

## *Students file complaint against Excelsior College*

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### **Body**

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Students in the online nursing program at Excelsior College are seeking \$10 million in damages from the college, claiming the school misrepresented its associate degree program and the final exam was not objective.

The private, nonprofit college misrepresented and omitted facts about its nursing program and sold students an education program that was "devoid of any education," according to a federal lawsuit filed on behalf of 17 students last week in U.S. District Court in New York City.

Representatives from the college and the attorney representing the plaintiffs declined to discuss the specifics of the ongoing suit. The plaintiffs are being represented by the Hermina Law Group in Laurel, Maryland.

"Excelsior did not provide consumers with the clinical education that it promises," the complaint reads. "Instead, it provides a test."

The complaint against the Albany-based, online college said Excelsior did not disclose its graduation rates or provide details about the nature of the test or inform consumers about the lack of transfer credits to other institutions. The complaint also alleges the Excelsior provided misleading estimates for the cost of failing the school's Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination. The CPNE is the capstone exam for the associate degree nursing program,

The college withheld information about the CPNE "until the Plaintiffs and other consumers had expended resources and were irreversibly committed to completing the program," according to the complaint.

"The actual exam was so subjective that the results of the test do not often reflect the knowledge of the consumer taking the exam," the complaint said. The complaint alleges that those who administered the test looked for areas to fail students so they'd have to pay and retake the exam.

The 17 plaintiffs are from 11 different states. None are from New York.

The associate degree in nursing has been accredited since 1975. More than 42,000 students have completed the associate degree program. Excelsior is headquartered in Albany and had an fall enrollment of more than 37,000 student.

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