

University of Massachusetts

School of Nursing

Nursing Acceleration Challenge Exam (ACE) II RN - BS - Information Sheet

ACE II EXAMS

The ACE II is a standardized test to facilitate educational mobility of RN to BS students. It is a means of diagnostic evaluation of previous learning and experience for advanced placement and awarding 30 "resident credits" at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. It is used for associate degree and diploma graduates. Successful completion of the ACE II is one way of completing requirements for admission to the RN-BS track. The exam is given six times per year: June, August, October, November, December, and January. **You may take the tests in any sequence. They do not all have to be taken at once. You may retake a test only once.** In order to have your score(s) submitted by the February 1st application deadline, ***you must complete taking the exam(s) no later than the January test date.*** Credits for successful completion of the exams will be awarded once the student is enrolled in the RN-BS Mobility track at the University.

The ACE II was normed on students in baccalaureate nursing programs. There are four content areas, each with its own exam, which are printed in three separate exam books.

BOOK ONE, Care of the Adult Client, includes questions which focus on the nursing care of clients in a variety of settings and at various stages of the wellness-illness continuum. Book One includes 214 questions and requires four hours for administration. Any current medical-surgical nursing textbook can be used for preparation. (4 hours)

BOOK TWO has two sections. **Care of the Client during Childbearing** focuses on nursing care during the antepartal, intrapartal, and neonatal periods. Emphasis is on the normal, although some common complications are included. This section includes 100 questions; the test requires two hours for administration. Any current maternity text can be used for preparation. (2 hours)

The second section of **Book Two, Care of the Child**, is concerned with nursing care of children of all ages and at various stages of health and illness. This section includes 119 questions and requires two hours for administration. Any current pediatric text can be used for preparation. (2 hours)

BOOK THREE, Care of the Client with Mental Disorder, consists of questions which reflect the broad spectrum of psychosocial assessment and intervention strategies to support the client's strengths. Book three includes 131 questions and requires two and one-half hours for administration. Any current Psychiatric nursing textbook can be used for preparation. (2 ½ hours)

Integrated throughout each of the four tests are questions about nutrition, pharmacology, patient teaching, and interpersonal relations. Questions are presented in case situations and are written in the framework of the nursing process.

SCORING: For each main content area of the ACE II, you will receive a score. The passing score is **45 or above** in the **NORMALIZED PERCENTILE**.

If any of the four content areas are failed, you may retake the section for the failed area once. Re-testing is permitted at any scheduled test date or the February (Retake) date.

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

Microbiology: The purpose of this test is to assess the students' understanding of the basic processes, structure, and function of microorganisms causing communicable diseases, the body's immunological response to foreign substances, and the epidemiology of communicable diseases. The test consists of 115 questions and requires 2 hours for administration. (2 hours)

Pharmacology: The purpose of this test is to assess the students' understanding of medication and medication administration including: pharmacological actions, the undesired effects of medications and their control, and dosage calculations of specific drugs prescribed in adult health, maternity, pediatric, psychiatric, and geriatric settings. The test consists of 112 questions and requires 2 hours for administration.

Normal Nutrition: The purpose of this test is to assess the students' knowledge of nutrition and its application throughout the life cycle including: nutrients in food and their role throughout the life cycle, digestion, absorption, and metabolism of food, social, economic, and legal factors affecting nutrition and food safety, and nutritional assessment. This test consists of 120 questions and requires 2 hours for administration. (2 hours)

Anatomy and Physiology: The purpose of this test is to assess students' knowledge of the normal structure and function of the human body including: cellular metabolism and membrane physiology, major body systems, metabolism, and temperature control, reproduction, and special senses. This test consists of 118 questions and requires 2 hours for administration. (2 hours)

SCORING: For each Achievement exam you will receive a score. The passing score is **45 or above** in the **NORMALIZED PERCENTILE**.

Re-testing is permitted at any scheduled test date or the February (Retake) date.

ADMINISTRATION AND FEES: A representative of Continuing & Professional Education is designated as examiner and is authorized to administer the exam.

The fee for taking all four sections of the ACE II exam is \$500.00. The fee for re-testing depends on the section you need to retake. (**You may only retake an exam once.**) Please note: Book Two has two sections, 1) Childbearing and, 2) Care of the Child. If one section is failed, you pay for the section you need to retake. All applicants must take the ACE II through the School of Nursing or submit their test scores **along with the appropriate fee**. WMPNEC graduates (1987 or later) may need only 18 credits (see your credit evaluation).

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUND POLICIES: A minimum number of 5 registrations must be received in order to hold the exam session. If we do not reach 5 registrations by the deadline, the testing session will be cancelled. If the session is cancelled you will receive a full refund or the opportunity to transfer to another session (if the registration deadline has not passed). If the session is cancelled for other reasons (i.e. snow, power failure, etc.) you will be rescheduled for the January exam session.

If you cancel you will be charged a \$50.00 cancellation fee for each ACE II exam and a \$25.00 fee for each Achievement test. To avoid the fee, cancellations must be received in writing to the address below.

Continuing & Professional Education
100 Venture Way, Suite 201
Hadley, MA 01035
(413)545-5202
kwhite@contined.umass.edu

Registration and payment MUST be received no later than 3 weeks prior to the desired test date. No registration will be accepted after that time.

EXAM DISHONESTY/CHEATING AND PROHIBITED MATERIALS: Giving, receiving, or exchanging information about the test while the test is in progress is not permitted under any circumstances, nor are you permitted to refer to any other material during the test session. Examiners are instructed to dismiss any individual who does not follow these instructions. Candidates should not bring any dictionaries, books, pamphlets, slide rules, compasses, calculators, rulers, or papers of any kind. Scratch paper is also prohibited. Examinees may use the test booklets for scratch paper. Anyone found with any of these materials will be dismissed from the exam session.

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