



Changes to Computer-Based Testing to be Implemented in August 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

Retakes

If an examinee fails one domain in Part I or Part II, will they be required to retake the whole exam?

A: Not necessarily. In the new scoring model, we will be grading across all six domains to assess competency in the Basic Sciences (Part I) and the Clinical Sciences (Part II). This will enable us to utilize a surplus in one domain to compensate for a minimal deficiency in another domain. A surplus in one (or many) domains will not provide enough compensation for a domain that is significantly deficient, however;

- In our analysis of administrations since 2019, we found that examinees were not significantly deficient in just one domain. Therefore, when we applied the new scoring model, a surplus in another domain sufficiently covered the minimal deficit in the single domain, allowing for a passing score.
- In our analysis of administrations since 2019, we found that 90% of examinees who failed two domains were minimally deficient in those two domains. Therefore, when we applied the new scoring model, domain surplus sufficiently covered the minimal deficit in the two failing domains, allowing for a passing score.
- The remaining 10% of examinees who failed two domains had a significant deficit which will result in a full part retake under the new scoring model.

If domain scoring disappears how will students who fail get direction on how to study for the exam?

A: We are designing the score analysis, so students have just as much information as today. This includes performance data that shows deficiencies in individual domains, even though the individual domain will not be scored.

What if I am eligible to retake individual domains of Part I or Part II when the changes take effect in August?

A: The NBCE will allow those who are already eligible to retake individual domains to continue with individual domain retakes until the end of 2025. If an examinee has not successfully completed their individual domain retakes at that point, they will be transitioned to the new exam format where they will take Part I or Part II without individual domain scoring.

At any point, an examinee who is eligible to retake individual domains can choose to switch to the new exam format.

Release of Scores

Will the changes to the CBT schedule (offering all CBT exams 9 times a year) impact the time it takes to release scores?

A: Yes. Scores will be posted two weeks after the end of the testing window. For a schedule of testing opportunities and score release dates, click [here](#).

Scoring Process

Will the passing score remain the same?

A: Yes. The NBCE's passing score will remain 375.

Test Plans and Content

Where can I find the new test plans?

A: To prevent confusion among those who are still taking exams in our previous format, we will update MyNBCE.org with the new Part I and Part II test plans and scheduling information in July. Until then, you can find the test plans for Part I and Part II which will be implemented in August, here: <https://www.nbce.org/adv-dev-2/>.

Please note, there are no changes to the Part III and Physiotherapy test plans at this time.

Would the number of items or questions per domain change?

A: Yes. Under the new scoring model, the Part I and Part II exams would be reduced from 300 items to 255 items. With the proposed change to the domain weightings, each domain would contain the appropriate allocation of total items to correspond with the weighting of the domain.

Please note, there are no changes to the number of items in the Part III and Physiotherapy exams at this time.

Will the exam still be delivered in six domain sections, or will all domains be mixed together?

A: In the updated format, the exam will still present Part I and Part II items grouped by domain. This means that during the exam, you'll tackle General Anatomy items first, then proceed to Spinal Anatomy items, and so forth. However, your exam timer will display the time allocated for all six domains. Additionally, you'll have the option to take a break halfway through the exam.

How should students prepare for the changes to the Part I and Part II?

A: The only content-related change is the weighting of individual domains in the Part I and Part II. The new test plans are available here <https://www.nbce.org/adv-dev-2/> for review. The weightings were determined by a Delphi Study conducted in 2023 which included a survey sent to Doctor of Chiropractic Programs across the United States. The results of the study showed that certain domains within the Part I and Part II exams are represented less in the curriculum than other domains.

The NBCE is also implementing forward-only functionality for the Parts I, II, III, and Physiotherapy exams beginning in August. This change is required to maintain the security and integrity of NBCE's computer-based exams. This change requires examinees to answer a question before moving on and prevents an examinee from going back to previously answered questions.

Applications and Scheduling

What will scheduling look like from the student perspective?

A: Prometric has a live scheduling tool that asks candidates to enter their ZIP code (or even a specific address) which it will use to retrieve available seats in that geographic area. From there they can view date and time options to find an appointment that's convenient for them. The scheduling tool will also show them on-campus appointments, if available. Once the applicant finds an acceptable appointment, they just select and confirm to instantly reserve their seat.

Here are some recommendations to assist with scheduling your CBT exam:

1. Opt for the earliest available time to facilitate scheduling multiple appointments in a day.
2. Ensure there are no overlaps or conflicts when booking multiple exams for the same day.
3. Difficulty finding an appointment? Consider looking at the next month or explore locations with more testing centers, particularly in major metropolitan areas.
4. Plan accordingly; it may be necessary to look two to three months ahead for the most convenient testing location.
5. You retain the ability to schedule, reschedule, or cancel appointments up to 16 days prior to the scheduled test date.

Check out the new testing schedule [here](#).

When will applications for the August administration be available?

A: We plan to open applications for August, September, and October in July. To sign up to be notified when applications open, fill out the contact form [here](#).

I am signed up to take the Part I or II in April or June, but I would rather delay my exam so I can take it in the new format. Is that possible?

A: The deadline to cancel your April testing appointment and retain your full exam fee is **March 21, 2024**. The deadline to cancel your June testing appointment is **May 9, 2024**. Login to your MyNBCE account and view your appointment. Select the option to "Reschedule". You will then be redirected to Prometric where you can cancel your testing appointment. When the new application opens in July, you will be able to schedule your Part I or Part II exam. Please note: canceling your appointment *after* the application deadline will result in the forfeiture of your exam fees. You would then need to start a new application and pay the full exam fee to schedule an exam in the future.

What is the typical availability at a Prometric Testing Center?

A: This varies based on the number of Prometric Testing Centers (PTCs) in the area and availability at the time of scheduling. NBCE monitors PTC usage around every Doctor of Chiropractic Program and will block seats exclusively for the use of NBCE examinees if necessary.