

NOTE: This policy goes into effect January 9, 2023

EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROCEDURE ON MATH ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION (drug calculations)

1. **Drug Calculations (Math) are a Nursing Competency.** Mastery of drug calculations must be demonstrated for all nursing courses, Associate Degree Nursing, Vocational Nursing and LVN-RN Transition Nursing, clinical and theory. A score of 90% or higher on a drug calculation assessment examination (math exam) must be received. Students must receive the 90% score prior to administering medications in the clinical setting. This applies to all students enrolled in a theory and/or a clinical course to include the first semester. The exception is RNSG 1115, RNSG 1301, RNSG 1208, RNSG 2130, VNSG 1227, and VNSG 1219.
2. All students taking or auditing the theory course with a clinical course as requisite must also take the math assessment examination (drug calculation), even if not enrolled in the clinical course. This will validate the students' knowledge and skills as they prepare to advance to the next course and provide an opportunity for remediation, if appropriate. The first attempt at the math assessment examination (drug calculations) will be counted as a theory quiz grade for students enrolled in theory. Auditing students will not receive grades in theory.
3. Students who do not receive a 90% on the math assessment examination (drug calculations) **will not** administer medications in the clinical area if direct patient care is involved. Simulation can also have points taken off if practice on the scenarios has been given before the graded scenario. Points will be deducted in all applicable areas of the ADN/VN/LVN-RN Competencies (clinical evaluation) and an additional 10-point deduction from the ADN/VN Competencies (clinical evaluation) for each day that medications cannot be administered.
4. Math Assessment Examination (drug calculations) will be offered once weekly for a **maximum of three (3) attempts**. If the student does not pass the Math Assessment Examination on the third (3) attempt, the student will be dropped from the course(s) they are enrolled in, theory and/or clinical. Courses are co-requisites.
5. Any student making less than 90% on the math assessment examination (drug calculations) will receive a written student counseling form and will be expected to comply with requirements prior to re-testing.
6. Starting with the first semester of nursing courses, each unit math assessment examination and the comprehensive final math assessment examination for the theory nursing courses will contain medication administration and drug calculation (math) questions to equal ten percent (10%) of each examination.
7. Students will be deducted 10 points per each clinical day missed. Since they are not eligible to pass meds until they achieve 90% on the math calculation examination.

NOTE: This policy goes into effect January 9, 2023

8. Students that may have clinical starting the 2nd week of the course will have two (2) opportunities to take the math assessment examination before clinical begins.
9. **Not passing the Math Assessment Examination (drug calculations) is unsafe practice.** The student violates previously mastered principles, learning and objectives in carrying out patient care and/or delegated medical functions from previous and/or current semesters. Failure to demonstrate or explain patient care, assessment, planning, interventions and evaluations listed in previous course objectives that have been completed. (See syllabus and evaluation tools).

Note: Only generic (basic) calculators can be used for the math assessment examinations (drug calculations). No calculators with programming (scientific) will be allowed for the test.

Reviewed: August 2004
Reviewed: October 2007
Reviewed: June 2012
Revised: May 2018
Reviewed: September, 2022

Reviewed: July 2005
Reviewed: August 2008
Reviewed: August 2014
Revised: May 2021

Revised: July 2006
Reviewed: August 2009
Reviewed: December, 2015
Revised: July 2021