

Medical Spelling



New for 2023 – 2024

The maximum number of times competitors can request pronunciation during the spelldown is now a total of three (3) times by either moderator and/or audio glossary. If the term provided contains an apostrophe, the competitor will state “apostrophe” at the appropriate place in the word. These guidelines are written for ILC. States may modify events or have different event processes and deadlines. Be sure to check with your Local/State Advisor (or state website) to determine how the event is implemented for the regional/area or state conference. Editorial updates have been made.

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 of 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.

Competitor Must Provide:

- [Photo ID](#)
- Two #2 lead pencils (not mechanical) with eraser

General Rules

1. Competitors in this event must be active members of HOSA-Future Health Professionals and in good standing.
2. **Eligible Divisions:** 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 \(GRR\)](#).”
 - A. Per the [GRRs](#) and [Appendix H](#), HOSA members may request accommodation in any competitive event. To learn the definition of an accommodation, please read [Appendix H](#). To request accommodation for the International Leadership Conference, [submit the request form here](#) by May 15 at midnight EST.
 - B. To request accommodation for any regional/area or state level conferences, submit the request form [here](#) by your state published deadline. Accommodations must first be done at state in order to be considered for ILC.

- 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

- 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

- [Test Instructions](#): The written test will consist of 50 multiple choice items in a maximum of 60 minutes.
- Time Remaining Announcements**: There will be NO verbal announcements for time remaining during ILC testing. All ILC testing will be completed in the Testing Center and competitors are responsible for monitoring their own time.
- 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 #26.
- Sample Test Questions**
 - An obstructing infection in a renal pelvis or ureter (Taber's pp 1973)
 - Pilonefritis
 - Pyonephrosis**
 - Pilonephritis
 - Pyonefrosis
 - A specialist in diseases of the nervous system (Taber's pp 1627)
 - Neurologist
 - Neologist
 - Neurologist**
 - Nurologist
 - The act of swallowing (Taber's pp 631)
 - Deglutition**
 - Digluatation
 - Deglutation
 - Diglutition

Round Two Spelldown

- 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](#).
- 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.
- 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.

15. Round Two competitors shall spell terms in numerical order from the set word list for the given round.
16. AUDIO PRONOUNCIATION OF 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 #7 above) to practice. Using the online glossary to pronounce each term will ensure everyone hears the same thing across all sections. Click [HERE](#) for a sample of how the words will be pronounced. The competitor may request to have the term re-pronounced by the Audio Glossary or moderator a maximum of three (3) total times.
17. COMPETITOR PRONOUNCIATION OF THE WORD: 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 best time for the judges and moderator to encourage the competitor to speak louder and clearer is when the competitor pronounces 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." The competitor's pronunciation will not have any bearing on the qualification or elimination of any competitor. If the competitor pronounces the term incorrectly, the moderator may play the audio term again, and also pronounce the term for the competitor.
18. 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.
19. COMPETITOR SPELLING RESPONSIBILITIES:
 - a. 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 Audio Glossary.
 - b. No pencil or paper will be allowed in the spellover for the competitor.
 - c. During the 2 minutes and before starting to spell the word, the competitor may ask for as many as three (3) additional pronunciations from the Audio Glossary OR moderator (3 total pronunciations between audio glossary/moderator, NOT 3 pronunciations by EACH) and may ask for another definition, but the clock will be running.
 - d. 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. If the term provided contains an apostrophe, the competitor will state "apostrophe" at the appropriate place in the word. 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 they have finished spelling.
 - i. If the competitor fails to pronounce the term prior to spelling or after spelling the term, they will be eliminated.
 - j. The moderator will NOT give the correct spelling for a term if the competitor spells the term incorrectly.

20. 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 give the competitor 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

21. The next competitor will be given 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.
22. When there are only two remaining competitors, 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, they are given a new term.
 - c. If the competitor then spells the new term correctly, they shall be declared the first-place winner.
 - d. However, if after correctly spelling the missed term, the competitor misspells the new term, a new round with new terms will begin with both competitors spelling in the original order.
23. Any question relating to the competition must be referred to the judges immediately. By raising their hand, the competitor will be recognized by the event personnel or judges. **The decision of the judges is final.**
24. No microphones will be used during competition. NO OBSERVERS will be allowed during the event.
25. OPTIONAL - At the discretion of the event management, a restroom break may be given at the end of specified rounds. At the end of each round, it may be acceptable to clap for completed competitors and then escort eliminated competitors from the room.

Final Scoring

26. If the final two spellers (or any number of spellers as deemed appropriate by event staff) 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 ILC 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.

Spelldown Results Instructions (form on page 5)

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, their 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.

Spelldown Results Version 2 (form on page 6)

1. Event management may also find it helpful to use the form on page 7 of the guidelines to help track in which round each competitor is eliminated.

MEDICAL SPELLING SPELLDOWN RESULTS

Final Place Results	Competitor ID	Name	School	Chartered Association
1st				
2nd				
3rd				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
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Medical Spelling Spelldown Results – Optional Version

Name	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8	Round 9	Round 10
Add names from competitor list here									
Competitor 1	X	X	X						
Competitor 2	X								
Etc.									