

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Part I and Part II Examinations Candidate Information Bulletin

PART I Examination Dates	Registration Deadlines
Wednesday, July 1, 2009	May 22, 2009
Wednesday, October 7, 2009	August 28, 2009

PART II Examination Dates	Registration Deadlines
Wednesday, March 4, 2009	January 23, 2009
Wednesday, May 6, 2009	March 27, 2009



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Introduction

NBPME overview

The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) is a nonprofit corporation established in 1956.

The NBPME organization consists of 12 members: two members nominated by the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards; an educator at one of the Colleges of Podiatric Medicine; one member who has had professional experience in statistics and test development; one member representing the consuming public; three individuals from state licensing boards; a podiatric physician currently in practice; and three individuals with experience either: on the Council on Podiatric Medical Education, as a member of a Specialty Board, or as the Director of a Podiatric Medical Residency Program. A representative of the Board of Trustees of the American Podiatric Medical Association, a representative from the Council of Deans and a representative from the American Podiatric Medical Students Association shall each serve in a liaison capacity with the Board.

The NBPME has contracted with Prometric Inc., a Delaware corporation, to conduct its examination program. Prometric is a wholly owned, independently operated subsidiary of Educational Testing Service (ETS). Prometric delivers and administers tests via the World Wide Web or by computer through a network of test centers in over 130 countries.

At a glance

This Candidate Information Bulletin provides details about taking the NBPME Part I and Part II examinations. The steps below summarize that process.

To take the NBPME Part I and Part II examinations

- 1 Review this bulletin thoroughly to familiarize yourself with the examination process.
- 2 Complete the exam registration form (Page 21 of this Bulletin or online at www.prometric.com/nbpme) and send it to Prometric, along with the exam fee(s).
Once your exam registration form has been approved, you must contact Prometric to schedule an appointment to take your exam (see Page 4).
- 3 Prepare for your exam, using this Bulletin and other materials.
The content outlines in this Bulletin are the basis for the exams (see page 16).
- 4 Take the scheduled exam, bringing your ATT letter and required identification to the test center (see Page 8).
- 5 You will receive your exam results from Prometric approximately six weeks after taking the exams (see Page 11.)

To get answers not provided in this bulletin

If you read this Bulletin and have further questions about the registration process, fees, test centers, Authorization to Test form or score reports, you may contact:

Prometric

Phone: 877.302.8952

Web site at www.prometric.com/nbpme

Examination overview

The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) examinations are written qualifying exams currently recognized or utilized by legal agencies governing the practice of podiatric medicine in the states, provinces, and federal agencies listed in this Bulletin on Page 11. Legal agencies may, at their discretion, grant successful candidates a license to practice podiatric medicine without further written examination.

The NBPME examinations consist of two objective exams. The Part I and Part II examinations are designed to assess whether a candidate possesses the knowledge required to practice as a minimally competent entry-level podiatric physician.

Exam description

The **Part I exam** is generally taken after the completion of the candidate's second year of study. It samples the candidate's knowledge in the basic science areas of General Anatomy; Lower Extremity Anatomy; Biochemistry; Physiology; Microbiology and Immunology; Pathology; and Pharmacology.

The **Part II exam** is generally taken near the completion of the candidate's final year of study. It samples the candidate's knowledge in the clinical areas of Medicine; Radiology; Orthopedics, Biomechanics and Sports Medicine; Anesthesia and Surgery; and Community Health, Jurisprudence, and Research.

Outlines of the content areas covered on the Part I and Part II examinations are included in this Bulletin beginning on Page 16.

Exam eligibility

You are eligible to sit for the Part I examination when certified as a second-year student and the Part II examination when certified as a fourth-year student by the dean or registrar of the college you attend. This certification indicates that you are enrolled in college at the time of the test administration.

Second-year students must have passed the coursework related to the material in the Part I examination. Fourth-year students must be in the final term of the fourth year and two-to-three months from graduation. Your college of podiatric medicine must be accredited or provisionally accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association.

New exam sequence policy. Beginning January 1, 2010, NBPME will require podiatric physician candidates to take and pass the NBPME exams in sequential order (Part I must be passed before Part II may be taken, Part II must be passed before Part III may be taken). Since each exam part assumes that prior knowledge has been achieved, this new policy will require candidates to demonstrate mastery of basic knowledge before advancing into clinical knowledge and skills assessment. More information on the Part III exam may be found online at www.nbpme.com.

Scheduling and registration process

Before you can test, you must:

- 1 Register and pay for your exam by the registration deadline.
- 2 Receive your Authorization to Test (ATT) letter.
- 3 Contact Prometric to schedule an appointment to take an exam.

Registration information

The NBPME Part I and Part II examination registration form is located on Page 21 and online at www.prometric.com/nbpme. Completed registration forms and fees must be received by Prometric by the registration deadline date.



Note If Prometric receives your registration form and fee after the deadline date, you may not be able to take the exam until the next exam administration.

Examination dates

The **Part I** examination is given on the first Wednesday of July and the first Wednesday of October. The **Part II** examination is given on the first Wednesday of March and the first Wednesday of May. The upcoming examination dates are:

Part I Exam Dates	Registration Deadlines
July 1, 2009	May 22, 2009
October 7, 2009	August 28, 2009

Part II Exam Dates	Registration Deadlines
March 4, 2009	January 23, 2009
May 6, 2009	March 27, 2009

NBPME fees for Part I and Part II exams

Payment may be made by certified check, cashier's check or money order made payable to the NBPME. Personal checks and cash are not accepted.

Exam and related fees are as follows:

Service	Fee
Exam Registration	\$900
Personal Check return ¹	\$25
Third-Party Score Report ²	\$35
Overnight Courier Service ³	\$10
Nonsufficient Funds (NSF) ⁴	\$25

¹ If a personal check is received, both the check and the registration form will be returned and a \$25 service fee will be charged. The registration form will need to be resubmitted with a correct form of payment.

² Fee for sending a board-sealed score report to a third party.

³ Fee for sending a score report to a third party via overnight courier.

⁴ Imposed if payment is made by personal check for third-party score reports or overnight delivery service and there are insufficient funds in the account to pay the fee(s).

Refund/Rescheduling policies

If you cancel a scheduled exam 28 days prior to the exam date, you may request a refund (exam fee minus \$100 service charge). All requests for refunds must be made in writing to Prometric.

If you need to cancel your exam 11 to 28 days prior to your scheduled exam date, you will not receive a refund. However, you may reschedule your exam one time for a \$100 rescheduling fee.

You **will not** be entitled to a refund of your exam registration fee if you:

- 1 Fail to appear for your scheduled exam.
- 2 Show up more than 30 minutes after the scheduled exam start time and are refused admission to the exam.
- 3 Change or cancel a test 10 days or less before the scheduled exam.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Candidates requiring testing accommodations under the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* must contact Prometric at 877.302.8952 for approval **before** submitting their examination registration form. Reasonable testing accommodations are provided to allow candidates with documented disabilities that are recognized under the ADA an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge.

Candidates should submit professional documentation of the disability in the form of a letter on the official letterhead of a licensed or certified professional qualified to diagnose and treat special conditions. A description of the accommodation(s) requested and any history of the accommodation should be included. Documentation and requests will be reviewed to determine if the accommodation will be granted. There is no extra charge to the candidate for making accommodations.

Candidates approved for nonstandard accommodations will receive their Authorization to Test (ATT) and then must call the Prometric Special Conditions Coordinator at **800.967.1139** to schedule an examination appointment. Individual test centers are not able to schedule appointments for candidates with nonstandard accommodations.

Scheduling exam appointments

Once your completed registration form has been approved, you will be mailed an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter. You must then contact Prometric to schedule a location to take the Part I and Part II examinations for the date listed on the ATT.

Authorization to Test (ATT)

ATT's will be mailed at least one month prior to the examination date. The ATT contains your test authorization number, identification number, and an expiration date. If any information on the ATT is incorrect, if you have not received your ATT at least one month before your exam date, or if you lose your ATT, you should contact Prometric at 877.302.8952 immediately.

Appointment scheduling procedures

A list of test centers that have reserved seats will be sent with your ATT. Follow these steps to schedule an appointment:

- 1 Contact Prometric by calling **800.722.2830**.
- 2 Test centers within a 50-mile radius of the eight schools of podiatric medicine have reserved a number of seats on the Part I and Part II exam dates, so be sure to tell the call center staff that you are calling to register for the NBPME Part I or Part II podiatric medicine examination and you will be scheduled into those reserved seats.
- 3 The call center staff will ask you for your name, phone number, ATT number, identification number, and authorized test date located on the ATT.
- 4 For scheduling purposes, expect your exam session to last up to four hours. Most candidates begin the exam within 30 minutes of their appointment time.

- 5 Make a note of when and where you have been scheduled for the examination. No confirmations of appointments will be sent. If needed, you should ask for directions to the test center.



Note Since seating at each exam site is limited, be sure to schedule your exam appointment **as soon as you receive your ATT letter** to ensure you get the location of your choice. If you wait to schedule and all seats have been filled, you will not be able to take the exam until the next scheduled exam date.

Test center locations

The Part I and Part II examination are given in or near Chicago, Cleveland, Des Moines, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and San Francisco.

Location	Start Time*
New York, NY	1 p.m.
Philadelphia, PA	1 p.m.
Miami, FL	1 p.m.
Cleveland, OH	1 p.m.
Des Moines, IA	12 p.m.
Chicago, IL	12 p.m.
Phoenix, AZ	10 a.m.
San Francisco, CA	10 a.m.

*If a large number of candidates wish to test in any given month, you may be scheduled for an overflow exam, which will be given at an alternate time on the same exam day.

Preparing for your exam

Being well prepared can help you pass your test and possibly save you money and time spent retaking it. This section offers:

- An overview of the exam.
- Information on how to take a practice exam.
- An explanation and examples of the types of questions used on the exam.

Exam overview

The Part I and Part II examinations are comprised of 205 questions. You should look for the response that best answers the question and not be misled by other choices that might be only partially true. Answer every question. The answers you record determine your final score. Even if you are unsure of an answer, it may be better to guess. You will not receive credit for any unanswered questions.

Each question is presented **only once**. Once you move from one question to the next, you **will not be able to return to a previous question**.

No candidate is expected to obtain a perfect score. However, in the opinion of the examination committees of the NBPME, every candidate should have some degree of familiarity with the subject matter of each question.

You can use the **content outlines** in this Bulletin (beginning on Page 16) to prepare for your exams. The exams are based on these content outlines.

Practice tests

After reading this bulletin, you may want to take an online practice test. You can access the Part I and Part II Practice Tests practice tests at ibt.prometric.com/nbpme. Once at the site, you must select the “first-time registration” to proceed. You may also download a practice test from www.nbpme.com/Downloads.htm.

Your performance on a practice test does not ensure similar performance on the actual examination. However, if your practice test scores are low, you may want to complete additional study before taking the actual exams. Many study materials are available through libraries, schools, and bookstores. However, because of the number, the diversity of approach and the currency of publications, neither **Prometric nor the NBPME lists or recommends study materials.**

Question formats

Questions are given in four different formats. Explanations and examples of each question format are listed below.

Single-Answer Multiple Choice

This item type has four answer options. You will select the single correct answer. The correct answer to each question is indicated by an asterisk (*).

Which of the following bones contains the quadrate tubercle?

- A. The ilium
- * B. The femur
- C. The tibia
- D. The ischium

In the casting treatment for talipes equinovarus, the last component of the deformity to be corrected is the

- A. adduction component
- B. inversion component
- * C. equines component
- D. internal torsional component at the tibia

Check all that Apply

This item type has five options with two-to-three correct responses. You are told in the stem of the item the number of responses to select. The correct answer to each question is indicated by an asterisk (*).

Which of the following drugs are effective against *Candida albicans*? Select the three that apply.

- * A. Clotrimazole
- * B. Miconazole
- * C. Haloprogin
- D. Tolnaftate
- E. Griseofulvin

Which of the following procedures may be utilized for the correction of a cavus foot deformity? Check the three that apply.

- A. Young’s tenosuspension
- * B. Jones’ procedure
- C. Kidner’s procedure
- * D. Cole’s osteotomy
- * E. Dwyer’s calcaneal osteotomy

Drag and Drop

This item type has two sets of panels – source panels on the left and target panels on the right. You are asked to use the mouse to drag each source panel to its appropriate target panel. The most common use of this item type is to list information in its proper sequence. The correct answers to each question are indicated in parentheses ().

The secondary centers of ossification in the femur develop in which order, from first to last? (Use your mouse to drag each component on the left to its appropriate location on the right.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. Head | 1. place 1st here ____ (B) ____ |
| B. Distal Plate | 2. place 2nd here ____ (A) ____ |
| C. Lesser trochanter | 3. place 3rd here ____ (D) ____ |
| D. Greater trochanter | 4. place 4th here ____ (C) ____ |

Which of the following represents the correct sequence of the steps in a McBride bunionectomy? (Match each lettered component [A-E] to its appropriate numbered location [1-5].)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| A. Section of the deep transverse intermetatarsal ligament | 1. place 1st here ____ (C) ____ |
| B. Release of the conjoined adductor tendon | 2. place 2nd here ____ (E) ____ |
| C. Medial capsulotomy | 3. place 3rd here ____ (A) ____ |
| D. Removal of the fibular sesamoid | 4. place 4th here ____ (B) ____ |
| E. Exostectomy | 5. place 5th here ____ (D) ____ |

Image Click

This item type requires that you place a mark on a specific area within an image.

Click on the insertion of the fibularis (peroneus) brevis tendon.



The correct answer is indicated by an "X" on the graphic to the right.



Click on the variant secondary center of ossification on the radiograph.



The correct answer is indicated by a "circle" on the graphic to the right.



Taking your exam

Knowing what to expect when taking your exam may help you prepare for it. This section contains:

- A list of what to bring to the exam.
- Regulations that will be enforced at the test center.
- An explanation of the computer testing process.

What to bring to the test center

You should arrive at least **30 minutes before** your scheduled exam appointment. This allows time for you to sign in and for staff to verify your identification.

You will need bring with you all of the following items:

ATT Letter. You must bring your ATT with you to the test center on the day of the examination. You will not be admitted to the examination without the ATT.

Identification document. You must present a valid, nonexpired form of identification before you may test. That identification document **must**:

- Be government-issued (e.g., driver's license, passport, state-issued identification card or military identification card);
- Contain **both** a current photo and your signature (if it does not, you must present two identification cards: one with your photo and one with your signature); and
- Have a name that exactly matches the name used on the NBPME registration and that matches the ATT (including designations such as "Jr." and "III").

If you cannot provide the identification listed above, contact Prometric **before** scheduling your appointment to arrange an alternative way to meet this requirement.



Important Failure to provide appropriate identification and your ATT letter at the time of the exam is considered a missed appointment. If you miss your appointment, you will forfeit your exam fees and be required to register again and pay another examination fee.

If the test center administrator questions your photo identification, a second form of signature-bearing ID will be required. Acceptable second forms of ID include: valid military identification card, citizenship card, or a current driver's license (does not have to have a photo). All forms of identification must have been signed before the day of test.

Test center regulations

To ensure that all candidates are tested under equally favorable conditions, the following regulations and procedures will be observed at each test center. Failure to follow any of these security procedures may result in the disqualification of your exam. Prometric reserves the right to audiotape and videotape any examination session.

References. No reference materials, dictionaries, books, papers or study materials are allowed at the test center. If you are found with these or any other aids, you will not be allowed to continue the exam and your answers will not be scored.

Electronic equipment. Cell phones, PDAs, pagers, cameras, and tape recorders are not permitted in the testing room and must be powered off while stored in a locker. You will not be permitted to use any electronic devices or phones during breaks.

Personal items. Digital watches, outerwear that is not being worn while testing (sweater, jacket, etc.), brief cases, purses, etc., are not allowed in the test center. Pocket items (wallet, keys, etc.) must remain in your pocket during testing or be placed in a locker. Disposable ear plugs will be available from the test center administrator, if needed.

You will be required to store all personal belongings (except for identification documents) in storage lockers. While the lockers are secure, they are small. Do not bring unnecessary items to the test center. The test center assumes no responsibility for candidates' personal belongings.

Sign-in/Biometrics. For security reasons, NBPME uses the Candidate Identity Management System (biometrics) at all Prometric test centers. When you arrive at the test center, you will be required to sign a signature log and have your fingerprints scanned. The date and time you enter and exit the exam room will be recorded and the signature log will be verified against the signature on your identification documents and your digital fingerprint. The fingerprint template is permanently erased within 48 hours after your exam is completed. If you leave the examination room while an examination is in progress, you must sign out/in on the log and will lose exam time.

Food and Beverages. You may not eat, drink, or use tobacco during the test administration.

Guests/Visitors. No guests, visitors or family members are allowed at the test center.

Misconduct or disruptive behavior. Candidates who engage in any kind of misconduct or disruptive or offensive behavior, such as giving or receiving help, taking part in an act of impersonation, removing test materials or notes from the testing room, rude or offensive language, or behavior that delays or interrupts testing, may be dismissed from the examination.

Weapons. No weapons of any kind are not allowed at the test center.

If questions arise. If at any time during the test you believe you have a problem with your computer or need the administrator for any reason, you should raise your hand. Test center administrators are not allowed to answer any questions pertaining to the test content. If you do not understand a question on the test, you should answer the question to the best of your ability.

The computer testing process

Your exam will be given by computer at a Prometric test center using Prometric's user-friendly, Microsoft Windows[®]-based, computerized testing system. Before you start the exam, you will receive a personalized tutorial to the testing system. You may review this tutorial online before you take your exam at www.nbpme.com/Downloads.htm.

The tutorial features:

- Samples of how test questions are displayed on the computer screen during the exam.
- Directions on how to move the mouse and use the mouse to select answers.
- How to submit a test for scoring.

The test center administrator will provide you with a packet of scratch paper that may be replaced as needed during testing. You may not bring your own scratch paper or pencil to the examination. The test center administrator will collect all

scratch paper (used and unused) upon completion of the examination. Removing scratch paper from the test center is considered an act of misconduct.

At the beginning of the exam, you will be asked to read and signify assent to the terms and conditions of the Confidentiality and Conduct Agreement, which states:

CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONDUCT AGREEMENT

The contents of this test are copyrighted, proprietary, and confidential. Any efforts to disclose or reproduce any portion of the test, its content or items therein in any part to any individual or entity for any purpose whatsoever is prohibited. Such activity may be responded to by test score invalidation for an individual or group as well as civil and or criminal prosecution.

I can be disqualified from taking or continuing to sit for an examination, or from receiving examination results, or my scores might be canceled if there is reason to believe through proctor observations, statistical analysis, or any other evidence that my score may not be valid or that I was engaged in collaborative, disruptive, or other unacceptable behavior during the administration of this examination.

You will have up to four hours to complete the NBPME examination. The tutorial is not included as part of the testing time. The time remaining for your exam is displayed in the upper right-hand corner of the computer screen. There are no scheduled breaks. You must remain in your seat during the examination except when authorized to leave by a test center staff member.

Each question is presented **only once**. Once you move from one question to the next, you **will not be able to return to a previous question**.



Important It is to your advantage to answer each question before you move to the next question since your score will be based on the number of questions answered correctly. There will be no review at the completion of the exam.

The clock will continue to run and will not be turned off for unplanned, unscheduled breaks. If there is a power outage, the time will stop counting down. When power is restored, the examination will resume at the point where it left off.

Once the examination is finished, you will be asked to complete a brief, computer-delivered questionnaire about your testing experience. If you have additional comments, you are encouraged to ask the test center administrator for a Comment Form.

Examination results

Score interpretation

Scores on NBPME examinations are determined by converting the number of questions answered correctly out of the number of questions administered to a scale that ranges from approximately 55 to beyond 75. The scale passing score has been set by the NBPME at 75, which corresponds to a level of achievement judged by the Board to represent minimum competency to practice podiatric medicine.

Passing candidates will receive a score report with a "Pass" indicated. Failing candidates will receive a report with a failing scale score (between 55 and 74).

Examination reviews are not permitted.

Failing candidates will also receive diagnostic indicators for the seven basic science subjects included in the Part I examination and diagnostic indicators for the five clinical science areas included in the Part II examination. The diagnostic indicators are intended to help identify areas of strength and weakness for further study; they are not to be used for pass/fail determination or any other use that would lead to

unreliable decisions. Candidates who fail the exam must retake the entire examination.



Note There is no limit to the number of times you may take the examination, however, some states do place a limit on the number of times a candidate may be examined and still receive a license. You should consult individual state boards for more information about possible specific state requirements and limitations.

The total score scale makes it possible to compare candidates' scores on a specific examination to scores on other forms of the same examination given the standard adopted by the NBPME.

Candidates' scores are converted to scaled scores in such a way that a particular score corresponds to the same level of achievement regardless of the form of the examination actually taken. In other words, a score of 75 on a specific examination has the same meaning as a score of 75 on any form of the examination. This means a candidate will not be penalized if the form of the examination taken is harder than the one given to another candidate.

Reporting of examination results

You will receive your exam results approximately six weeks following the test administration. Exam results are released to you by Prometric. Any inquiries regarding exam results should be directed to Prometric at 877.302.8952. Due to confidentiality and privacy issues, exam results will not be released over the phone, by fax, or by any other electronic transmission.

Within 10 days of receipt of a written request, Prometric will send a copy of your exam results, bearing the seal of the NBPME, to any state licensing board or federal agency. You may obtain a request form from your college registrar, Prometric, or online at www.nbpme.com. Requests cannot be made by phone.

The following chart lists the states that recognize the NBPME examinations as part of the licensing process governing the practice of podiatric medicine. Individual states use exam scores differently, according to state statute/regulations. Therefore, candidates are advised to contact individual state boards to determine how that particular state uses the NBPME scores.

Licensing Boards			
Alabama	Idaho	Missouri	Pennsylvania
Alaska	Illinois	Montana	Rhode Island
Arizona	Indiana	Nebraska	South Carolina
Arkansas	Iowa	Nevada	South Dakota
California	Kansas	New Hampshire	Tennessee
Colorado	Kentucky	New Jersey	Texas
Connecticut	Louisiana	New Mexico	Utah
Delaware	Maine	New York	Vermont
District of Columbia	Maryland	North Carolina	Virginia
Florida	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Washington
Georgia	Michigan	Ohio	West Virginia
Hawaii	Minnesota	Oklahoma	Wisconsin
	Mississippi	Oregon	Wyoming
Canadian Provinces			
Alberta	British Columbia	Ontario	
Federal Agencies			
United States Army		United States Navy	

It should be understood that the NBPME makes the data and information available but does not attempt to analyze or interpret results. Each state board determines whether and how to accept and use NBPME exam result information.

The NBPME disapproves the use of exam results for any purpose other than the use for which the examinations were developed and conducted; namely, as an indication of minimum competence for purposes of licensure to practice. This warning includes using exam results for employment, externship, or residency selection. In addition, exam results are not to be used as a graduation requirement. Licensure exams are mastery tests, not achievement or selection instruments.

Cancellation of exam results

If, after taking the NBPME exam, you decide for any reason that you do not want the examination scored, write to Prometric within seven business days following the exam administration to request that the exam be canceled. Unsigned requests for cancellation will not be honored.

No refund of any fees will be made on exams that are canceled at a candidate's request. A new registration form and fee must be submitted in order for a candidate to retake the exam. Canceled exam results will not be reported to the candidate. Once exam results have been canceled, no record of the exam will be made, and the candidate will not be able to receive the results at a later date.

Score reliability

Reliability refers to the consistency of examination scores, the consistency with which candidates are classified as either passing or failing and the degree to which examination scores are free from errors of measurement. Errors of measurement may result from factors related to the examination, such as specific questions asked and an examinee's preparedness, or from factors not related to the examination, such as fatigue, personal interests or the attentiveness of an examinee on the day of the test. A person's score will not be perfectly consistent from one occasion to the next. The estimated percentage of candidates obtaining the same passing or failing classification each time they take the test is about 90% for both Part I and Part II.

Determination of passing scores

The criterion-referenced method approved by the NBPME to determine passing scores for each of the Part I and Part II examinations was noted by William H. Angoff in 1971. The Angoff method is based on the idea that, since qualified persons should pass the examination while unqualified persons should fail, the candidate who scores exactly at the pass/fail point should be one whose level of knowledge is at the borderline between qualified and unqualified.

This distinction between qualified and unqualified candidates is provided by convening a panel of judges, who represent a cross section of podiatric practice in the United States, to participate in a systematic cut-score study. The judges consider each question as a whole and make a judgment of the probability that a borderline candidate would answer the question correctly.

Comments, questions, concerns

Prometric provides an opportunity for general comments about the test center experience at the end of the exam. Prometric personnel will review candidate comments, but candidates will not receive a direct response.

If you are requesting a response concerning exam content, registration, scheduling or test administration (testing site procedures, equipment, personnel, etc.), you must submit an appeal in writing **within seven business days** following the exam administration.

Your appeal letter must provide your name and ID number, exam title, date tested, location where tested, details of the concern including all relevant facts, candidate's signature, return address, and (optional) Social Security number. Be sure to include your signature and return address. Mail your appeal letter to:

Prometric
ATTN: Appeals Committee
1260 Energy Lane
St. Paul, MN 55108
nbpmeinquiry@prometric.com

Prometric will review each concern and reply to comments within a reasonable length of time. Inquiries about scores or about eligibility and procedures for reexamination may also be directed to the address above. **Faxed appeals will not be accepted** because an original signature is required.

Examination integrity

Copyright

All proprietary rights in the examinations, including copyright and trade secrets, are jointly held by the NBPME and Prometric. It is forbidden under federal copyright law to copy, reproduce, record, distribute or display these test questions by any means, in whole or in part, without written permission. Doing so may subject you to severe civil and criminal penalties, including up to five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine for criminal violations.

Score validity

The NBPME shall either retain or reserve the sole right to determine whether or not an examination is valid or invalid. The acceptance of a candidate's application to take the examination or the scoring thereof or the release of said examination results to any party shall not act in any way to amend the right of the NBPME to determine whether such examinations or the scores achieved thereon are valid or invalid in whole or in part.

A determination that an examination and the scores achieved thereon are invalid may be made at any time by the NBPME. The NBPME also reserves the right to cancel any scores that may already have been reported when subsequent information raises doubt of their validity.

Occasionally testing irregularities occur that affect a group of test takers. Such problems include, without limitation, administrative errors, defective equipment or materials, improper access to test content and/or the unauthorized general availability of test content, as well as other disruptions of test administrations (e.g., natural disasters, and other emergencies). When group testing irregularities occur, Prometric will conduct an investigation to provide information to the NBPME. Based on this information, the NBPME may direct Prometric to either not score the examination or invalidate the examination scores.

When it is appropriate to do so, the NBPME will arrange with Prometric to give affected test takers the opportunity to take the examination again as soon as possible, without charge. Affected test takers will be notified of the reasons for the invalidation and their options for retaking the examination.

Candidate misconduct

The NBPME examinations, prepared by the Board and administered by Prometric, serve an important public function and no misconduct will be tolerated.

Before individual test results are canceled or invalidated, a candidate will be notified and given an opportunity to provide additional information.

If, during the administration of an examination, or after completion of the examination, a test supervisor believes misconduct is taking or has taken place, certain options shall be available to the test supervisor or Prometric.

- 1 A test supervisor may dismiss a candidate from the test and file a report with Prometric stating the action and the reasons for dismissal.
- 2 A test supervisor may choose not to dismiss the candidate from the test. Under such circumstances, the test supervisor will file an irregularity report with Prometric describing his or her observations.

In either event, when a test supervisor reports to Prometric that a candidate might have committed misconduct during an examination, that candidate's test record is reviewed by Prometric and the NBPME.

Grounds for dismissal

Any candidate who does not have positive identification, who uses unauthorized aids, or does not follow the testing procedures can be dismissed from the test center. The NBPME may choose to have the test scores of such candidates canceled.

A candidate who is believed to be engaging in misconduct and does not heed the administrator's warning to discontinue the behavior may be dismissed from the test center. All of the following behaviors are considered to be misconduct:

- Giving or receiving assistance of any kind.
- Using any unauthorized aids.
- Attempting to take the examination for someone else.
- Failing to follow testing regulations or the instructions of the test administrator.
- Creating a disturbance of any kind.
- Removing or attempting to remove examination questions.
- Tampering with the operation of the computer or attempting to use it for any function other than taking the examination.

Invalidation of results

The NBPME has the right to question any test score when the validity is in doubt because the score may have been obtained unfairly. Prometric, acting on behalf of the NBPME, will undertake a confidential review of the circumstances giving rise to the questions about score validity. If there is sufficient cause to question the score, Prometric will refer the matter to the NBPME, which will make the final decision on whether or not the score is to be withheld or invalidated. In the event the NBPME determines that a candidate's individual test results will be withheld or invalidated, or that a group of results will be withheld or invalidated, the NBPME will notify the candidate or group.

Appeals procedure for misconduct

Upon written request or application in accordance with the appeal procedure, a candidate whose individual score is withheld or invalidated due to specific individual misconduct may, within 15 business days of the notification, submit a written request for a hearing.

The purpose of the hearing will be to provide an opportunity for the candidate to produce sufficient credible evidence that the decision to invalidate his or her score was made in error and that he or she should have the score validated.

The appeal process is not available should a group of candidates' scores be withheld or invalidated.

The determination as to whether an appeal shall be granted to an individual candidate is made by the NBPME taking into consideration the circumstances of the invalidation decision.

The hearing procedures shall be as follows:

- 1 The time, date, and place of the hearing will be set by the NBPME.
- 2 The hearing will be conducted by three members of the NBPME.
- 3 At the hearing, the candidate may represent such evidence as he or she deems proper and necessary. The candidate may be accompanied by an attorney and witnesses of choice.
- 4 The NBPME may request the appearance of any witnesses at the hearing as it deems necessary.
- 5 At the end of the hearing, the three NBPME committee members will evaluate the information presented and reach a conclusion, at its sole discretion, and may decide:
 - a. The candidate may retake the examination at a future date.
 - b. The candidate will not be permitted to retake the examination at any time. (In this case, the candidate may request reconsideration and reinstatement by the NBPME after one year.)
 - c. The test results represent a reasonable assessment of the candidate's knowledge in the areas sampled, and the candidate's scores may be released.
 - d. Some other action should be taken.
- 6 The candidate will be advised in writing by the NBPME of its decision at least 10 business days prior to the next deadline to file a registration for retesting.
- 7 The NBPME reserves the right to notify a candidate's college of any of the actions or decisions described above.

A complete set of procedures that apply to appeal hearings is available upon request.

Limitation of liability

In no case shall the NBPME or Prometric be liable to any test taker or group of test takers, either in contract or tort, when, acting in good faith, either cancels, invalidates, withholds or changes a test score or result, as provided in the Bulletin. When appropriate, NBPME and/or Prometric, at their discretion, shall provide affected test takers with an opportunity to retake an examination or shall provide a refund of the registration fee paid.

Exam content outlines

The following content outlines are the basis of the Part I and Part II NBPME exams. Each exam will contain questions about the subjects in its outline. The percentage of the exam devoted to each content area is noted.

Part I Basic Science Exam Content Outline

205 questions—Four-hour time limit

I. General Anatomy – 10%

- A. Major peripheral vascular and neurologic structures of the head and neck**
 1. Angiology
 2. Peripheral nervous system
- B. Torso (including upper extremities)**
 1. Vertebral column and curvatures
 2. Peripheral nervous system
 3. Heart and major vessels
- C. Histology**
 1. Cytology and cell biology
 - a. Cell structure, organelles, and basic function
 - b. Surface specializations
 2. Structure and basic function of tissues
 - a. Epithelial and glandular
 - b. Connective
 - c. Muscle
 - d. Nerve
 3. Structure and basic function of organ systems
 - a. Circulatory
 - b. Lymphatic
 - c. Integumentary
 - d. Endocrine
 - e. Respiratory
 - f. Renal
 - g. Digestive
- D. Neuroanatomy**
 1. Central nervous system structure and organization
 2. Somatosensory systems
 3. Motor systems
 4. Clinical correlations

II. Lower Extremity Anatomy – 20%

- A. Osteology: bony landmarks and associated structures and ossification**
 1. Foot: tarsals, metatarsals, phalanges, sesamoid bones, and accessory bones
 2. Leg: tibia, fibula, and patella
 3. Thigh and pelvis: femur and os coxae
- B. Arthrology: joint classification, articulating facets, ligamentous support, and movements**
 1. Ankle and foot: ankle joint, joints of tarsus and metatarsus, tarsometatarsal joints, metatarsophalangeal joints, and interphalangeal joints
 2. Knee and tibiofibular joint
 3. Pelvis and hip: hip joint and sacroiliac joint

C. Myology: muscle origins, insertions, and actions: fasciae; and retinacula

1. Foot: intrinsic muscles, fasciae, compartments, and retinacula
2. Leg: anterior, lateral, and posterior compartments; popliteal fossa; and fascia cruris
3. Thigh and gluteal: anterior, medial, and posterior compartments and fasciae of the thigh and gluteal muscles and fascia

D. Angiology: arteries, veins, and lymphatics

1. Foot: plantar and dorsal arteries and anastomoses and superficial and deep veins
2. Leg: arteries, superficial and deep veins, lymphatic drainage, and genicular anastomosis
3. Thigh and pelvis: arteries, superficial and deep veins, lymphatic drainage, superficial and deep inguinal lymph nodes, and cruciate and trochanteric anastomoses

E. Peripheral nervous system: lumbar and sacral plexuses and their cutaneous, articular, somatic motor, and sympathetic branches to the lower extremity

1. Foot: plantar and dorsal cutaneous, articular, and motor nerves
2. Leg and knee: cutaneous, articular, and motor nerves
3. Thigh, hip, and pelvis: cutaneous, articular, and motor nerves and lumbar and sacral plexuses

F. Integument

G. Limb development: limb bud and limb rotation (pre-axial vs. post-axial position and function)

III. Biochemistry – 10%

A. Biophysical principles: acid-base biochemistry and buffers

B. Carbohydrates: function and metabolism

1. Glycolysis
2. Glycogenesis and glycogenolysis
3. Gluconeogenesis and glycosaminoglycans

C. Krebs cycle and oxidative phosphorylation

1. Krebs cycle
2. Electron transport and oxidative phosphorylation
3. ATP and other energy-related compounds

D. Proteins: structure, function, and metabolism

1. Three-dimensional structures of proteins and protein-protein interactions
2. Enzymes: isozymes, serum enzymes and disease, and enzymes as reagents and potential as drugs
3. Urea cycle

4. Amino acids as precursors of nonprotein substances: biogenic amines, creatine, porphyrins, and nucleotide bases

E. Lipids: structure, function, and metabolism of triglycerides, steroids, cholesterol, and lipoproteins

F. Purine and pyrimidine metabolism

G. Molecular biology

1. Structure and function of DNA
2. Structure and function of RNA

H. Molecular properties of hormones, growth factors, and receptors

1. Steroids and thyroid hormones; plasma transport and receptors
2. Metabolic shifts in diabetes mellitus: insulin, insulin-like growth factor, and glucagon

I. Blood chemistry and other tissues

1. Plasma composition
2. Molecular aspects of erythrocytes and hemoglobin
3. Molecular aspects of clotting
4. Molecular aspects of muscle: contractile proteins

J. Amino acid synthesis

1. Major nutrients: carbohydrates, proteins, and lipids
2. Trace nutrients: vitamins and minerals
3. Diets: composition and requirements
4. Essential amino acids

K. Bone chemistry

1. Molecular aspects of bone
2. Calcium and phosphorus metabolism, parathyroid hormone, vitamin D, and calcitonin

IV. Physiology – 15%

A. Neurophysiology

1. Excitable properties of neurons
 - a. Membrane potential
 - b. Action potentials
2. Synaptic transmission
3. Autonomic nervous system
4. Motor systems
 - a. Muscle receptors and stretch and flexor reflexes
 - b. Higher motor centers
 - c. Posture and locomotion
5. Sensory systems
 - a. Principles of sensory transduction
 - b. Somatosensory: touch, pain, thermal, and proprioception
 - c. Special senses: visual, auditory, taste, olfactory, and vestibular

B. Physiology of skeletal muscle

1. Regulation of contractile process
2. Excitation-contraction coupling
3. Length-tension and force-velocity relationships
4. Twitch, tetany, and motor-unit recruitment

C. Physiology of smooth muscle: visceral and multi-unit smooth muscle control

D. Cardiovascular physiology

1. Cardiac muscle: electrophysiology and the electrocardiogram – mechanical aspects
2. Cardiac dynamics: cardiac cycle and heart sounds and cardiac output
3. Hemodynamics
 - a. Biophysics: flow, pressure, and resistance
 - b. Arterial and venous circulation
 - c. Local control mechanisms: autoregulation
4. Microcirculation: capillary exchange and lymph
5. Pulmonary, muscle, cerebral, splanchnic, and skin blood flows
6. Neural and hormonal regulatory mechanisms: heart and blood vessels
7. Gravitational effects and exercise

E. Respiratory function and regulation: ventilation, volumes, and capacities

F. Renal physiology

1. Glomerular filtration
2. Tubular mechanisms for reabsorption and secretion
3. Urinary concentration and dilution
4. Volume regulation, renin-angiotensin system, and atrial natriuretic factors
5. Acid-base balance

G. Endocrine physiology

1. Hypothalamus and anterior and posterior pituitary
2. Thyroid and parathyroids
3. Adrenal cortex and adrenal medulla
4. Endocrine pancreas
5. Bone metabolism

H. Gastrointestinal and hepatic function

V. Microbiology and Immunology – 15%

A. Bacteriology

1. Bacterial structure and function
2. Clinical bacteriologic techniques
3. Normal flora
4. Gram-positive cocci infections
5. Gram-negative cocci infections
6. Gram-positive bacilli infections
7. Gram-negative bacilli infections
8. Acid-fast bacilli infections
9. Spirochete infections
10. Mycoplasma, chlamydia, and rickettsia infections

B. Mycology

1. Fungal growth, structure, and classification
2. Clinical mycologic techniques
3. Cutaneous and superficial mycoses
4. Subcutaneous mycoses
5. Systemic mycoses
6. Opportunistic mycoses

C. Virology

1. Viral structure
2. Replication and effects of viral infection
3. DNA virus infections
4. RNA virus infections

D. Parasitology

1. Structures

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINES

2. Classifications
3. Clinical manifestations

E. Infection control: physical and chemical methods

F. Emerging drug resistance

1. Mechanisms of drug resistance (including mutation)
2. Susceptibility testing

G. Immunology

1. Nonspecific (innate) and specific immunity
2. Cells involved in the immune system
3. Structure and function of antigens, antibodies, and complement
4. Humoral resistance
5. Cell-mediated immune responses
6. Immediate and delayed hypersensitivity
7. Transplantation and tumor immunology
8. Immunodiagnostic methods

VI. Pathology – 15%

A. General principles

1. Cell injury and death
2. Inflammation and repair
3. Abnormalities of cell growth
4. Derangements in fluids and blood flow

B. Laboratory testing

1. Principles of laboratory testing
2. Collection of specimens
3. Culture and sensitivity
4. Synovial fluid analysis
5. Surgical pathology

C. Metabolic and endocrine disorders, immune diseases, and genetic disorders

1. Metabolic and endocrine disorders
2. Immune diseases
3. Genetic disorders

D. Diseases of the musculoskeletal and nervous systems and skin

1. Muscle
2. Joint
3. Bones and skeleton
4. Soft tissue
5. Skin
6. Peripheral nervous system
7. Central nervous system

E. Diseases of the cardiovascular, hematopoietic, reticuloendothelial, and respiratory systems

1. Vasculature
2. Heart
3. Peripheral blood and bone marrow
4. Lymph nodes and spleen
5. Lung

F. Diseases of the urinary, gastrointestinal, and reproductive systems

1. Kidney and urinary tract
2. Gastrointestinal tract, liver, and pancreas
3. Reproductive system

VII. Pharmacology – 15%

A. General principles

1. Routes of administration, absorption, distribution, biotransformation, and excretion
2. Dose-effect relationships, including concepts of biological variation
3. Factors altering drug effects, including tolerance, tachyphylaxis, pregnancy, age, renal disease, liver disease

B. Mechanisms of drug action, including drug receptor interactions and structure-activity relationships

C. Drug interactions: factors including drug allergies, substance abuse, acute intoxication, genetic factors, over-the-counter drugs, herbs, and vitamins

D. Anesthetics

1. General anesthetics and neuromuscular blocking agents
2. Local anesthetics and their mechanisms of action

E. Anticonvulsants

F. Antidepressants, anxiolytics, and stimulants

G. Antidiabetic agents

H. Anti-infectives

1. Antibiotics
2. Antifungals
3. Antivirals

I. Anti-inflammatories and analgesics

1. Opioid analgesics and antagonists
2. Nonopioid analgesics and anti-inflammatory agents
3. Drugs used in the treatment of gout and arthritides

J. Antineoplastics

1. Antirheumatics
2. Cancer chemotherapeutic agents
3. Immunosuppressants

K. Cardiovascular agents

1. Cardiac glycosides
2. Antidysrhythmics
3. Anti-anginal drugs
4. Anticoagulants and fibrinolytics
5. Antihypertensives
6. Drugs for peripheral vascular disease
7. Drugs for hyperlipoproteinemias

L. Gastrointestinal agents

1. Agents for the control of gastric acidity and the treatment of peptic ulcer
2. Drug-food interactions

M. Sedative-hypnotics

N. Skeletal muscle relaxants

NOTE: In general, drugs are referred to by their generic names only.

Part II Clinical Science Exam Exam Content Outline

205 questions—Four-hour time limit

I. Medicine – 25%

- A. Infectious diseases**
 - 1. Bacterial
 - 2. Viral
 - 3. Fungal
 - 4. Parasitic
- B. Neurologic disorders**
 - 1. Peripheral neuropathies
 - 2. Central nervous system disorders (including diseases of the spinal cord)
- C. Cardiovascular disorders**
 - 1. Major cardiac
 - 2. Arterial, venous, lymphatic
 - 3. Vasomotor
- D. Rheumatologic disorders**
 - 1. Myopathies
 - 2. Arthritides (infectious, rheumatoid, osteoarthritis, collagen diseases)
- E. Metabolic and endocrine disorders**
 - 1. Diabetes mellitus
 - 2. Gout
 - 3. Adrenal and pituitary
 - 4. Thyroid and parathyroid
 - 5. Renal
 - 6. Bone
- F. Hematologic disorders (including anemias [e.g., sickle cell anemia] and leukemia)**
- G. Immunologic disorders (allergic and sensitivity reactions and immunosuppressive states)**
- H. Respiratory disorders (including asthma, COPD, and emphysema)**
- I. Behavioral medicine (depression, abuse, anger disorders, and noncompliant patients)**
- J. Emergency medicine (medical/surgical)**
- K. Dermatology**
 - 1. Diagnosis
 - 2. Infections
 - 3. Dermatoses
 - 4. Local and systemic manifestations
 - 5. Tumors
 - 6. Special disorders of nails and appendages of the skin
 - 7. Treatment

II. Radiology – 20%

- A. Radiation protection and safety**
 - 1. Radiation physics; biological effects of radiation; operator and patient protection
 - 2. Radiographic technique and development
- B. Positioning**
- C. Radiographic pathology**
 - 1. Congenital conditions
 - 2. Infectious disease
 - 3. Arthritic disease
 - 4. Trauma
 - 5. Metabolic disease

- 6. Neoplastic disease
- 7. Avascular necrosis
- 8. Biomechanical interpretation

- D. Normal radiographic anatomy, normal anatomical variations, developmental landmarks, and biomechanical interpretation**
- E. Special imaging modalities, including CT scan, MRI, and contrast studies**

NOTE: Prints of actual radiographs will be used in the test.

III. Orthopedics, Biomechanics, and Sports Medicine – 20%

- A. Function and structure (normal and abnormal)**
 - 1. Osseous system
 - 2. Muscular system
 - 3. Neurologic system
 - 4. Kinesiology and gait analysis
- B. Trauma**
 - 1. Sprains, strains, and soft tissue injuries
 - 2. Fractures and dislocations
- C. Physical medicine and rehabilitation**
 - 1. Evaluation and assessment
 - 2. Diagnosis
 - 3. Treatment (physical medicine modalities, footwear, orthoses, bracing, and biomaterials)
- D. Pediatric orthopedics (congenital and developmental)**

IV. Anesthesia and Surgery – 25%

- A. General anesthesia**
 - 1. Types of anesthetics (including pharmacological and clinical properties – indications, contraindications, and complications)
 - 2. Perioperative considerations
- B. Regional anesthesia**
 - 1. Spinal anesthesia (including pharmacological and clinical properties – indications, contraindications, and complications)
 - 2. Local anesthesia (including pharmacological and clinical properties – indications, contraindications, and complications)
 - 3. Techniques of local anesthesia
- C. Intravenous sedation (including pharmacological and clinical properties – indications, contraindications, complications, and techniques)**
- D. Surgical principles**
 - 1. Wound healing
 - 2. Wound management
 - 3. Perioperative emergencies
 - 4. Surgical hemostasis
 - 5. Surgical anatomy
 - 6. Biomaterials and fixation techniques
- E. Podiatric surgery**
 - 1. Foot procedures
 - 2. Ankle procedures
 - 3. Lower leg procedures
 - 4. Surgical complications

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINES

5. Trauma
6. Infection

F. Hospital and operating room protocol

1. Wound dressing, bandaging, and casting
2. Preparations of OR personnel for surgery
3. Preparation of the patient
4. Surgical instruments and materials

G. Integrated pain management

V. Community Health, Jurisprudence, and Research – 10%

A. Critical skills necessary for the analysis of medical literature (including basic biostatistics, epidemiology, and research design)

B. Disease prevention and control

1. Acute and chronic diseases (metabolic, degenerative, and nutritional disorders)
2. Substance abuse
3. Standard (universal) precautions
4. OSHA regulations

C. Health care management

1. Health care delivery systems
2. Standards and quality assurance
3. HIPAA

D. Jurisprudence

1. Ethics, duties, and doctor-patient relationship
2. Illegal conduct (including assault, negligence, and malpractice)
3. Licensure and scope of practice
4. Controlled substances
5. Statutes of limitations
6. Informed consent
7. Medical records
8. Mandatory reporting

Certification of the College Dean or Registrar

Dean or Registrar needs to sign and date.

Part I and II. The person named on this registration form is enrolled at the college and will complete the coursework related to the basic science areas listed on Page 2 of this Bulletin if applying for the Part I examination; or be in the final term of the fourth year and two-to-three months from graduation if applying for the Part II examination. The NBPME reserves the right to cancel a registration form for Part I and Part II if the Registrar/Dean notifies the NBPME that coursework necessary for eligibility was not passed for this examination.

Dean or Registrar's Signature

Date

Certification of the Candidate

I, the undersigned, certify that the information on this registration form is correct. I also acknowledge and accept the requirements as outlined in the Bulletin of Information for the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners. I understand that the contents of the examination are copyrighted, proprietary, and confidential and subject to the Confidentiality and Conduct Agreement provided on Page 10 of this Bulletin. Failure to abide by the Agreement and the rules set forth in the Bulletin shall result in invalidation of my test scores, and may result in civil and/or criminal prosecution.

Candidate's Signature

Date

Part II Candidate Acknowledgement Statement

I understand that, if I am successful in passing the National Board examinations, I will be notified in writing by the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners of my passing status.

I further understand that my passing status is in no way a specialty designation, nor does it indicate any special professional abilities on my part.

I agree that I will not list my passing status on any of my professional stationery or business cards, nor will I use it in any professional advertising.

I further agree that I will not attempt to use my passing status to gain admittance to a hospital staff or other professional organizations or institutions, except where such status is required by law or regulations.

I understand that any improper use of my passing status could be construed as unethical and unprofessional conduct on my part. I further understand that the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners will take steps to notify my professional organization and local licensing authority of improper use of my passing status and that I may be liable to penalties for such improper use.

Part II Candidate's Signature

Date

Send this completed form, along with exam fee (made payable to NBPME) in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order to:

**PROMETRIC/NBPME
1260 Energy Lane
St. Paul, MN 55108**

PROMETRIC
1260 Energy Lane
St. Paul, MN 55108
877.302.8952

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