAS testing is included in the Cuesta College ADN Application and in information sent to applicants *during* the application process.

General information: TEAS testing will be offered through Cuesta College Assessment Services during the fall of each application cycle. Admissions and Records will notify the applicant within 30 business days after receipt of an application, to schedule the TEAS test at Cuesta College. This notification will be by mail and will include information regarding testing dates, time, and location. Applicants cannot test at Cuesta College until the acknowledgement letter with directions is received. Applicants to the Cuesta College ADN program will not be charged for the first test; subsequent tests will be at the applicant's expense.

Applicants must attain a minimum composite score of 67% on the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) to continue in the application process. The composite score is the average of the four individual sections of the TEAS.

An applicant who scores below the minimum composite score will be referred to the Cuesta College Student Success Specialist to complete an appropriate remediation plan. The remediation plan must be approved through the Cuesta College Student Success Specialist. After documented remediation, the applicant may then re-take the TEAS test. The cost of retesting will be assumed by the applicant.

TEAS transcript: if you have previously taken the TEAS and achieved a minimum composite score of 67% at another location or from previous testing at Cuesta College, you need to have Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) forward your TEAS transcript. Cuesta College does not retain past testing scores. Request a TEAS transcript by doing the following:

1. Go to www.atitesting.com
2. Sign-in: enter user name and password
3. Scroll down, click on 'Shop'
4. Click on TEAS transcript fee (approximately \$20)
5. Select 'Cuesta College'
6. Select 'Add to Cart' and 'Checkout'

WE WANT ALL STUDENTS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE NURSING PROGRAM:

There may be applicants who meet the 67% composite minimum TEAS score, *but fall below 67% in individual testing components*. A low score indicates an area that an applicant will probably have difficulty with once enrolled in the nursing program. Applicants will be strongly encouraged to meet with the Nursing Student Success Specialist and develop a plan to strengthen the low scoring area prior to and/or during enrollment in the nursing program. This plan could include review materials, support activities or additional classes.