

Why did we receive a different test format for our unit/module tests?

The alternative testing format was implemented to assist with test security in the future as well as provide a fair mechanism for evaluating student learning at this time. Due to the quick change to online learning that occurred, the college was not immediately able to provide options for virtual proctoring that would allow for the delivery of our tests in the same format as prior to COVID-19. Allowing a fewer number of questions in alternative formats allows the student to utilize resources to both enhance learning and evaluate learning to date.

Why are we having final exams that are proctored?

Our nursing program is well known for its success in preparing students for the NCLEX exam that is required for licensure. Examinations that mimic the NCLEX format are important to that preparation. Students successful in their Spring 2020 courses will build on this content in future courses. Proficiency in the content learned this semester is critical to your future success.

What do I do if my computer does not have a webcam or microphone needed for final exams?

All students who have a virtually proctored final exam will need to ensure that they have access to a computer or laptop that meets the [technical requirements](#) of the college. These requirements are not new and have been in place since enrollment. If you do not have a computer/laptop that meets these requirements, perhaps check with a friend or family member that can let you borrow theirs. If you are borrowing a computer, please be sure to download Exemplify to the device and complete the necessary mock test ahead of your final exam.

How do I download Exemplify to a different computer?

These links will download to the device being used:

Mac 2.3.6 - https://releases.examsoft.com/Exemplify/2.3.6/Exemplify_2.3.6.dmg

Win 2.3.6 - https://releases.examsoft.com/Exemplify/2.3.6/Exemplify_2.3.6_win.exe

How do I ensure that I have the most up to date version of Exemplify on my device that is needed for final exams?

Use these links to update to the most recent version (2.3.6)

Windows: http://releases.examsoft.com/Exemplify/Exemplify_LATEST_win.exe

MAC: http://releases.examsoft.com/Exemplify/Exemplify_LATEST_mac.dmg

Why can't I review my recent tests?

While we are not able to allow you to see the test most recently taken, course faculty are available to meet virtually with students to discuss missed content from the tests.

I am not used to taking all my courses online and it feels like I am teaching myself. What can I do to be successful?

- The college was able to put resources into place during the extended Spring Break that allow for instruction to continue remotely. These resources include:

- Recording lectures on video. These lectures contain the same content that would have been delivered face to face.
- Conducting LIVE recitation sessions for dialog back and forth with faculty and peers. In addition, these are also recorded for viewing after the fact for those who were not able to attend or those who want to view again.
- Virtual office hours and access to faculty members to answer questions and provide guidance one on one.
- Continued support from Student Success and Advisors including MyLifeExperts Student Assistance Program: <https://www.bsmcon.edu/resources>

Why are we still trying to get clinical hours this semester when we know there's a buffer between what the College requires and what the State Board requires?

Clinical education is essential in nursing education. Even though it is difficult to duplicate the rich learning that occurs with human-to-human interaction in the acute care or community environment, nursing research provides support that virtual simulation is an equivalent learning experience. Even though we require up to 900 hours of clinical education in our program, there is a considerable amount that is not included in the Virginia Board of Nursing requirement of 500 direct care hours. In addition, institutional accreditors require that students are provided learning opportunities in the given course credit hours. It is our responsibility to ensure that you receive a quality education.

Will we be online in the fall?

If societal and health conditions permit, it is fully our intention to return to our regular delivery of courses for the pre-licensure program. Of course, this pandemic is unprecedented in our time and no one can accurately predict what the future holds. We remain committed and able to deliver the nursing program in any format necessary to keep you on-track for completion with confidence that you have fulfilled the requirements necessary to take your licensing exam and begin practice as a professional registered nurse.

When will we hear about our application to mission trips?

Applications closed on March 15th. Due to the current state of emergency and keeping in line with other institutions, all summer trips have been cancelled. College Administration and members of the Global Outreach Committee are monitoring the situation and will make a decision as soon as possible. We want to ensure that we allow enough time to make the best decision possible regarding future trips for Fall and Spring of next academic year. As you can imagine, our partners in the areas where we serve are also facing hard times and making difficult decisions. We hope to have more information by the end of May and when we do, we will share our plans. If you have specific questions related to your application please email Dr. Feurer at amy_feurer@bshsi.org. She will be happy to answer questions.

When will I hear about summer classes? By the end of April, check your student portal in Campus Nexus.

Free note taking resource: (until end of August) https://glean.sonocent.com/free-access/?utm_source=ahead&utm_medium=forum&utm_campaign=free_glean_20

How can I reduce distractions while studying or taking a test?

Study Tips for Reducing Distractions

- Set up an ideal study environment. Study in a location that minimizes both visual and auditory distractions. Try to find a location where you cannot see others moving around and is located in a quiet space.
- Remove unnecessary items from your study space that are not needed for studying.
- Use noise cancelling headphones or listen to white noise to reduce auditory distractions. Or try using earplugs.
- Remove electronic distractions. Turn your phone on silent and put it where you cannot see the screen. Turn off notifications on your laptop.
- Take timed breaks. Know your threshold for focus. When you start losing focus frequently, take a timed break. This will help to remind you to return to your studying.
- Reduce internal recurring thoughts. Keep a post-it note or piece of paper to right down your thoughts so you don't forget them. You can take care of the items on your timed break or when finished studying.
- Do not cram. Set a schedule to review material in a timely manner. List out specific goals/a study plan – even hour-by-hour, and use timers to try to stay on track.
- Move around while studying. Get up and use a whiteboard or change positions often.
- Chewing gum is sometimes helpful for focus, and/or having a stress ball or other fidget device can help when you start to feel restless.
- Some students find sitting on an exercise ball while studying helpful with focus as well.
- Use [mind mapping](#) to help organize your thoughts and create a visual representation of the information.
- Chunk the information. If you have a lecture to learn or review, approach the information in chunks instead of trying to learn all the information at one time. It can be helpful to organize the information by learning objectives.
- Use highlighting or paraphrasing information as you read it.

What is the role of the Board of Nursing in Nursing Education?

The Virginia Board of Nursing has been receiving communications from students related to policy and programmatic changes as a result of COVID-19, and has asked that the following clarification be shared with students.

The Board of Nursing has the authority to:

- approve nursing programs by ensuring that they have qualified faculty, adequate resources (clinical experiences, curriculum), and established processes (admissions, progression, program evaluation, recordkeeping)
- set minimum requirements for programs to maintain approval status
- hold programs accountable for NCLEX outcomes
- make recommendations for regulatory waivers with the goal of increasing nursing program flexibility regarding implementation of programmatic objectives

The Board of Nursing has no authority over:

- whether or not a program applies the waivers
- program policy development, including student progression through the program
- curriculum implementation including selection of the method of instruction for delivery of content
- clinical facility operations or policies
- determining the student's ability to meet course and clinical objectives
- determining the student's readiness for program completion/graduation
- ensuring students are prepared to provide safe nursing care

How is the college complying with the Virginia Board of Nursing regulations and waivers?

On March 19, 2020, the Virginia Board of Nursing issued the following waivers in response to Executive Order 51 issued by Governor Ralph Northam, declaring a state of emergency due to COVID-19. Our Nursing Program faculty and administration made curricular adjustments based on these waivers.

- *A nursing education program preparing a student for licensure as a registered nurse shall provide a minimum of 500 hours of direct client care supervised by qualified faculty was waived for students who are on schedule for graduating.* The majority of our senior students already had the minimum of 500 direct care hours prior to the waiver being implemented. If a senior student does not have 500 direct hours, the student may graduate if the program outcomes are met.
- *No more than 25% of direct client contact hours may be simulation. For prelicensure registered nursing programs, the total of simulated client care hours cannot exceed 125 hours (25% of the required 500 hours).* This regulation was waived for students who are on schedule to graduate. The Nursing Program has less than 25% simulation for direct care hours.
- *No more than 50% of the total clinical hours for any course may be used as simulation was waived for all students enrolled in a clinical course.* The Nursing Program created virtual simulations for students to continue to complete their direct care practicum hours to replace the hours that would have been spent in the health system.