



Let's Talk Testing



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Is your student **At Risk**?

This year, Educational Resources, Inc. made several very helpful changes in the Diagnostic Reports of its nationally standardized tests.

In the past, student scores

SPOTLIGHT



Jodi Parks-Doyle

This month's *Spotlight* points to Jodi Parks-Doyle, RN, EdD, Program Specialist for Educational Resources, Inc.

Dr. Parks-Doyle is a nationally respected nurse educator who has served as a member of the Board of Governors for NLN, Chair of the AD Council for NLN, and Second President of the National Organization for the Associate Degree Nursing. She has served as a site evaluator and a member of the Board of Review for NLN, later NLNAC. She was chosen Educator of the Year by the Florida Nurses Association and attended a White House luncheon with First Lady Barbara Bush for Nurse's Day.

As a Program Specialist for Educational Resources, Inc. Dr. Parks-Doyle travels with ERI personnel on a consistent basis to assist client schools to best

At Risk and High Risk Designations on Diagnostic Reports

were compared to ERI's established **National Average Score** (the national mean score), and the **National Passing Point**. This fall, student scores 1/2 a standard deviation or more below the **National Average Score** will be designated as **At Risk**. A student is then **at risk** for failing NCLEX questions that cover the same nursing content.

Student scores at or below the **National Passing Score** (a standard deviation below the average) are now designated as **High Risk**. This indicates a **high risk** for failure in that particular nursing topic or subtopic.

implement Total Testing™ into their current curriculums. In addition, Dr. Parks-Doyle has collaborated with ERI to help nursing programs achieve greater success with accreditation through her development of CD's, such as **Preparing for Accreditation**. In this CD program, she gives a fundamental overview of how a nursing program can develop, maintain, and revise its Systematic Plan for Evaluation (SPE) specific to its institution.

As a Program Specialist for Educational Resources, Inc., Dr. Jodi Parks-Doyle provides a valuable service to the Total Testing clients of Educational Resources.

Testing and Item Writing Tips



by Larry Simmons, RN, PhD
Director of Research

This is the first in an ongoing, free, CD series that presents short, item writing tips that lead to good test construction. Developing a good item (and a psychometrically sound one) for school examinations is not as easy as it may sound. This new CD provides some general guidelines that help the instructor perfect test questions.

First, the item writer must be clear, simple, direct and concise in the wording of the question's stem. Stems should not contain irrelevant information. The stem should also present only one problem. Avoid the use of absolutes (all, none, always) in the question stem. State the question stem as a positive focus. Avoid the use of EXCEPT as a qualifier. State each item so that it asks for the **best** answer. In addition, items should reflect current, national nursing practice. Avoid questions that are related only to local practice or protocols. And finally, indicate age or gender of the client only if it is vital when selecting a correct response.

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An Evening Aboard the Queen Mary

On Friday evening, September 20, 2002, following the NLN Summit in Anaheim, California, Educational Resources hosted a reception aboard the Queen Mary, an 81,234 ton survivor of World War II.

After champagne and cookies at the hotel, 150 Educational Resource clients boarded buses destined for the Queen Mary. Aboard the buses, ERI representatives awarded select winners with nurse bears and Total Testing™ gift certificates.

Clients arrived to board the Queen Mary for a sunset viewing with cocktails on the Observation Deck. Following sunset, brief tours were conducted of the ship, ending in the King's View Ballroom where ERI clients enjoyed a four course dinner. ERI Educational Consultant, Craig Arnold, gave a Total Testing™ presentation, and Dr. Nancy Rubino was acknowledged for her dissertation on ERI's Nurse Entrance Test.

The evening ended around 9:00p.m. as guests were transported back to the hotel. ERI would like to thank each nurse for a wonderful evening aboard the beautiful Queen Mary.



Clients board the bus on their way to the Queen Mary.



The Queen Mary is one of the largest passenger liners ever built.



Clients enjoy the sunset with cocktails from the Observation Deck of the Queen Mary. As the sun set, the evening's festivities began.



A panoramic view of Long Beach, California from aboard the Queen Mary.



The tour of the ship has ended as clients gather in the King's View Ballroom for a wonderful four course dinner and presentations by ERI Educational Consultants.

For More Information



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Well, so here's a question for you...

? Does ERI periodically re-evaluate its tests?

A: Yes. ERI re-evaluates every test following every semester. Winter semester tests are statistically evaluated in January and February, and the Spring semester testing is evaluated in June and July.

? Is a review course for NCLEX really necessary?

A: Definitely. Nursing faculty always encourage student nurses to review before each major semester exam; therefore, why would anyone not encourage students to effectively review for probably the biggest exam of their professional career in nursing, the NCLEX? Surveys find that eight out of ten nurse graduates take a review course.

? Does ERI offer statistical reliability and validity reports on its tests?

A: Yes. Nursing programs can find reliability and validity reports prepared by Larry Simmons, RN, PhD, Director of Research, for ERI tests at www.eriworld.com. In fact, one recent reliability and validity technical status report, for ERI testing in 2002, is included as a hyperlink in the introduction e-mail of this month's newsletter.

? Does ERI charge an additional fee for customized testing?

A: No. Any customized testing a nursing program may require is included as part of the Total Testing™ package.

? Does ERI provide student profiles for accreditation documentation?

A: Yes. ERI provides computer generated student profiles that track nursing content scores throughout the degree, as part of the Total Testing™ package. This tracking profile presents results as outcome criteria for accreditation, as well as critical thinking and nursing intervention scores.

? Is there an additional fee for utilizing web-based testing in lieu of paper/pencil testing?

A: No. Whether a nursing program chooses web-based testing or the paper/pencil versions, the tuition fee remains the same for the Total Testing™ package.

? Does ERI charge an additional fee for the remediation materials that Total Testing™ provides to students?

A: No. Web-based and CD remediation materials are included in the Total Testing™ package. In fact, remediation is the key to Total Testing™ success.

Does ERI charge an additional fee for shipping and handling?

? A: No. Fees for standard (UPS ground) shipping and handling are not charged to Total Testing™ clients. In an emergency situation, overnight or second day delivery is available for a modest fee.

Does ERI offer any type of workshop in which contact hours can be obtained?

? A: Yes. ERI offers Regional Faculty In-service Workshops in which faculty will earn up to 7 contact hours. The Regional Workshops consist of an ERI Advisory Committee presenting lectures covering *Program Validation: The Many Uses of Standardized Testing*. Meeting dates and locations for current and new offerings will be announced as they develop.