



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



National Health Science Certificate (NHSC) 2024-25 Information and Procedures

Background

Since 2008, the National Health Science Certificate (NHSC) has served as the end-of-program assessment for health science completers. Established by the National Consortium for Health Science Education (NCHSE), the National Health Science Assessment and Certificate Program provide a way to identify and measure student achievement in health science education. Teachers and administrators have access online to a year-end group analysis of their students' results, a tool that can be used to revise and improve curriculum delivery. The assessment is aligned to the National Healthcare Foundation Standards. The National Health Science Certificate (NHSC) is available in two parts; the pre-test, an indication of what students know upon entry into a health science program of study, and the post-test, which measures student mastery of the foundation knowledge and skills needed by all healthcare professionals. Students who meet the passing standard receive a certificate of achievement.

South Carolina Information- Who Should Test

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition Services (CTE & STS), has determined that four courses in the Health Science cluster are better aligned with the career and technical skill proficiencies assessed on the National Health Science Certificate (NHSC) than others. Any health science completer reported using a CIP code in any pathway in the health science cluster is encouraged to take the test. However, to ensure that the technical skill assessment South Carolina uses to measure performance is fair and appropriate, students who are health science pathway completers (students who earn a minimum of 3 units in

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health Science courses that includes at least 3 units in the following courses are best suited to take the NHSC. The identified courses are Health Science 1 Foundations of Healthcare Professions (5550), Health Science 2 Advanced Healthcare Applications (5551), Health Science Human Structure, Function and Disease (5552) (or its substitute, Medical Terminology, Human Body Systems) and Health Science Clinical Study (5560).

In 2023-24, 38 school districts participated and 1615 tests were administered. The statewide pass rate was 55%. The SC average assessment score was 69% with a 3% increase from pre-assessment to post assessment.

2023-24 Assessment Process

Two testing windows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 st semester completers: | November 18, 2024 – January 31, 2025 |
| 2 nd semester completers: | April 7, 2025 – June 6, 2025 |

The 105/110 plus multiple-choice online assessment is not timed; students generally finish in one hour. Immediate results feedback is given to the students. Although the passing percentage is **70%**, since there are more than 100 questions the passing score will be greater than 70 depending on the number of questions on the assessment. If students have an individualized education plan (IEP), all accommodations as outlined in their plan can be provided. An authorized school representative must call YouScience Customer Support, 801-653-9356, and request accommodations.

Funding for this assessment is provided through a partnership grant between the SCDE and the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA). This funding is available **ONLY** to cover the cost of the **first attempted** post-test for students who are Health Science Completers. When purchasing post-tests, a school purchase order is NOT needed; the testing agency will invoice SCHA for all SC students.

Note:

1. If you have a student who attempts the post – test more than once, the cost is the school’s responsibility and will be billed for the charge at \$15.00 per attempt. Contact the test vendor to notify and purchase the assessment for multiple attempts by the same student.
2. Although we encourage the pre-test, should your school decide to give the **pre-test**, the cost (\$15.00), **is not** covered by the partnership grant.

Proctor Registration

Health science teachers, or former health science teachers, are NOT allowed to be the proctor for the post-test, or in the room, when the post-test is administered. Beginning in the fall of 2022, all proctors began a new process to sign up with YouScience directly. This includes new proctors as well as proctors who currently already have proctor ID’s. To Get started with proctor registration and learn more about the process of proctoring

complete the following Google form to ensure you are uploading into the YouScience testing platform: <https://forms.gle/um8uhhBXQbbQEMdJ8>

How to Register Students for Testing

1. **Generate the test code.** Visit this link to learn how to set up exam codes and proctor the NHSC: <https://youscience.my.site.com/helpcenter/s/article/What-NCHSE-exams-are-available-with-Industry-Certifications>
2. Test Day Particulars:
 - a. Your students would only have to log in with the following.

Student I.D.
State
District
Test Code
 - b. Once all students are registered and ready to log in, release the test code.

It is best not to release the test code until all students are ready to start.

Test Day

Students can create an account with YouScience and login to access the assessment at <https://signin.youscience.com/> Once in the account, they will click Industry Certifications and enter the exam code provided by the proctor.

Questions about proctor registration or the general testing process contact:

Angel Clark, Health Science Education Associate, at aclark@ed.sc.gov, 803-734-0372

Questions about the exam in general, or specific circumstances in relation to the actual test, contact: For immediate help, contact YouScience Support via chat or (801) 653-9356. For other questions contact Ivey Harrison ivey.harrison@youscience.com or Ben Troxler ben.troxler@youscience.com

****If you have issues the day of the test (registration, time, power outage, fire drill or any problems with the test whatsoever), and need immediate testing assistance, contact: 801-653-9356 or e-mail support@youscience.com.**