

Security and Ethical Statement

Virtual ILC 2021

By preparing to be our Nation's Future Health Professionals, HOSA members are held to a higher standard regarding their ethical behavior as a "competitor". HOSA members are expected to follow HOSA rules and act honorably and ethically at all times. Plagiarism, copyright violation and falsification of information are inconsistent with the culture of future health professionals. Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated by future health professionals. Violation of the ethics rules will be severely penalized and may lead to forfeiture of any award received during the 2021 HOSA Virtual International Leadership Conference.

Like many college-level exams, this year's HOSA Tests will be open book/open notes. HOSA members must not consult with other members, advisors or parents during the testing period. HOSA will take the necessary steps to protect the integrity of test administration.

Tips for Success on Open Book/Open Note Tests. While you prepare your notes and resources before your HOSA Tests, keep these facts in mind.

- 1. Open book/open note tests are not easy.** Answering HOSA Test Items takes more time than copying information from notes. Finding facts, formulas, or other information in your notes is only one step to answering a test item—you must apply the information to complete the task.
- 2. It is essential to prepare the test.** You should prepare for an open book/open note test just as you would a traditional HOSA Test. Having resources available may save you time in memorizing information; however, you must know how to apply the information efficiently and correctly. Test taking requires preparation. HOSA wants every competitor to be the best they can be!
- 3. More materials are not always better.** You'll need to answer multiple questions on your HOSA Test and you'll have limited time to do so. The more time you spend looking for information, the less time you'll have to use it in selecting the correct response.
- 4. You should not copy responses from notes or resources.** This year's HOSA Tests were designed knowing you have access to your notes and resources, so the test questions will ask you to apply concepts you may have in your notes and resources in different ways. Copying what you have done in the past may not produce a satisfactory response.
- 5. Your study notes are better than internet searches.** The internet can be an excellent source of data and facts, but it's also a source of misinformation, diverging opinions, and manipulated content. In the experience of our instructors, members taking open book/open note tests who try to find answers on the internet often earn fewer points than students who use their time to apply their own learning to develop a logical response.

- 6. Collaborating with others is not acceptable.** HOSA Tests provide an opportunity to show **your mastery** of a subject—not someone else's. It is strictly forbidden to give or receive aid during the Test. Any competitor found using the work of others, exchanging or sharing information on test topics, collaborating via any online platform, or soliciting tips for problem-solving approaches will be investigated for violating test security.

We are confident that the vast majority of HOSA members will follow the rules for taking HOSA tests through the National Geographic Learning Testing Center. For the few HOSA members who may try to gain an unfair advantage, we have a comprehensive and strict set of protocols to prevent and detect cheating. We are keeping some of these protocols confidential to maximize their effectiveness. Others are listed here.

7. We Designed the Tests with Security in Mind

- Tests will be taken on the same days during posted times.
- For all team testing events (CERT, EMT, CPR, BD, CPS, HB, PP, FS, and DD), all team members must take the test within 1 hour of each other. Tests are electronically time-stamped when the competitor begins, and HOSA will monitor to ensure team members all begin the test within 60 minutes of each other. Coordinate with your team members to take the test within 60 minutes of each other, within the scheduled 4 hours that each test is open.
- On test day, members will be required to verify their identity and confirm the work they submitted is their response.

- 8. We Use Tools to Detect Plagiarism.** We're using a range of digital security tools and techniques, including plagiarism detection software and post-administration analytics, to protect the integrity of the tests.

9. HOSA Members Who Violate Exam Security Will Receive Consequences

- HOSA members whose responses mirror online content or other members' submissions will have their scores questioned and possibly cancelled.
- HOSA members sharing or receiving test content or test responses or engaging in any plans or efforts to provide or gain an unfair advantage, will be blocked from testing or their scores will be cancelled. This includes communications or assistance in-person, via the Internet, social media, or any other means.
- If we determine that a HOSA member gained or provided an unfair advantage on a HOSA Test, the school will be notified so the school can choose to take necessary disciplinary action, as appropriate.
- HOSA members who attempt to gain an unfair advantage also may be prohibited from taking future HOSA Tests at International Leadership Conferences.
- We encourage anyone with knowledge of any dishonest behavior with respect to HOSA Testing to contact HOSA Test Security. Reports can be shared confidentially using HOSA@HOSA.org.