

Lippincott PassPoint Case Study

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Program

Stony Brook has a two-year upper division nursing program that admits students in their junior year. There is also a 12-month accelerated nursing program. Stony Brook has used **PassPoint** for approximately three years, as well as HESI exams throughout the curriculum.

Course Structure

The program initially used **PassPoint** at the end of the curriculum but now uses it for the entire senior year. Students take Med-Surg 1 in the fall and Med-Surg 2 in the spring, followed by a Capstone course. According to Dr. Voelpel, "Students tend to struggle most with the alternate-format questions. Many who have taken the boards report that as many as 50% of the questions are alternate format—including ones involving having to listen with headphones."

PassPoint Implementation

In the fall semester, students using **PassPoint** at Stony Brook have to get a Mastery Level (ML) of 8 in all relevant areas (for the content being covered in the course). Approximately 95% of the class achieves the goal with a strong grasp of the associated content areas. In the spring semester (January to May), students are required to answer a certain number of questions in **PassPoint**. According to Dr. Voelpel, "Last year I gave participation credit to the students based on their

ML. If they had an 8 and a certain number of questions, they received full credit. But as some students don't reach an 8 in all areas (because of the distribution across the class), I decided to change things. So this year, I required students to answer at least 8,000 questions. Unfortunately, some students did not use **PassPoint** in the way I had hoped. Instead, some appeared to have sat down over the course of a few days and just clicked through questions without actually thinking about them and answering them. So they were trying to achieve the target of 8,000 questions, but were not really answering and learning from them. I had about 25% of my students who seemed to have done this. Following graduation, I did an NCLEX® review with my students and I asked them about this. We discussed how I would not be able to judge if they were truly ready to take the NCLEX and be a nurse if they had not done what they were supposed to do in **PassPoint**. I have 153 students and even after they graduate, I stay in touch with them. I look in **PassPoint** at their MLs, and I make sure students understand that they must spend time studying and give the respect that the exam deserves." Along with **PassPoint**, Stony Brook students also purchase UWorld for additional independent practice on NCLEX-style questions.

Stony Brook uses **PassPoint** as a remediation tool for students who do not get an acceptable score on their HESI exams. The school relies on a HESI benchmark of 850, and if a student scores below 850 on v1 or v2, Dr. Voelpel sets up assignments in **PassPoint** for them and monitors their progress. These students will actually begin using **PassPoint** in their junior year (they purchase 24 months).

All other students, however, don't start using **PassPoint** until their senior year. According to Dr. Voelpel, "I think the product is phenomenal. I don't use a Lippincott book, but I use **PassPoint** as I think it's the best thing on the market. I love that faculty can oversee student usage and mastery and that I can utilize it throughout the curriculum."

Student Usage

This instructor reports looking at student usage data in **PassPoint** all the time. "At the end of the Med-Surg 1 course, I look and see in which areas students are weakest and I can build on their strengths as well. I have been using **PassPoint** for years. Now I have other faculty members who are seeing the benefits and are adding it to their courses. I think by the time we get to the next incoming class we will be using **PassPoint** in both years of the program. When we added **PassPoint** into the curriculum, it helped students begin their review and preparation for the NCLEX earlier. From the first day of senior year, students are using **PassPoint**. Following graduation, I continue to monitor students. I suggest that students take the boards within 8 weeks after graduation—but I can monitor and advise students if they have questions on their readiness. I can see where they are—in a comprehensive way—by looking at their usage and mastery in **PassPoint**, and help guide them to when they should take the NCLEX."

Current Cohort Usage

Table 1 shows student **PassPoint** usage for the students who graduated in May 2017 (N = 154).

Table 1: Overall student **PassPoint** usage and mastery

	N	Min	Max	M	SD
Number of Log Ins	154	2.00	419.00	155.14	69.89
Number of Quizzes	154	13.00	1131.00	347.31	187.77
Number of Questions	154	65.00	10000.00	4858.75	2166.66
Overall Quizzing ML	154	1.10	8.00	6.28	1.74
Remediation Links	154	.00	202.00	5.12	18.51

Students answered an average of 4,858.75 questions (+/- 2,166.66) and achieved an average overall quiz ML of 6.28 (+/- 1.74). Figure 1 shows the distribution of the number of questions answered by students across the program. Just over half of students did not access any remediation links. For the 76 students who accessed at least one, the average number used was 10.39 (+/-25.26).

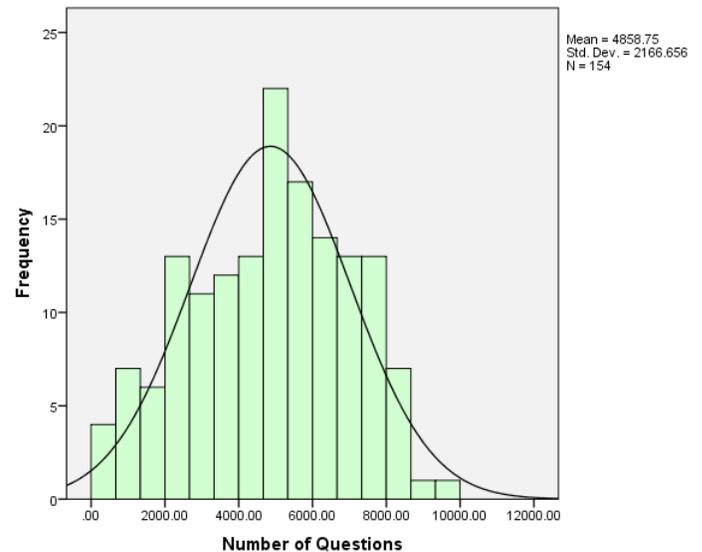


Figure 1: Number of quiz questions answered

Students took Practice Exams in **PassPoint** throughout the program. The average number of exams was 24.18 (+/- 19.40), with an overall final exam ML of 5.87 (+/- 2.08).

Table 2: **PassPoint** Practice Exam usage and mastery

	N	Min	Max	M	SD
Number of Exams	154	.00	101.00	24.18	19.40
Number of Exam Questions	154	.00	7575.00	2087.40	1603.16
Exam ML	154	1.00	8.00	5.87	2.08

Table 3 shows exam usage and mastery after removing students who took no Practice Exams (N = 8).

Table 3: **PassPoint** Practice Exam usage and mastery (exams > 0)

	N	Min	Max	M	SD
Number of Exams	146	1.00	101.00	25.50	19.05
Number of Exam Questions	146	75.00	7575.00	2201.78	1567.91
Exam ML	146	1.10	8.00	6.13	1.79

Student Feedback

According to Dr. Voelpel, “Students love **PassPoint**. They also really like using UWorld.”

NCLEX Outcomes

The most recent NCLEX pass rate at Stony Brook was 95.6%, which was the third highest in the state of New York and the highest for a public university. The school’s reported retention rate is approximately 95%. “We work with students who may be struggling and help them find the pathway to success,” says Dr. Voelpel.

Advice for New **PassPoint** Users

“I liked that I can use different products and they work well together,” says Dr. Voelpel. “My advice to new users is to be patient and understand there is a learning curve at the beginning. But once you know how to use it, **PassPoint** will be a bonus to your curriculum and NCLEX success!”



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