

Higher performance on HESI Exit Exams is associated with increased likelihood of success on the Next Generation NCLEX-RN®

A recent multi-institution study investigated the relationship between the Integrated HESI Exit Exam (E2) performance and Next Generation NCLEX-RN (NGN-RN) success, as well as the impact of program policies on E2 benchmark attainment.

- **Sample size:** 1,753 students from 32 nursing programs (U.S. and Canada)
- **Exam window:** April–December 2023
- **Policy data:** Collected from 36 programs

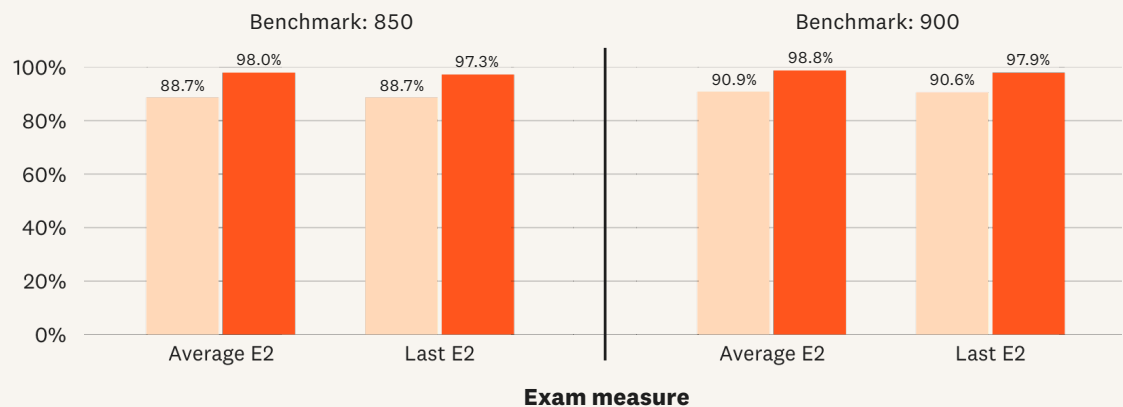
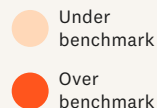


Findings

Students are statistically significantly more likely to pass the NGN-RN on their first attempt if they attain benchmark scores (either 850 or 900).

First-time NGN-RN pass rate

E2 Score



Students' E2 scores are ~140 points higher among those who passed the NGN-RN, compared to those who failed.

Measure	First-time NGN-RN outcome	Average E2 score	Last E2 score
Mean	Pass	881.2	899.8
	Fail	740.5	763.7
	Difference	140.7	136.1
Standard deviation	Pass	122.3	137.9
	Fail	112.2	139.4

Several program policies are associated with E2 benchmark score attainment

- Allowing at least three E2 retake opportunities
- Requiring minimum E2 score of 850
- Implementing student or faculty-driven learning plans
- Using Sherpath, Shadow Health, and HESI remediation tools

References

- Shah, M., Baker, R., Granville, R., Lander, L., & Bussard, M. (Accepted). Standardized Exit Exams and Next Generation NCLEX-RN: Examining Policies and Success Outcomes. *Journal of Nursing Education*.
- Shah, M., Granville, P., Baker, R., & Bussard, M. (2025). The Relationship Between the HESI Integrated Exit Exam & Next Generation NCLEX-RN: Updated Findings. Presented at the 36th International Nursing Research Congress, Seattle, WA. July 17-20, 2025.

