

TESTPOINTS®

FROM THE NBEO BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICE STAFF

.... Advancing the Assessment of Competence®

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The purpose of **TESTPOINTS®** is to share with the various optometric communities the news, events, and changes that are happening at the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO). Please send any comments or questions that you may have to info@optometry.org.

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NBEO Debuts First Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Part II Exam

On May 8, 2012, the NBEO hosted a webinar for the schools and colleges of Optometry to discuss changes to the Part II PAM/TMOD examination as the result of converting the exam to computer-based testing (CBT) format. The first CBT version of Part II was administered on April 3, 2012 to 197 candidates; 129 candidates took the full Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) examination and 68 candidates took the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD) portion of the Part II exam. The first targeted administration of Part II (the administration that most students take when they become eligible) will be given on December 4, 2012. The NBEO anticipates that approximately 1800 candidates will take the targeted administration of the exam.

The test will be administered at Pearson VUE test centers located throughout the United States and Canada. Pearson VUE is reserving every seat at each of its testing centers in the U.S. and Canada on December 4, 2012 for the NBEO examination. These seats will be held for use by NBEO candidates ONLY until October 4, 2012, which is 60 days prior to the test date. Seats that haven't been reserved by NBEO candidates by this release date will be made available to other testing organizations. NBEO candidates are urged to schedule a seat at a Pearson VUE testing center prior to October 4, 2012.



NBEO Debuts First Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Part II Exam (continued)

Those candidates who do not reserve a Pearson VUE seat by October 4 will find very limited seat availability and therefore will risk having to travel a considerable distance in order to take the examination. Registration for Part II will open on August 1, 2012. The registration deadline is October 2, 2012; the extended deadline (which requires a \$400 late fee) is from October 3 – 17, 2012.

Candidates will continue to register and pay for the examination using the NBEO's online registration system. When registration is complete (payment is received and eligibility is confirmed) the candidate will receive an email with instructions for scheduling an appointment to take the examination at a Pearson VUE test center. Candidates are encouraged to register early in order to secure a seat at their preferred location. Candidates will schedule an appointment by logging on to the Pearson VUE website and selecting a test center that is conveniently located based on where they will be living in December 2012. Most candidates who will take Part II in December are 4th-year students who are assigned to clinical externships. Since Pearson VUE has well over 200 testing centers across the United States and Canada, candidates will not have to travel back to their home institution to take the examination, as the majority of test takers have done in previous years.

What is CBT format?

Computer-Based Testing (CBT) means an exam is given on a computer, rather than in paper-and-pencil format.

Why did the NBEO decide to convert Part II to CBT format?

Many factors influenced the NBEO's decision to convert Part II to CBT format. An important consideration was the extensive use of images in the PAM examination; the images are of higher quality when displayed digitally versus printed on paper. Exam security is also a concern, and administering a computer-based exam greatly enhances exam security. This helps to ensure the validity of Part II exam scores.

Where do candidates take the exam?

Candidates will take the Part II PAM/TMOD CBT exam at one of the 200+ Pearson VUE test centers throughout the United States and Canada. A list of the Pearson Professional Centers (PPC) locations is posted on the NBEO website at http://www.optometry.org/pdf/Pearson_Vue_Sites.pdf. Candidates also may obtain more specific information about the PPCs (address, directions, phone number) on the NBEO's Pearson VUE page (<http://www.pearsonvue.com/nbeo/>), by clicking on "Locate a Test Center."

Are there any advantages to exam candidates in converting to CBT format?

The majority of candidates who take Part II are 4th-year students. Many of these students are serving in clinical externships some distance from their home institutions. In the past, these students have had to travel back to their institutions or to another optometry college in order to take the Part II exam. Most of these students now will be able to take the exam in a more convenient location, eliminating travel time and expense.

The conversion of Part II to CBT format has made it economically and logistically feasible to offer TMOD as a stand-alone exam for candidates who require a TMOD score only. TMOD has not been offered as a stand-alone exam since the NBEO examination restructure in 2009; TMOD candidates were required to sit for the entire 7-hour PAM examination. TMOD is now offered as a single-section, 4-hour examination via CBT format.

Another advantage is that the National Board anticipates the ability to release Part II scores earlier than has been possible in the past. Many paper-and-pencil exam scoring procedures are manually performed, which requires many hours of staff time. CBT format eliminates the need for manual tasks such as scanning bubble sheets and manually typing hundreds of critiques into the NBEO database.

Will candidates receive their exam scores before leaving the testing center?

No, candidates will not receive an exam score at the testing center. The NBEO's scoring procedure includes an extensive post-examination quality assurance process. Once the preliminary scoring process and statistical analyses are completed, the Part II Council, composed of subject-matter experts from across the country, reviews the statistics for each item, as well as all candidate critiques, to determine if items are flawed or ambiguous. Any such items are removed from scoring prior to the final scoring determination. Once the results are reviewed by the Examination Committee of the NBEO Board of Directors and after any remaining scoring issues have been identified and corrected, scores are released to candidates.

Are candidates guaranteed a seat at a near-by testing center?

There are a limited number of seats available at each Pearson VUE testing center. All seats are made available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so candidates are urged to register early to ensure the best selection of seats. Candidates who wait to schedule their appointments with Pearson VUE until after October 4, 2012 may find it very difficult to locate a seat in a convenient testing center.

NBEO Debuts First Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Part II Exam (continued)

Are candidates able to switch to a different testing center once they've made an appointment at Pearson VUE?

Yes, Pearson VUE allows candidates to switch to a different testing center up to 24 hours before the exam. There is no fee for making this change. However, candidates are cautioned that it will become increasingly difficult to find a seat in a convenient location as December 4, 2012 approaches.

Changes in Test Accommodation Rules for CBT Part II Exams

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), the National Board assigns reasonable test accommodations for all qualified Part II PAM/TMOD examination candidates. As discussed on Pages 1-2 of this newsletter, Part II exams are now administered at Pearson VUE test centers in Computer-Based Testing (CBT) format, which has necessitated some changes to the test accommodation rules. Complete Part II test accommodation information and application instructions can be found in the *Introduction* and *Part II Test Accommodation Instructions* on the NBEO website (http://www.optometry.org/disability_part2.cfm).

As of May 2012, the suggested timing of the PAM/TMOD **ADA-eligible** test accommodation application was altered significantly. The intent of the change was to optimize the opportunity for qualified candidates with disabilities to reserve the Pearson VUE seats of their choice. The NBEO hosted a webinar on May 8, 2012 during which the NBEO shared this information with representatives from the schools and colleges of optometry, who in turn passed it along to students at their facilities.

The most salient factor that provoked the change in test accommodation policy is that Pearson VUE requires these accommodations to be assigned by NBEO **before** individual Pearson VUE seat reservations are made by candidates. Therefore, it became apparent that Part II candidates should **begin** the **ADA-eligible** application and document submission process well before the traditional ADA deadline date to allow for timely resolution of test accommodation requests **before** Pearson VUE seats are made available to Part II candidates. Thus came about the new **Latest Recommended Application Date**. By complying with this new recommendation, nearly all candidates with disabilities will be able to schedule their Part II exam seats at the same time as all other PAM/TMOD candidates, on the date on which Pearson VUE seats first become available for scheduling. The affected candidates are asked to comply with the amended, very early **ADA-eligible** procedures, as the changes were made for their benefit.

The new test accommodation *Introduction* and the *Part II Test Accommodation Instructions* can be viewed at http://www.optometry.org/disability_part2.cfm.

For the Part II PAM/TMOD exams only, the requirement has been waived that **ADA-eligible** candidates must register with NBEO for the exam prior to applying for test accommodations. This is because test accommodation application and document submission should be completed by the Latest Recommended Application Date, which is 2 months before registration opens. Again, the intent is to give **ADA-eligible** candidates with disabilities an equal opportunity to reserve a preferred Pearson VUE exam seat.

Important dates related to the December 2012 Part II test accommodation process:

- **June 1, 2012** - the new Latest Recommended ADA Application Date; it was suggested in the May 8, 2012 NBEO webinar for optometry school/college administrators that candidates' test accommodation request forms and supportive evidence be sent to the NBEO by this date; since this date has passed, candidates are asked to send in their request forms and arrange for submission of documentation *as soon as possible*
- **August 1, 2012** - opening date for Part II registration and Pearson VUE seat scheduling
- **September 4, 2012** - the final ADA deadline date; ALL disability-related materials related to a request for test accommodation for this exam must be received by NBEO by 11:59 p.m. on this date.
- **December 4, 2012** - the CBT (Computer-Based Testing) Part II exam will be administered.

Changes in Test Accommodation Rules for CBT Part II Exams (continued)

The earlier the application for **ADA-eligible** test accommodation for the PAM/TMOD examination, the better. For future Part II administrations, these requests will be accepted as early as 8 months prior to the Part II exam date. It will be suggested that the initial application phase (request form and supportive document submission) be completed 6 months before the test date, since Pearson VUE seats first can be reserved 4 months before test day and it can take up to 3 months to fully resolve an accommodation request. The entire potential accommodation process is outlined in the *Introduction to Part II PAM/TMOD Examination Accommodations* section on the NBEO website, Part II tab (link is shown in blue box above). The absolute ADA deadline will remain 3 months prior to the exam.

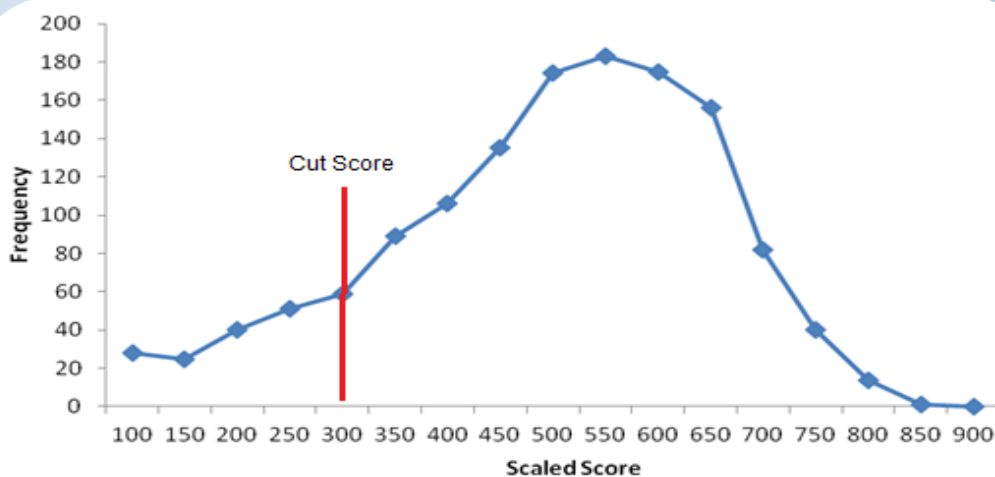
Reunion / Appreciation Luncheon for Part III Examiners and Site Coordinators

There will be a Reunion/Appreciation Luncheon for the NBEO Part III Clinical Skills Examination Examiners before this year's AOA Meeting in Chicago. The gathering is set for Tuesday, June 26th from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. Invitations to this function were sent out to all of our Examiners and Site Coordinators. If you should have been on the list but did not receive your invitation, we most likely do not have your current email address. If you did not receive the emailed invitation but have served as Examiner or Site Coordinator and would like to attend, please email us at nbeo@optometry.org.

March 2012 Part I Applied Basic Science (ABS) Score Statistics

The Part I ABS examination was given on March 20-21, 2012. A total of 1,811 candidates took the exam; 1,458 passed the exam. The result was a pass rate of 80.5%.

Of the 1,811 candidates who sat for Part I, 1,551 were students taking Part I for the first time; 1,325 passed, for an 85.4% pass rate. Among the 260 repeat ABS test-takers, 133 passed the exam, resulting in a 51.2% pass rate.



The graph presents the distribution of total scaled scores for the March 2012 Part I exam, in 50-point increments (x-axis). The figure is labeled with the number of scores within each increment (y-axis). The 550-point increment demonstrated the highest frequency, with over 180 candidates scoring at this level. For this administration, 28 candidates received scaled scores of 100, the lowest possible scaled score.

The **scaled score** range for each NBEO Part is based on a 100-900 scale, where 100 represents the lowest score, and 900 represents a perfect score. In addition, Part **pass-fail cut-off scores** are scaled so that they always equal 300. In cases where the scaling procedure results in a raw score being converted to a score of less than 100, a scaled score of 100 is assigned.

Part III CSE Candidates : What to Expect When You Arrive at the NCCTO

Many candidates have questions about coming to Charlotte, NC for the Part III Clinical Skills Examination (CSE) at the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO). Below is a brief overview of what candidates should expect on test day.



We ask that candidates arrive at the NCCTO no earlier than 15 minutes before their scheduled appointment time. Once here, the check-in process will begin in the NCCTO lobby (*shown to the left*). Official registration procedures will include a general administrative overview; ID verification; storage of all personal items in lockers (watches, electronic devices, notes, etc.); assignments of badge numbers and starting stations; and individual photos. At the conclusion of this process all candidates will enter the orientation room.

The orientation room contains an equipment area in which a complete set of equipment is available for candidate use prior to the examination. A list of equipment provided in the NCCTO can be viewed at http://www.optometry.org/pdf/NCCTO/Equipment_List

[Room Photos.pdf](#). While in the orientation room, candidates will listen to a presentation, have an opportunity to ask any last-minute questions that may arise, familiarize themselves with all of the sample equipment provided, and have access to water fountains and restrooms.

Once it is time to begin the CSE, candidates will be escorted through the photo gallery of optometry schools and on into the examination hallway (*shown to the right*) of the test center. Candidates will be asked to stand in front of their first assigned exam room. The announcement, "Candidates, please enter the exam room," signals candidates to enter their assigned exam rooms. Candidates will be given several minutes to familiarize themselves with the room and all of its equipment, supplies, and instructions for that station.



After several minutes, candidates will hear the second announcement that, "The exam cycle has begun," which indicates the beginning of the CSE. Candidates then will have 30 minutes in which to complete that station's skills. An exam in progress is *pictured below*.

After 30 minutes, the next announcement will inform candidates that, "The exam cycle has ended. Please proceed to your next exam room."

Candidates will exit their exam rooms, proceed to the next assigned exam rooms, and will have several minutes to become familiar with the second exam room before the second examination cycle officially begins. This process will repeat for the third, then fourth exam cycle, each in a different exam room.



At the conclusion of the exam, candidates will leave their fourth exam room and will stop at a computer desk in the examination hallway (*visible in photo above, right*). Candidates will have the opportunity to file an Incident Report (IR) to document any exam irregularities that they feel may have occurred during the exam. Candidates also may complete an optional exit survey.

Once the NCCTO staff has completed the check-out procedures (including a review of any IRs submitted), candidates will be dismissed from the test center.

A typical testing session lasts approximately 4 hours, so travel plans should be made accordingly. Of special significance, it should be noted that candidates will not be permitted to communicate with anyone outside of the NCCTO from the time they arrive at the facility, until they have exited the NCCTO.

Finally, candidates are welcome to refer to the Part III CSE section of the NBEO website for a wealth of information at <http://www.optometry.org/nccto.cfm>.

The Conversion of Raw Scores into Scaled Scores

Once scores are released from an exam administration, most candidates are relieved to see the "P" for passing and they do not question the results any further. However, others look into the results more carefully. The following score study demonstrates the interpretation of scaled scores.

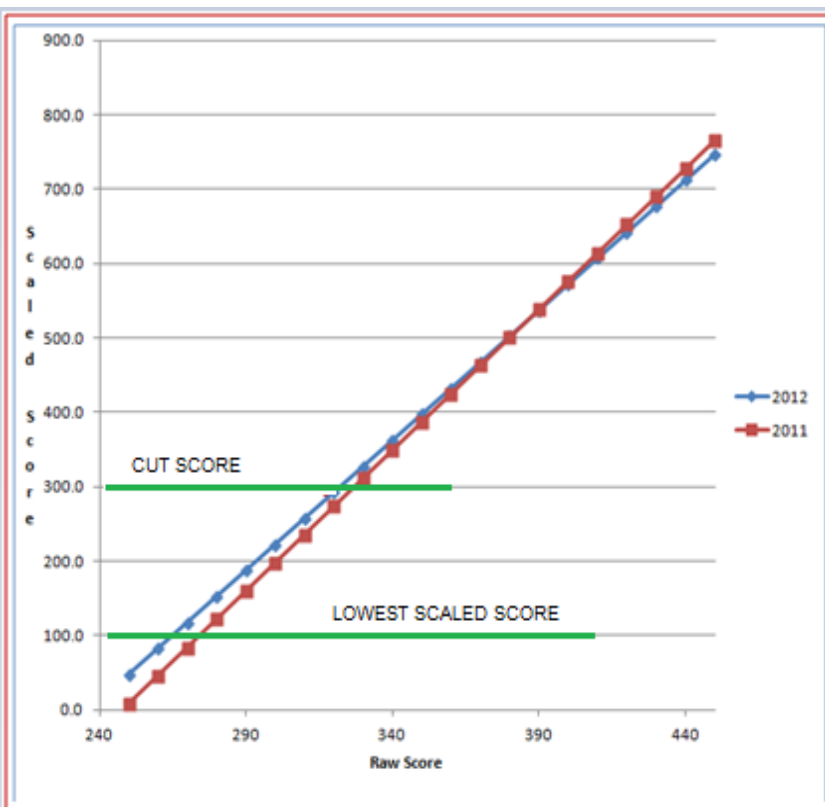
The National Board reports official scores for each Part using a scaled score ranging from 100-900. In other words, raw scores are converted so that 100 represents the lowest score possible, and 900 represents a perfect score. In addition, all NBEO exams' pass-fail cut-off scores are scaled so that they always equal 300.

For the March 2012 Part I ABS exam, the cut-off score was 65.3% (321.8/493). In other words, the first passing raw score was 322 and it was converted to a scaled score of 301.

Each examination and administration has its own cut-off score which depends on the overall difficulty of the examination. The cut score for the March 2011 Part I ABS exam was 67.4% (327.5/486). The cut score for the April 2012 Part II-PAM exam was 69.5% (242.9/344).

A question that arises among repeat (failing) candidates is how they can receive the same score across several exam administrations time after time. In the following example, a candidate received three scores of 100, the lowest possible scaled score that NBEO reports. The table below summarizes the candidate's raw scores, computed scaled scores, and reported scaled scores for the administrations in question. Since the computed scaled scores were "out of bounds" on the low side, a scaled score of 100 was reported. The actual raw scores were not identical; only the reported scaled scores were the same all three times that the Part I ABS exam was taken. Simply, the raw scores were all below the minimum scaled score of 100.

Exam Administration	Raw Score (total items correct)	Computed Scaled Score	Reported Scaled Score
March 2011	260	44.5	100
August 2011	276	91.5	100
March 2012	258	76.5	100



Scaling of Part I ABS score - March 2011 versus March 2012

The next issue this failing candidate might raise is why a raw score of 260 items in 2011 yielded a computed scaled score of 44.5 while in 2012, a lower raw score of 258 items led to a higher computed scaled score of 76.5. The answer lies in the cut-off scores (discussed above) and the resulting scaling/raw score conversion equation. Since computing scaled scores is a linear conversion of the raw scores, the two scaling equations for 2011 and 2012 can be illustrated. The resulting graph is *shown to the left*.

Comparing 2012 (blue) with 2011 (red), it is clearly apparent that the 2012 scaling equation resulted in *slightly* higher scaled scores at the low end of the scale and *very slightly* lower scaled scores at the top end. Scaled scores for the two years coincide for raw scores of 384-387. For instance, a raw score of 385 converted to a scaled score of 520, while 387 converted to 527. At 388 the scaling diverges so that the 2012 scaled score is 530 and the 2011 is 531. All NBEO examinations are scored in this manner, which involves the conversion of raw scores into scaled scores.

Part III and ISE Scheduling Updates

Rescheduling CSE or ISE:

- Candidates may reschedule either Part III or ISE without incurring any rescheduling fees 31 or more days before the currently scheduled exam date. This change can be done online, by the candidate.
- Candidates who want to reschedule either Part III or ISE 30 days or less before the currently scheduled exam date will incur a \$150 rescheduling fee. This change cannot be taken care of online, by the candidate. After the fee is paid, NBEO/NCCTO staff will call the candidate and the exam date will be rescheduled with staff assistance.

New registrations for CSE or ISE:

- If a candidate would like to initiate a new Part III or ISE registration 8 or more days before the desired exam date, the candidate needs to pay only the examination fee and independently may schedule the exam appointment online.
- If a candidate is initiating a new Part III or ISE registration 7 days or less before the preferred exam date, the candidate must pay the examination fee and a late registration fee of \$150. These candidates will not be able to schedule online but will need to speak with an NBEO/NCCTO staff member in order to register.

Changes to the Part III Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) Applicable to the 2012 – 2013 Academic Year

Since moving the Clinical Skills Examination (CSE) to the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO), the National Board now refers to each Part III administration in terms of the targeted graduating class. Testing for most of the initial exam cohort, the Class of 2012, is mostly complete. As of April 30, a total of 1,496 candidates had taken the exam, including 1,187 students who took the CSE for the first time. Once graduation is confirmed, official score reports will be sent to the appropriate state boards. The NBEO will continue testing through the summer, primarily to repeat candidates, and the 2012 Part III administration will formally close on July 31, 2012. At that point, the NBEO will consolidate the results in order to release score data and other reports to the educational institutions.

The 2013 Part III CSE will be administered from August 1, 2012 until July 31, 2013. August 1 is the first day that 4th-year students are eligible for Part III. With the start of the new exam cycle, several changes to the Part III exam will go into effect. These changes were proposed by the Part III Clinical Skills Examination Council and then approved by the NBEO Board of Directors. **In keeping with past practice, the updated evaluation forms will be available on the NBEO website in July 2012, prior to the beginning of the administration.**

For 2013, a new skill, Static Confrontation Visual Fields, will be added to Station 1. This is a relatively short skill and is reproduced here in full. Skill 5 items will assess the following candidate abilities:

- Did the candidate explain the purpose of the procedure to the patient?
- Did the candidate select appropriate fixation target, approximately 1 meter from the patient?
- Did the candidate provide proper instruction to the patient, including maintaining proper fixation for each eye?
- Did the candidate use proper full room illumination?
- Did the candidate set up the test properly, cover an eye, and present fingers equidistant from examiner to patient?
- Did the candidate present static fingers (1, 2, or 5) in all four quadrants to each eye?
- Did the candidate accurately state obtained findings?

Although the Injections Skills Exam (ISE) is not new, it will contribute to candidates' total CSE scores starting with the 2013 administration (beginning August 1, 2012). The Part III Exam Council preliminarily recommended that ISE contribute approximately 6% to the total CSE score. The NBEO will conduct a cut score study to account for the incorporation of the new skills into the exam.

During the 2013 administration, the National Board will administer a pilot program to provide insight into the feasibility of training standardized patients (SPs) to score candidate performance in selected portions of the CSE. The initial phase will involve the collection of data to demonstrate the level of correlation between scores assigned by SPs and scores rendered by Remote Examiners (REs). Items to be scored by both SPs and REs will be graded on a 3-point scale (below expectation, expected, exceeds expectation) and will include the following:

- Did you understand the candidate's instructions?
- Did the candidate listen to your responses?
- Did the candidate treat you with respect?
- Did the candidate show concern and interest?

*Changes to the Part III Clinical Skills Exam (CSE)
Applicable to the 2012 – 2013 Academic Year (continued)*

This project to evaluate the scoring of specific exam components by Standardized Patients is for research purposes only and the data will not affect candidate scores. The NBEO is pleased to be poised to conduct this study, which would not have been possible as recently as one year ago when CSE was administered in multiple separate locations. SPs are valuable assessment resources, as has been known for some time by the NBME (medical board) and NBOME (osteopathy board). During their board examinations, it is standard practice for SPs to grade candidates on certain features of their exams, and the NBEO is highly motivated to explore this concept. The National Board will be able to learn from the existing research literature and incorporate its own observations as it refines future administrations of the Part III CSE. This project is one of several steps in that direction.

NBEO LASER / Minor Surgical Procedures Task Force Meeting

A National Board LASER/Minor Surgical Procedures Task Force was created in early 2012 to determine the feasibility of developing an assessment of clinical skills for LASER and minor surgical procedures on a national level. During the inaugural meeting, Dr. Christina Sorenson, member of the NBEO Board of Directors, noted that, "The potential of LASER testing is the culmination of all recent changes and updates to clinical testing made possible by the forward planning offered by the establishment of the NCCTO in Charlotte, North Carolina."

A clinical LASER skills examination potentially could evolve as a result of use and implementation of the *Twelve Steps of Test Development*. These stages include:

- 1) Overall plan
- 2) Content definition
- 3) Exam specifications (would the test subjects be alive or artificial?)
- 4) Item development
- 5) Exam design and assembly
- 6) Exam production
- 7) Exam administration (definition of expectations; setting bar)
- 8) Scoring test responses
- 9) Establishing passing score
- 10) Reporting results
- 11) Item banking
- 12) Technical reports regarding the exam

The creation of the TMOD examination was urgent in nature and expeditious in execution, taking only two years from conception to delivery of the new exam. The resulting advances in the optometric scope of practice involving the use of pharmacological agents in relation to the new TMOD exam possibly will be compared to the current scenario regarding the development of a LASER/Minor Surgical Procedures exam and its potential impact on what is considered the standard practice of optometry.

The relatively short time window that bracketed the initial NBEO consideration about the need for an exam that assessed the treatment and management of ocular disease, and the initial TMOD administration was expedited through guidance by the *Twelve Steps of Test Development*. The lag between the passage of the country's first DPA law (diagnostic pharmacological agents; in Rhode Island) and development and administration of the first NBEO exam items that tested the new knowledge (i.e., ocular pharmacology) was less than 2 years. The optometric profession finds itself facing similar circumstances in mid-2012 since several states allow optometrists to perform LASER and certain minor surgical procedures. Most fortunately, practitioners in these states (e.g., Kentucky and Oklahoma) do have access to assessments offered by the institutions that provide the hands-on training for these procedures.

Current state assessments require didactic credentials, a written and/or practical examination, proctored cases, and as taught optometric training programs provisions.

Several questions are being considered by the Task Force. Is now the appropriate time for NBEO to begin to develop a LASER and Minor Surgical Procedures assessment? What "Standardized Patient" modality will be used? What specific skills should be assessed for LASER procedures and minor surgical procedures? What equipment will be used? What qualifications will Examiners be required to possess? How will candidate eligibility requirements be defined? How many exam items should be added to the Part I and Part II exams that evaluate candidate knowledge pertaining to the new procedures?

During the meeting, it was noted that technology drives advances as procedures become ever safer. The Committee considered the variables involved in determining the appropriate time to introduce a new National Board examination intended to assess optometric clinical competence in LASER and minor surgical procedures. Clearly, such an exam is needed to support the profession's continued maturation and should be pursued in the near future.

Regarding the candidate population that may be appropriate for LASER/Minor Surgical Procedures examination, the Committee discussed to what extent the procedures to be tested are entry level and assessable during the 4th year, or whether they best would be tested at some point post-graduation. Similar questions applied to the development of the ACMO examination, which is not designed for entry-level candidates. ACMO eligibility is limited to post-graduates, preferably after a year-long residency.

As schools and colleges of optometry adopt these procedures and teach them, testing appropriately will be done during the 4th year. As inclusion of these disciplines is fully standardized across the optometric educational arena, the passage of LASER/minor surgery legislation will be justifiably supported and will take place just as the addition of DPAs and TPAs came about over the past several decades.

Did You Know ... ???

- ... that registration for Part III CSE is open for Class of 2013 candidates? Test takers may select their preferred test date and session online under *Register for an Exam* on the NBEO website.
- ... that as a result of several requests from our West Coast candidates, the NCCTO will begin offering late afternoon Part III CSE sessions on Mondays beginning August 2012?
- ... that the Injection Skills Exam (ISE) score will be incorporated into the overall Part III Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) score beginning August 1, 2012?
- ... that ISE registration and scheduling/re-scheduling procedures are similar to the CSE process? The ISE is available to existing practitioners as a stand-alone exam, separate from the CSE, while all CSE registrants are automatically registered for ISE, as ISE is now a permanent part of CSE. Availability is similar to the TMOD administration process in regard to eligibility issues. Click [HERE](#) to read all about the ISE.
- ... that watches are prohibited from exam rooms on test days? Large wall clocks are provided in each Part I exam room so that candidates are able to keep track of their remaining exam time. Part II and ACMO exams are taken in CBT (Computer-Based Testing) format which provides access to the time via the test center computer in each exam booth. There is a wall clock in each Part III exam room.
- ... that personal earplugs are not permitted in Part I or II exam rooms without prior authorization? Parts I and II test centers provide standard earplugs for those candidates who would like to use them; candidates requiring the use of special earplugs should apply for a test accommodation. Application instructions are on the NBEO website, under the Part I or Part II tab. All candidates are requested to read and follow the exam day policies described on the NBEO website. Click [HERE](#) to view the Electronic Materials information under the Part I ABS tab.
- ... that NBEO examination scores can be withheld from candidates who share written or clinical skills exam materials with others following a testing event? NBEO exam material is copyrighted and may not legally be reproduced verbally or in writing and subsequently disseminated to, or in any manner shared with, other students, optometry school/college faculty, study guide representatives, or anyone else.

Additional Information

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Next NBEO Exam

Part I Applied Basic Science (ABS):
August 7-8, 2012

Ongoing NCCTO Part III
Clinical Skills Examination (CSE):

2011-12 testing through July 31, 2012
2012-13 testing as of August 1, 2012

10

2012 National Board Exam Schedule

<u>2012 Exam</u>	<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Extended Registration, Exam Withdrawal, and Site Change Deadline</u>	<u>ADA Deadline</u>
ACMO	June 1	Expired	-----	Expired
Part I ABS	August 7 - 8	Expired	June 20	Expired
Part II PAM/TMOD	December 4	October 2	October 17	September 4

2013 National Board Exam Schedule

<u>2013 Exam</u>	<u>Test Date</u>
Part I ABS	March 19 - 20
Part II PAM/TMOD	April 2
ACMO	June 7
Part I ABS	August 6 - 7
Part II PAM/TMOD	December 3



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