



**IUPUC**  
DIVISION OF HEALTH  
SCIENCES

## Math Exam Policy

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Policy Number: S\_20

### FULL POLICY CONTENTS

Scope  
Policy Statement  
Reason for Policy  
Guidelines

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**  
History

**Effective:** January 2022  
**Last Updated:** 8/17/2023

**Responsible University Office:**  
*Division of Health Sciences at IUPUC*

**Responsible University Administrator**  
*Division Head*

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*Senior Administrative Assistant, 812-348-7250*

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### Scope

Indiana University (IU) Division of Health Sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus (Division of Health Sciences at IUPUC) students.

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### Policy Statement

#### **Dosage Calculation/Math Competency for BSN Students**

Because safe, error-free medication administration is critical to safe and effective client care

, IUPUC Division of Health Sciences has set a dosage calculation/math competency requirement for each clinical course. Pre-licensure nursing students are required to

pass the designated competency requirement specified each semester at a 90% level.

Consequences of a score lower than 90%:

Students must achieve the passing standard before administering medications in the clinical setting. Faculty administering the exam will notify clinical faculty in the course so that appropriate patient assignments can be made. Students may practice calculations in the clinical setting with faculty even when they are not giving medications.

Students who do not achieve a score of 90% on their first attempt will retest with equivalent exams until the passing standard (90%) is achieved. Students and faculty will determine a reasonable amount of time between exam attempts.

Students must pass the dosage calculation exam before the equivalent of 75% of patient contact clinical time has passed in the course for which the student is testing. For instance, in a course utilizing a 6-week clinical rotation, the students must pass the dosage exam within 4.5 weeks, in a 7-week clinical students would have 5 weeks to pass the exam, and in a 4-week patient contact clinical, students would need to pass within 3 weeks.

If the dosage exam is administered in advance of clinical starting, the time limit for attempts will be calculated beginning on the date of the first dosage test. For instance, a dosage exam may be administered at the beginning of the semester for a student who will be in a four-week patient care clinical beginning halfway through the semester. This student would have 3 weeks from the date of their first exam attempt, at the beginning of the semester, to pass the dosage calculation exam.

Students who do not pass the dosage calculation exam within the agreed upon timeframe would not be able to meet the objectives of the clinical experience and would therefore not obtain a passing clinical grade.

Math competencies will be administered for a BSN student in the following clinical sections:

- B260
- H356
- H371
- H476
- S488

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## Reason for Policy

The purpose of this policy is to outline the Division of Health Science's guidelines for dosage calculation and medication administration during clinical rotations.

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## Guidelines

- For B260, H356, H371, H476, S488 - one test will be administered, and the student will be required to pass the designated competency requirement at a 90% level. Failure to achieve competency will affect the student's ability to complete clinical course requirements and will receive a failure for the course, negatively affecting academic progression.

Exam administration: The examinations will be administered each semester in the identified courses on each campus. Exams will consist of 10 questions each. Students may be provided conversion charts as a resource. Faculty will supply a standard conversion chart approved by the School of Nursing for students to use during the dosage test. This is in keeping with NCLEX procedure. The examinations must be given on the posted dates/times in the syllabus with adequate time for remediation and practice between exam attempts (if applicable). If the examination is administered on paper, students are strongly encouraged to show their work on the exam booklet. If an answer sheet is used, only the responses on the answer sheet will be used for grading. Items allowed at the desk during testing are limited to a basic writing utensil and a basic calculator.

Remediation: Students are expected to participate in group or individual remediation sessions if the passing standard is not met after each exam. The faculty and student will determine the manner and timing of remediation collaboratively.

## History

Reviewed by Policy and Procedures Committee 4/6/2022

Approved by Faculty Staff Council 4/27/2022

Reviewed by Policy and Procedures Committee 8/10/2023

Approved by Faculty and Staff Council 8/17/2023