

Medical Spelling

New for 2021-2022

Reminder that the Taber's Audio Glossary is an option for chartered associations and at ILC to use for the spelldowns.

Event Summary

Medical Spelling provides HOSA members with the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills regarding definitions and spelling of medical terms. This competitive event consists two rounds. Round One is a written, multiple choice test and Round Two is a "spelldown" where competitors spell terms in front of judges. This event aims to inspire members to become skilled in medical spelling.

Dress Code

Competitors must be in official HOSA uniform or in proper business attire. Bonus points will be awarded for [proper dress](#) in Round One. Competitors who are not dressed appropriately for Round Two will not be allowed to compete.

General Rules

1. Competitors in this event must be active members of HOSA-Future Health Professionals and in good standing.
2. Secondary and Postsecondary/Collegiate divisions are eligible to compete in this event.
3. Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the "[General Rules and Regulations of the HOSA Competitive Events Program \(GRR\)](#)."
4. All competitors shall report to the site of the event at the time designated for each round of competition. At ILC, competitor's [photo ID](#) must be presented prior to ALL competition rounds.

Official References

5. The test items and the medical term lists shall be randomly selected from the standard reference. No study lists will be provided. The official reference for terms selected shall be:
 - [Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary. Edited by Donald Venes and Clayton L. Thomas, M.D. F.A. Davis Company, Latest edition.](#)
 - [Taber's Audio Glossary, F.A. Davis Company, Latest edition.](#)
Purchasing the dictionary will also give HOSA members access to the audio online glossary, which can be used by chartered associations/ILC for competition, and by competitors to practice.

Round One Test

6. [Test Instructions](#): The written test will consist of 50 multiple choice items in a maximum of 60 minutes.

7. **TIME REMAINING ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There will be a verbal announcement when there are 30 minutes, 15 minutes, 5 minutes, and 1 minute remaining to complete the test.
8. The test is only used to advance competitors to Round Two and may be used as a tiebreaker in the event of a tie during the spell down per rule #22.

*NOTE: **Chartered associations/regions** may use a different process for testing, to include but not limited to pre-conference testing, online testing, and testing at a computer. Check with your Area/Region/State/**Chartered Association** for the process you will be using.*

9. **Sample Test Questions**

1. An obstructing infection in a renal pelvis or ureter
 - A. Pilonefritis
 - B. Pyonephrosis**
 - C. Pilonephritis
 - D. PyonefrosisTaber's Page 1973
2. A specialist in diseases of the nervous system
 - A. Neuralogist
 - B. Neologist
 - C. Neurologist**
 - D. NurologistTaber's Page 1627
3. The act of swallowing
 - A. Deglutition**
 - B. Digluatation
 - C. Deglutation
 - D. DiglutitionTaber's Page 631

Round Two Spelldown

10. If the competitor is more than 5 minutes late to Round Two, the spelldown will begin without them and they may not be allowed to compete, in accordance with the [GRR](#).
11. Based on the written test scores, Round Two competitors will be seated in ascending order (from lowest test score to highest test score) for the spell down. The spelldown begins with the competitor who had the lowest test score and is seated in chair #1.
12. The term list for the "spell down" will be arranged from easy to difficult.
 - Rounds 2 and 3, numbered 1 - 100 will be easy terms.
 - Rounds 4, 5 and 6, numbered 101 – 200, will be moderate terms.
 - Round 7 and beyond, numbered 201 – 300, will be difficult terms.

An additional list of 100 very difficult terms will be available **at the International Leadership Conference** if all terms on the Round 7 & Beyond list are used before a winner is determined. This list will be numbered from 1 – 100.

13. **SELECT A WORD:** Round Two competitors shall draw numbers in turn and present it to the moderator, who announces the number. The number the competitor draws will correspond to a numbered term on the term list. As soon as the word is identified, the judges should quickly locate the word in their resource.

14. **PRONOUNCE THE WORD:** At ILC, Taber's Audio Glossary will be used to pronounce each term for the competitor. Competitors can use the audio glossary listed in the event resources (item #5 above) to practice. Using the online glossary to pronounce each term will ensure everyone hears the same thing across all sections. **The competitor may request to have the term re-pronounced by the Audio Glossary.**

* Note: Competitors should check with their State Advisor to determine if the Taber's Audio Glossary will be used for any chartered association-level conferences.

If chartered associations choose to use an in-person moderator to pronounce each term, instead of the Audio Glossary, it is acceptable for the moderator to confer with the judges before pronouncing a term for a competitor. When the word is pronounced by the moderator, if any of the judges would have pronounced the word differently he/she should announce "STOP", and state "I would like to offer another pronunciation." (or something similar), and then he/she should pronounce the word. If chartered associations use an in-person moderator to pronounce each term, the person should be as free from dialect as possible.

JUDGE TIP: The best time to encourage the competitor to speak louder and clearer is when they pronounce the word, before they begin spelling. For example, it is fine for the judge to say "STOP. Would you please repeat your pronunciation of the word, and speak loudly and clearly as you spell the word. We want to be sure we hear exactly what you are spelling."

15. **DEFINE THE WORD:** The competitor may also request a definition of the term. One judge or moderator should be designated to define the term upon request. If a competitor requests a definition, the designated judge or moderator should read the dictionary definition, or essential part of the definition, aloud for the competitor.
16. **COMPETITOR SPELLING RESPONSIBILITIES:** The competitor is to pronounce the term given to him/her and pause before starting to spell the word. This will give the moderator and judge(s) one opportunity to correct the competitor if the term was misunderstood. The competitor's pronunciation will not have any bearing on the qualification or elimination of any competitor.
- The competitor will have 2 minutes to complete spelling the term. If the spelling has not been completed at the end of 2 minutes, the competitor will be eliminated. The time will begin at the first pronunciation by the moderator.
 - No pencil or paper will be allowed in the spelldown for the competitor.
 - During the 2 minutes and before starting to spell the word, the competitor may ask for additional pronunciations from the Audio Glossary and may ask for another definition, but the clock will be running.
 - Once spelling has begun, there will be no other opportunity for

pronunciation or definition.

- e. Having started to spell the term, the competitor will be given one (1) opportunity to change letters.
 - f. If a medical term provided to the student contains a hyphen, the competitor will state “hyphen” at the appropriate place in the word. If the medical term is two words, the competitor will be required to state “space” at the appropriate place between words. Competitors will not be penalized if capitalizations are not included.
 - g. A warning will be given at 1 ½ minutes that 30 seconds remain.
 - h. The competitor **must** pronounce the term to declare that he/she has finished spelling.
 - i. If the competitor fails to pronounce the term prior to spelling or after spelling the term, he/she will be eliminated.
 - j. The moderator will **NOT** give the correct spelling for a term if the competitor spells the term incorrectly.
17. Judges will write down each letter as the competitor spells the term. If there are doubts about the spelling, judges will wait until after the spelling is completed and confer. If there is still confusion the determination may be made to have the competitor respell the word or select a new word.
- JUDGE TIP: Be aware that sometimes there are two correct spellings for a single term. Multiple spellings will be included in the word listing the judges receive. For example:
- orthopedic and orthopaedic
 - mammoplasty and mammoplasty
 - malacoplakia and malakoplakia
 - chakra and cakra
18. The next competitor will draw a new term to spell. In the event that all competitors are eliminated in a single round, all competitors will return to resume the spell down. If only one competitor spells correctly in a given round they will be determined the winner, those eliminated will return to a spell down to determine the remaining top ten.
19. Any question relating to the competition must be referred to the judges immediately. By raising his/her hand, the competitor will be recognized by the event personnel or judges. **The decision of the judges is final.**
20. When there are two remaining competitors, regardless of if the round is completed, the elimination procedure changes.
- a. As soon as one competitor misspells a term, the other competitor **immediately** shall be given the opportunity to spell the same term.
 - b. If the second competitor spells the term correctly, he/she selects a new term.
 - c. If the competitor then spells the new term correctly, he/she shall be declared the first-place winner.

- d. However, if after correctly spelling the missed term, he/she misspells the new term, a new round will begin with both competitors spelling in the original order.
21. No microphones will be used during competition. NO OBSERVERS will be allowed during the event.

Final Scoring

22. If the final two spellers continue to go back and forth spelling words correctly – the following process may be used: When there are five minutes remaining in the event, the moderator will announce the remaining time. The length of time dedicated to the entire Medical Spelling event is determined by each chartered association and aligns to conference planning logistics. If the final spellers are still both “standing” at the end of the given time, the test scores will be used as the tiebreaker. The competitor with the highest test score will be declared the winner. If test scores are the same, the competitors with the highest test scores will be identified as co-winners. In the event this scenario takes place at a chartered association-level competition, most likely the chartered association would advance the co-winners plus the 3rd place finisher to ILC; however that decision is ultimately made on a case by case basis by the chartered association.
23. OPTIONAL FORMAT (To be determined by conference management): For Round Two, the Secondary (SS) competitors may be in the same room as the Postsecondary Collegiate (PSC) competitors. The PSC competitors would have their spelldown to determine the PSC order of finish, following the process in rules #10 – #21. At the conclusion of the PSC event, SS competitors would compete in Round Two. The words used by PSC competitors would NOT be repeated in the SS event. PSC competitors would have the option of leaving when their event is complete or staying to watch the SS spelldown.

Competitor Must Provide:

- Two #2 lead pencils with an eraser
- [Photo ID](#)

Spelldown Results Instructions

1. Competitors for Round Two should be posted in the order they will spell, beginning with the competitor qualified for Round Two with the lowest test score. The competitor with the highest test score from Round One will spell last.
2. Determine how many spellers are in Round Two, and cross out the places not needed on the Spelldown Results page below. (For example, if you have 25 spellers, cross out numbers 26-30.)
3. As soon as the first competitor misspells a word, his/her competitor number should be written in the last row on the Spelldown Results page. (If you have 25 spellers, write the number of the first competitor to misspell a word in row 25.)
4. Continue to fill in the results each time a competitor misspells a word.
5. The last remaining competitor’s ID number (winner) will be written in row #1 on the page.
6. Complete the Spelldown Results page information (competitor ID, name, school, chartered association) at the conclusion of the event.

**MEDICAL SPELLING
SPELLDOWN RESULTS**

Final Place Results	Competitor ID	Name	School	Chartered Association
1st				
2nd				
3rd				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				