



HSRT-AD Information for 2021 Nursing Applicants

The HSRT-AD entrance test will be given online between April 12, 2021 (2400) through April 15, 2021 (1700)

You must sign-up and receive your login information between April 5 – April 9th with Vickie Jones-Briggs at vickie.jones-briggs@oregoncoast.edu. Your OCCC email is the only method of correspondence that will be used to sign up for the HSRT entrance test.

The HSRT-AD Test Information

The **HSRT-AD (Health Sciences Reasoning Test-Associate Degree)** is the form of the HSRT designed and calibrated specifically for use by certificate and two-year programs in the health sciences. The HSRT-AD measures critical thinking and quantitative reasoning skills that are essential for readiness for a rigorous study and student success in a two-year health science degree program.

Purpose

Student retention and degree completion has been demonstrated to be closely linked with the critical thinking skills needed to develop strength in clinical reasoning and the ability to think in mathematical contexts.

- The HSRT-AD measures critical thinking and quantitative reasoning skills. These items require no health science knowledge. This makes the HSRT-AD an ideal tool for admissions testing as well as outcome assessment in the area of clinical reasoning skills.
- Using question formats that have proven value to assess reasoning and decision-making skills, the HSRT-AD has a difficulty level set specifically at the post-secondary student level. Scores for the HSRT-AD will vary according to the applicant's or the student's critical thinking ability and can be compared with the population of students in two-year health science programs.

Overview

The HSRT-AD is designed as a multiple-choice format assessment that can be administered in a 50-minute setting.

- The HSRT-AD invites test-takers to apply their skills to information provided in a variety of different scenarios. Information is presented in text-based and diagrammatic formats; questions invite test takers to draw inferences, to make interpretations, to analyze information, to draw warranted inferences, to identify claims and reasons, and to evaluate the quality of arguments
- Test items on all forms of the HSRT range in difficulty and complexity. Items are set in clinical and professional practice contexts. Any specialized information needed to respond correctly is provided in the question itself. These items require no specialized health science knowledge.

- Each test item is based on 40 years of Insight Assessment’s research on critical thinking measurement; questions are multidimensional and interrelated so that individual and group test results provide meaningful insights into specific critical thinking skills.

Critical thinking is reasoned and reflective judgment applied to solving problems or making decisions about what to believe or what to do. Critical thinking gives reasoned consideration to defining and analyzing problems, identifying and evaluating options, inferring likely outcomes and probable consequences, and explaining the reasons, evidence, methods and standards used in making those analyses, inferences and evaluations.

Critical thinking is skeptical without being cynical, evaluative without being judgmental, and purposefully focused on following reasons and evidence wherever they may lead.

This definition of critical thinking is based on the Executive Summary of [Critical Thinking: A Statement of Expert Consensus for Purposes of Educational Assessment and Instruction](#) (the APA “Delphi Report”)

For more information on critical thinking, download your personal copy of Dr. Peter Facione’s widely cited essay, [“Critical Thinking: What It Is and Why It Counts.”](#)

- **A good critical thinking test is not going to be a test of factual knowledge about critical thinking.**
- **Memorizing information and definitions is not the key. A good critical thinking test will engage you in using your critical thinking because critical thinking is a process. Achieving greater success with critical thinking requires practice. Regularly exercising your critical thinking skills builds strength.**
- **A critical thinking skills test engages you with questions that require you to apply your skills.**

Typically a critical thinking test will present some information or a scenario of some kind and then ask questions about it, but the questions will invite you to analyze or interpret the information presented, or to draw a reasonable conclusion based on that information. A critical thinking dispositions measure typically invites the person to agree or disagree with a series of statements.

- To build your critical thinking skills and positive habits of mind, work through a critical thinking textbook. We highly recommend [THINK Critically](#) by Dr. Peter Facione, one of our test authors. You can purchase that book or one of the many other good critical thinking textbooks on the market from one of many other online book outlets such as Amazon.com.
- To gain an overview of critical thinking and how the skills and habits of mind go together in problem solving and decision making, we suggest the essay [“Critical Thinking: What It Is and Why It Counts,”](#) which you can download from our website.
- Here are some college level [sample thinking skills questions](#) and [sample mindset attributes](#) items from our Resources library.
- You can also download our free app, [Critical Thinking Insight](#). Get started today with the free sample reasoning skills questions and sample reasoning mindset items. Then challenge yourself with the more comprehensive in app purchasable personal assessments for your self-evaluation and personal development. Reports deliver scores and personalized analysis on key elements of your thinking plus personalized suggestions on how to strengthen your thinking. If you have been assigned an Insight Assessment thinking test for school or work, reviewing the sample questions on the app will help you get comfortable with our testing system.

Critical thinking skills and mindset can be measured—and improved.

Can I study for a critical thinking test?

Research shows that your brain grows stronger when you give it a workout by studying new information, learning new skills or reflecting on new experiences. Building strong reasoning skills and a positive thinking mindset involves engaging problems and making decisions in a thoughtful way. There are many products designed to engage and strengthen critical thinking.

- To gain an overview of critical thinking and how the skills and habits of mind go together in problem solving and decision making, we suggest the essay "[Critical Thinking: What It Is and Why It Counts](#)," which you can download from our website.
- Generic adult level [sample critical thinking skills questions](#) and [thinking mindset questions](#) are posted on our website. These samples are only examples, not the same as the ones used on the tests you may be asked to take by schools, colleges or businesses.
- Our own free app, [Critical Thinking Insight](#), contains examples of critical thinking assessments, although not the same ones used by schools, colleges and businesses. You may want to download our app and view the free sample skills and mindset questions there. This will also give you a chance to familiarize yourself with our app based online test systems.
- An introductory college level textbook, "[Think Critically](#)," by Facione and Gittens, is available from Pearson Education.

Use your critical thinking skills; exercise them every day.

For more information visit Insight Assessment at:

<https://www.insightassessment.com/>