



NBPME Reports

The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Newsletter

Test Construction

We are often asked how NBPME tests are prepared.

Part I

1. Podiatric Medical College Faculty submit questions (with accompanying references) to Thomson Prometric.
2. The items are reviewed by a panel of practicing podiatric physicians:
 - A. For clarity and a reference check.
 - B. Where does the item appear on the content outline?
 - C. What is the relationship between the item and the tasks performed by a DPM at entry level?
 - D. Priority-Is it high, medium, or low?
 - E. Estimated difficulty-Is it easy, medium, or hard?
3. The questions (items) also are reviewed by a content specialist in one of the basic sciences for accuracy and currency. This individual is a medical school faculty member.
4. Thomson Prometric assembles the test from approved questions according to the content specification.

Part II

1. Podiatric Medical College Faculty submit questions (with references).
2. The pool of questions (items) are reviewed by a panel of practicing podiatric physicians:
 - A. For clarity and a reference check.
 - B. Where does the item appear on the content outline?
 - C. What is the relationship between the item and the tasks performed by a DPM at entry level?
 - D. Priority-Is it high, medium, or low?
 - E. Estimated difficulty-Is it easy, medium, or hard?
3. Thomson Prometric assembles the test from approved questions according to the content specification. These test questions are reviewed again by a different panel of practicing podiatric physicians.

Part III

The process is similar except the items are written by a panel of DPM practitioners with item writing experience. A second panel of DPM's review the pool of items while a third panel reviews the assembled test.

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Test Construction-Continued

After each of our tests is administered, if the item analysis indicates some difficulty, the item is again reviewed by a content specialist. If the item is correct, accurate and keyed correctly, it remains a scored item. If the item has more than one possible answer, all candidates are given credit. The items are now scored prior to the establishment of the passing score (cut score). The passing score is based on the recommendations to NBPME by a panel of practicing podiatric physicians as to the level of exam content mastery necessary for minimally competent practice.

Search for a Testing Vendor

NBPME conducted a national search for a testing vendor for a new five-year contract to begin July 1, 2006. The outline of that process was as follows:

April 28, 2005	Request for Proposal (RFP) submitted to approximately 15 vendors
May 14, 2005	Vendors submitted questions which were raised by the RFP
May 21, 2005	Responses to 38 questions submitted to all interested vendors
May 23, 2005	Vendors indicated whether they intended to bid
June 22, 2005	Proposals were submitted to the Board office
July 10, 2005	Committee met to review the proposals and to select the finalists for further consideration
July 12, 2005	Vendors were mailed a series of individually-tailored questions with responses due July 27
August 5, 2005	Committee met with the vendors and received additional information
August 6, 2005	Request was made of one vendor to provide some additional information based on statements made by vendor representatives during August 5 meeting
August 28, 2005	The Board selected Thomson Prometric

Thomson Prometric is a global leader in technology enabled testing and assessment services for academic, professional, government, corporate and information technology markets. Thomson Prometric delivers standardized tests for 300 clients, in 26 languages, over the Web or through a global network of testing centers in 134 countries. Based in Baltimore, Maryland, Thomson Prometric employs 3,000 employees worldwide.

Thomson has a sufficient number of testing centers to allow a return to computer-based administration for Parts I and II in 2007. Furthermore, Thomson has offered to provide a cut score workshop for Deans and item writing workshops for college faculty to facilitate a better understanding of our test development process.

Job (Practice) Analysis

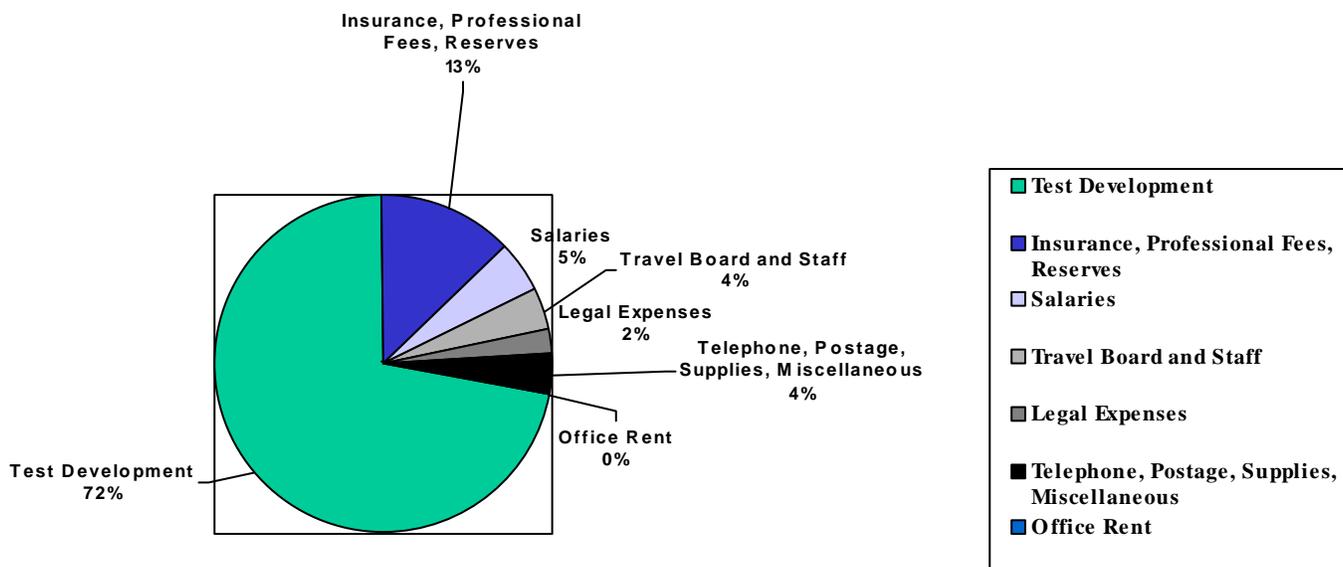
The content outlines for our Parts I, II and III examinations are based on the tasks performed by podiatric physicians. That task survey was completed in 2000. In January, 2006 NBPME and Thomson Prometric began another analysis which will be completed by August, 2006. We expect that the results will change the content tested in our three examinations. Since Parts I, II and III are licensing examinations, the content to be tested must be based on what a DPM does in practice. The practice analysis ensures the validity of our examinations.

NBPME Budget for 2006-07

At its March 25th Mid-Winter Meeting the Board approved the annual budget for the year beginning in July, 2006. Since 2003, the application fee for each of the three examinations remains at \$900.

NBPME 2006-07 Budget

1. Income-100% from Examination fees for Part I, II, II
2. Expenses
 - Test Development-72%
 - Insurance, Professional fees, Reserves-13%
 - Salaries-5%
 - Travel Board and Staff-4%
 - Legal Expenses-2%
 - Telephone, Postage, Supplies, Miscellaneous-4%
 - Office Rent-0%



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