

## **Challenge for NURS 310: Comprehensive Health Assessment**

Trinity offers RN-to-BSN students an opportunity to challenge NURS 310: Comprehensive Health Assessment. Those requesting challenge of the course must successfully pass the NLN RN Achievement Test in Physical Assessment with a score in the 45<sup>th</sup> percentile or above. The fee for this exam is the responsibility of the student. Successful completion of the exam contributes to 75% of credit for the course. A student may attempt twice to successfully pass the exam.

Students will also demonstrate competency on the skill set assigned to the course. This portion of the course is a final physical examination performance and health history. This performance examination accounts for 25% of credit for the course. An appointment should be scheduled by the student with the course faculty. Students have two opportunities to demonstrate proficiency on the physical exam.

Students must pass both portions of testing to receive credit for NURS 310.

**The Health Assessment Challenge Exam will be administered on a per semester basis.** The fee for this exam is \$100 and is the responsibility of the student. All students interested in taking the Comprehensive Health Assessment Challenge Exam must contact Tamara Jean at [JeanTa@trinitydc.edu](mailto:JeanTa@trinitydc.edu) or 202-884-9670.

Students who successfully pass the written portion of the exam will be scheduled to demonstrate satisfactory performance of a complete physical examination and health history. **To Schedule this portion of the exam please, contact Tamara Jean, at [JeanTa@trinitydc.edu](mailto:JeanTa@trinitydc.edu) or 202-884-9670.**

The NLN Physical Assessment Challenge exam is a 125 item, four-option, multiple-choice exam. Students will have up to 2 hours to complete the test. A blueprint for the NLN Challenge Exam for Physical assessment is attached.

For further information on the challenge exam, please contact Dr. Rosemarie Berman at: [bermanr@trinitydc.edu](mailto:bermanr@trinitydc.edu) or 202-884-9671.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR NURSING (NLN) ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

61 Broadway, 33rd Floor

New York, NY 10006

---

### PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT

#### OTACHI 14-2614

**Purpose:** This test assesses students' understanding of general health assessment and physical examination techniques used to evaluate the health status of adults and children.

**Description:** The 102 individual items address general health assessment in the areas of interviewing, health history taking, general surveying, and documentation. A body systems approach is used to evaluate physical data-gathering techniques. Health status and developmental stage of clients are also considered. The test reflects nurse-client encounters in a variety of primary, secondary, and tertiary health care settings and requires students to use their knowledge of the nursing process.

**Administration:** Can be administered in two hours. Schedule after completion of all learning experiences in health and physical assessment.

**Confidentiality:** All NLN tests are copyright protected and may not be reproduced. Every effort must be made to maintain the confidentiality of the test. Only authorized persons should see the test questions, and the test booklets must be returned to NLN by a trackable shipping method immediately after use.

**Scoring:** A total score and two subscores are provided:

- A. General Health Assessment: 20 items
- B. Physical Examination: 82 items

**Norms:** Norms have been computed so that faculty can compare the performance of their students with that of students in other RN programs throughout the country. Normative data are based on the performance of students in baccalaureate degree nursing programs; however, this test is applicable to all RN programs.

---

The NLN score report includes a list of incorrect and omitted responses for every examinee, providing specific information about each individual student's strengths and weaknesses. When ten or more students take the test at a given time, the report will include an analysis of the responses of that particular group. For each item, the report will indicate the number of

students in the group who answered the question correctly, incorrectly, and/or omitted the question. Item descriptors for all test questions accompany the report.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE TEST

The objective for this test is for students to demonstrate knowledge of physical assessment by identifying:

1. General health assessment parameters in the areas of interviewing, health history taking, general surveying, and documentation.
  
2. Physical data-gathering techniques utilizing a body systems and developmental approach.

## BLUEPRINT OF TEST CONTENT

The test objectives and the subscores form the blueprint of the test, and items are distributed as follows:

	Assess	Analyze	Plan	Implement	Evaluate
<b>A.) GENERAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT</b>					
1. Interview	10		1	2, 3, 4, 12	11
2. Health History	5, 6, 9	8	7		
3. General Survey	15		13, 14		
4. Documentation		101, 102			98, 99, 100
<b>B.) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION</b>					
1. Skin		18	16	20	17
2. Head and Neck	26, 28, 31, 32, 38, 50, 56	30, 34, 35, 36, 37, 47, 54	49, 52	27, 29, 33, 46, 48, 53, 57	51, 55
3. Thorax and Lungs	40, 44	41, 42, 45		39, 43	
4. Breast and Axilla	61	58	63	59, 62, 66	60, 64, 65
5. Peripheral Vascular	22, 25	19, 21, 24			23
6. Cardiovascular	73	67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72			
7. Abdomen		78, 79, 80	77	74, 75, 76	
8. Musculoskeletal		84	81, 83	82	
9. Neurological	85	86		87, 88, 89	
10. Genitourinary		97	91, 92, 94, 96	90, 93, 95	

## STATISTICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Norms are based on the 1994 performance of 904 students in baccalaureate programs.

<b>Content Areas (Subscores)</b>	<b>Number of Items</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Mean <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Standard Deviation <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Reliability <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Standard Error of Measurement <sup>4</sup></b>
A. General Health Assessment	20	904	15.63	2.40	0.478	1.73
B. Physical Examination	82	904	54.97	7.29	0.725	3.82
<b>Total</b>	102	904	70.60	8.50	0.725	4.20

1, 2 The mean and standard deviation are based on the uncorrected raw score, i.e., the number of items answered correctly.

3 The reliability coefficient is an estimate of the consistency with which the trait under consideration is being measured. The reliability estimate reported here is calculated as Cronbach's Alpha, using raw score data. The range of the coefficient is between 0 and + 1. This estimate is based on inter-item consistency, requiring only one administration of the test.

4 The standard error of measurement (SEM) is reported to help assess the accuracy of measurement of an individual's score. The SEM estimates the variation in a score one would expect to see if an individual were tested repeatedly. In practice it is estimated (with 68 percent confidence) that an individual's "true" score will fall within "1 SEM of the observed, or actual, score on a test. Therefore, small differences are not likely to indicate significant differences among the performances of students. (To obtain the value of the SEM, we employ values of the standard deviation and reliability that have greater precision than shown in the above table.)