

## Dosage Calculation Competency

- Applicants to the **LPN and Paramedic Bridge to RN Program** who meet **MINIMUM APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS** must demonstrate competency in dosage calculation to earn 10 points toward application ranking. (see POINTS WORKSHEET). A dosage calculation test will be administered with Scoring as follows :
  - 90% on first attempt = 10 application points
  - <90% on first attempt = 0 application points
  - ANY score on second attempt = 0 application points
- The minimum competency rate is 90%. A score of < 90% does NOT exclude you from admission, however a score of 90% will be required on the second attempt to enroll/register for the **Bridge Program**. **ONLY TWO ATTEMPTS ALLOWED**.
- ONLY the first attempt score will be considered for points.
- Candidates will be notified of eligibility to test via Calhoun.edu email with a link to register for a test date/time.
- Testing will include:
  - Conversions: time (military, traditional), metric, apothecary and common household units of measure used in medication administration and calculating weight (pounds to kilograms)
  - Basic dosage calculation for oral and parenteral medications
  - Reading medication labels
  - IV drip rate calculation (mL/hr, gtts/min)
  - Calculation of infusion time
  - Intake and Output
- Testing Dates:
  - Thursday, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 AT 12:00 pm AND 5:00 pm
  - Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 AT 8:00 am AND 3:00 pm
- The dosage calculation competency test is given as a proctored assessment in the Health Science Computer Labs located next to Career Services on the Decatur Campus.
- Testing Requirements and Information:
  - MUST MEET MINIMUM APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS TO SIT FOR EXAM
  - Photo identification, such as a driver's license, is required for entry.
  - No electronic devices, mobile phones, tablets, laptops, smart watches, paper, or books will be allowed in testing room.
  - Calculator will be provided. Mobile phone not allowed.
  - Scratch paper will be provided and must be submitted after testing.
  - Bring a sharpened pencil for testing.
  - ONLY TWO ATTEMPTS allowed to obtain 90% for eligibility for enrollment.
  - Arrive 15 minutes prior to exam for check-in and verification.
  - This is a 40 item exam. 36/40 required for 90% score.
  - 75 minutes will be allowed for test completion.
  - Calculation problems will be fill-in-the-blank, NOT multiple choice.
  - Late arrivals will be allowed the remaining test time to complete the exam.
  - Rescheduling will be considered only if seats are available.
  - If you need testing accommodations contact

## Tips for Getting Your Best Score:

1. Review Conversions!
2. Review the practice problems provided!
3. Choose one way to work your dosage calculation problems and **STICK** with it! It doesn't matter what method works for you: formula ( $D/H \times Q$ ); ratio and proportion; or dimensional analysis. They all arrive at a correct answer.
4. Look for rounding instructions **IN** the problem. (for example: "Round to tenths place" or "Round to hundredths place").
5. Do not round any dosage numbers (mL, mg) until the **END** of the problem.
6. Weight conversions (Pounds to Kilograms) should be rounded immediately, before proceeding with the problem.
7. Round any number:
  - a. If greater than 1, round to the tenth.  $1.234 = 1.2$
  - b. If less than 1, round to the hundredth.  $0.567 = 0.57$
  - c. Incorrect rounding is an incorrect answer. For example 3.25 mL rounded is correctly rounded to 3.3 mL. An answer of 3.2 mL is incorrect.
8. IV flow rates in gtts/min are rounded to the nearest whole drop. For example 25.5 drops is rounded to 26 drops. (You can't count a fraction of a drop!!)
9. IV flow rates in mL/Hr can be rounded to tenths.  $35.65 = 35.7$  mL/hr
10. Leading and Trailing zeroes in your answer: [THIS IS A PATIENT SAFETY ISSUE!!]
  - a. ALWAYS place a leading 0 if the answer is a decimal without a whole number. For example .7 mL is written as 0.7 mL. Answers without a leading 0 are considered incorrect
  - b. NEVER include trailing 0. For example if the answer is 4.502 and you round to the nearest tenth, the correct answer is 4.5; NOT 4.50
11. Capsules: must be rounded to a whole number
12. Tablets: assume they are scored and round to the nearest HALF tablet.

Study materials will be available on [www.Calhoun.edu/nursing](http://www.Calhoun.edu/nursing)