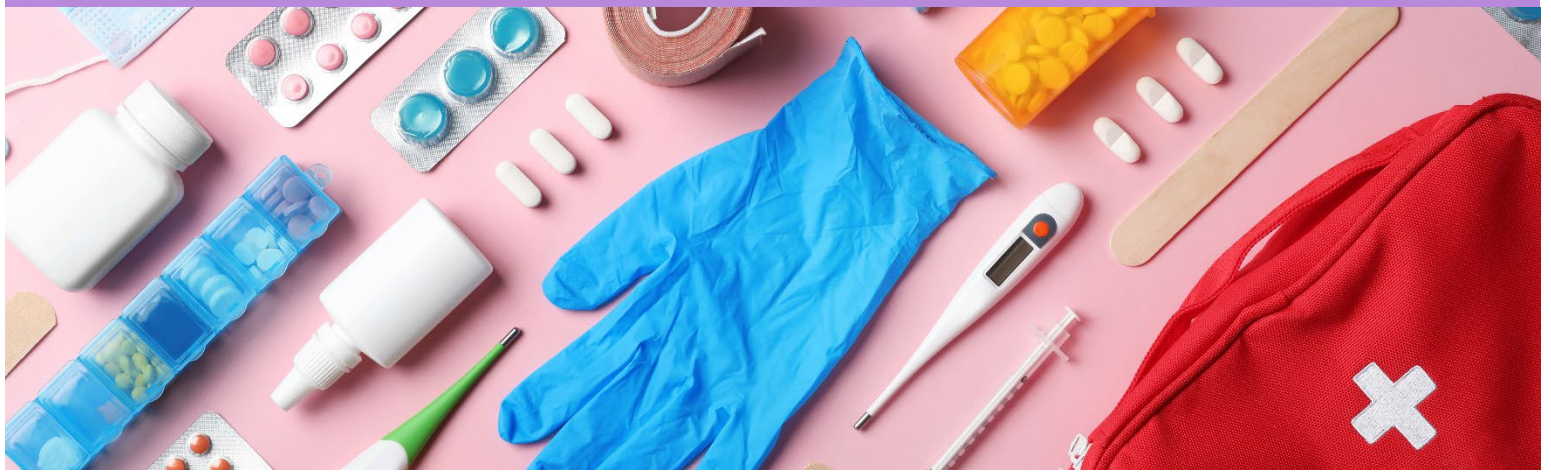


Post-Exam Triage

TEST TAKING



What is it and why do I care?

Taking time to review your results and reflect on your experience after an exam is a process that many students skip. However, if you can train yourself to view your exams as part of an ongoing learning experience instead of a dreaded evil, you might lessen some of your anxiety around testing and improve your understanding of what you need to learn and to test well.

Conducting a post-exam triage

Unlike many of the classes you took earlier in your education, what you learn in nursing school is cumulative. You can't just memorize information long enough to pass a test, you need to really learn it so you can build and expand your knowledge. Unfortunately, many students never review their exams and if they do, they only focus on what they missed, not why they missed it and how they can better prepare for next time.

Content

Part one of the triage is a full review of the content with a deeper dive into the material you missed. Go back and clarify your notes with the new information, update or make new [flashcards](#), contact your instructor if you really didn't get the concept. Remember, your interaction with this material isn't a one-and-done, you will see it again.

Testing Experience

Part two of the triage is asking yourself questions to understand the testing experience – where it went right and where it went wrong – so you can be better prepared next time. Here are some questions to get you started...

- For each question you missed or received partial credit, consider why. Here are some possible reasons...
 - Misunderstood the question / careless mistake
 - Didn't know the material
 - Overthought the question
 - Ran out of time
- Do you notice any patterns – similar content, the type of question (e.g. essay, narrative, etc.)?
- Does your actual grade align with your expected grade? If not, why do you think that is?
- How prepared did you feel going into the exam? What affected your preparedness?
- What strategies/resources did you use to prepare for the exam? Do you think they were effective?
- Were there concepts on the exam that completely took you by surprise? If yes, why do you think that happened?

Make a Plan

Every time you're assessed it's an opportunity to hone your [learning and study skills](#) – don't waste the opportunity! Take the trends, patterns, and insights you learned from your review of the content and your personal testing experience and create a plan for next time. This might be better [time-management](#), joining a study group, rethinking how you [take notes](#), researching an accommodation, making use of faculty office hours, making an appointment with an Academic Success Coach. 😊

Remember: Tests aren't your only assessment – every time you receive feedback it's an opportunity to triage your learning.