



NBPME Reports



The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Newsletter The American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination Series

Revised Test Schedule Part II For the Class of 2019

The NBPME will implement a one-time change in the test schedule for the Part II written test for the Class of 2019. This is necessary to insert some additional steps in the test scoring process and still maintain the objective of meeting the residency match schedule. The AACPM board was consulted regarding the options available. NBPME regrets that this is necessary but agrees with AACPM that this is preferable to delaying the match process into April.

Once every five years, the NBPME updates the test specifications by conducting a practice analysis survey to ask practitioners what they do, how often they do each task, what knowledge they need for the task, etc. The outcome of that study is a set of revised test specifications. The adjustments are not substantial; however, they reflect changes in the weighting of different topics since the previous study.

Because the test design changes, it is necessary to establish a new passing score—still scaled to the threshold of 75. That means that Prometric must run an initial scoring and that the NBPME must convene a panel of practitioners to establish a new passing score in a standard setting session. Following that, the board must conduct a conference call to officially adopt the new score, which will be translated back to the scale score of 75. Finally, all the candidate tests are rescored against this new formula and scores are released. In order to do all of that and keep the score release and second test for retakes on schedule for the whole match process, the first test must be administered in December.

| Activity | Date |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Part II Exam | December 8 and 10, 2018 |
| PIN Call | December 17, 2018 |
| Standard Setting | January 12 - 13, 2019 |
| Cutscore Decision Call | January 15, 2019 |
| Release Scores | February 1, 2019 |
| CSPE February Re-take | February 19 - 23, 2019 |
| Part II Re-take Exam | February 25, 2019 |
| Release Re-take Scores | March 8, 2019 |
| Match Week Begins | Monday, March 18, 2019 |

Revised Part II Schedule (continued)

The NBPME and AACPM agreed that the most suitable dates are Saturday, December 8 and Monday, December 10. Testing will be offered nationwide Saturday afternoon. Testing will also be offered all day Monday. In order to allow as much time for planning as possible, scheduling will open May 21, 2018.

New CSPE Registration

The NBOME, who conduct the board's Clinical Skills Patient Encounter examination, determined that the earlier August dates were the least popular in 2017 and proposed shifting the 2018 exam dates to begin in late August and continue to mid-November, specifically, August 27 to November 16, 2018. The board approved the proposed schedule. Online registration using the new system designed for the board by NBOME opened on April 16, 2018. Candidates will no longer be required to submit a paper application to Prometric. Further, the system allows the dean at each school to enter a list of eligible students in advance and to track the registration process.

James Mahoney, DPM Appointed to College Educator Board Seat

Following a solicitation of nominations from all the schools and colleges of podiatry, the NBPME approved the appointment of James Mahoney, Professor in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at Des Moines University, as the member with experience as a college educator. Dr. Mahoney has been clinical faculty representative to the AACPM since 2007 and was a contributor to the Curricular Guide for Podiatric Medical Education. He annually writes and reviews items for the APMLE and considers it an important responsibility to properly and fairly assess the competency of our podiatric medical graduates. Dr. Mary Jones Johnson, board president, stated that the board welcomes Dr. Mahoney and looks forward to the opportunity to have the contributions of an experienced and respected educator.

All APMLE Score Reporting to go Paperless

By this time next year, all exam scores will be electronic. Prometric is completing implementation of a new candidate management system called Surpass that has already improved the candidate registration and scheduling process. Beginning with the December Part III written examination, and for all tests thereafter, scores will be reported directly to candidates electronically. Further, candidates registering for the next cycle of the CSPE with the NBOME will do so electronically and will receive score reports by the same means. Board president Johnson said the NBPME is pleased to offer this enhanced service that will improve the test experience for all candidates.

FPMB to Report Transcript Scores for All Parts

The board accepted a proposal to have the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards (FPMB) assume the responsibility of sending candidate scores for all three parts of the APMLE examinations. Presently, candidates who are applying to a new state for a licensure application must request that Prometric send certified Part I and II scores, and FPMB send certified Part III scores to the state. When completed, candidates applying for a licensure in a new state will only be required to contact FPMB with their score requests. The new process will provide candidates with a simplified and speedier service that will deliver complete certified score reports within a half of business day to licensing boards that accept electronic delivery.

The new process also includes, at no charge to the candidate, FPMB sending the initial Part III score to the state and Prometric releasing the initial score to the candidate. The new system is expected to be in place by the end of 2018.

2018 Exam Dates

| Exam | Exam Date | Online Registration Available | Registration Deadline |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Part I | July 2, 2018 | May 1, 2018 | June 25, 2018 |
| | October 2, 2018 | August 31, 2018 | September 25, 2018 |
| Part II | January 3, 2018 | October 25, 2017 | December 22, 2017 |
| | February 14, 2018 | January 30, 2018 | February 9, 2018 |
| | May 2, 2018 | March 8, 2018 | April 26, 2018 |
| Part II CSPE | August 27-November 16, 2018 | April 16, 2018 | August 6, 2018 |
| Part II CSPE RETAKE | February 19-23, 2019 | February 1, 2019 | February 6, 2019 |
| **Part III | June 6, 2018 | April 2, 2018 | May 30, 2018 |
| | December 5, 2018 | October 1, 2018 | November 28, 2018 |

State Board Deadlines Differ (Check with the State Board. A directory is listed in the Candidate Bulletin)

Expert Panel Members Needed

The National Board is continually seeking new volunteers to serve at test development and review workshops. Participants are provided travel, per diem, an honorarium and continuing education contact hours. Workshops are held in Arlington, VA or by telephone and web conference calls that are typically three-hour calls from 2:00 to 5:00 Eastern Time. Eligible persons will have completed a residency program and all three parts of the APMLE series. Please submit a CV with email contact information to nbpmeofc@aol.com.