

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COLLEGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH
SCHOOL OF NURSING
POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL**

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Subject: TEST ITEM ANALYSIS	Original Issue Date: 1996	Policy #: 321
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Committees Consulted: Curriculum	Reviewed & Approved by: School of Nursing Coordinators Faculty Organization	Approved by: (Signature on File) Dean, School of Nursing

PURPOSE:

To ensure quality of multiple choice test items.

POLICY:

Exam questions will be written in objective, multiple choice (4 to 5 selection) format.

Faculty reviews the test item analysis to identify items that do not meet specified criteria.

Faculty within the semester course have final authority on any action to be taken based on test item analysis.

PROCEDURE:

Test item analysis is performed after each test is administered.

Course faculty evaluate all of the following, but not limited to:

- Test difficulty level
- Discrimination (point biserial)
- Reliability coefficient

Faculty will review test items that fall outside the guidelines:

- Difficulty level: < 40% or > 80%
- Discrimination (point biserial): < 0.2

GUIDELINES:

Test Difficulty

Test item difficulty is the percentage of students who answered the item correctly. The larger the percentage getting the item right, the easier the item. Difficulty level of 40-80% is acceptable. Difficulty level of <40% may be too difficult. Difficulty level of > 80% may be too easy. The ideal difficulty level for correct answers chosen on a four-item multiple choice test is 62.5%.

Discrimination (Point Biserial)

The current software computes point biserial values as the discrimination indicator. Point biserial correlation describes the relationship between the test item and the total test. A good test item discriminates between students who do well on the test and those who do poorly.

Subject:

TEST ITEM ANALYSIS

Point biserial of:

- 0.3-0.7 is desirable
- 0.2 or greater is considered acceptable
- Below 0.2 indicates that test takers probably answered the item correctly by chance or the item encouraged guessing. The item may require revision.
- Below 0.15 is considered a poor item and may need revision/re-evaluation
- Negative values need revision/re-evaluation.

PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION:

REFERENCES: