



NBME®

Changes to IFOM Scores and Content Categorizations: January 1, 2019

Change to Format for Reporting Total Test Scores

Beginning with exam administrations on January 1, 2019, the NBME will be reporting scores for the International Foundations of Medicine® (IFOM®) Basic and Clinical Science Examinations on a new score scale. The score scale will be changed to report equated percent correct scores instead of standard scores. The new equated percent correct scores can be compared across test administrations and examinees over time.

- The new format will make the scores easier to interpret than the current format, thereby enhancing the usefulness of the IFOM score reports.
- The IFOM score interpretation guidelines, provided to institutions and examinees, will include score conversion tables to enable comparisons between scores from prior IFOM administrations (reported using a standard score) and scores from administrations occurring after January 1, 2019 (reporting total test scores as equated percent correct scores).
- We will also include with the score reports a separate, downloadable Excel file that will enable schools to easily convert any prior standard scores to the new equated percent correct scores.
- Note to IFOM Clinical Science Self-Assessment users: The self-assessment score will not be given as an equated percent correct score, but the self-assessment score interpretation guide will provide a table that allows the examinee to look up the equivalent equated percent correct score. Scores on self-assessments taken prior to this change (i.e., 2018 and before) cannot be compared to self-assessment scores received in 2019 and after.

Changes to Content Categorizations

In addition, the content categorizations on the IFOM Basic and Clinical Science Examinations and the IFOM Clinical Science Self-Assessment have been slightly changed and reorganized. The content category titles on the score reports have also been modified to reflect these changes.

- The content of both exams remains largely unchanged, although, over time, the exams could have slight shifts of emphasis across organ systems based on the reorganization of content.
- IFOM examinations that were built with the previous content categories and new forms built with the new categories are still equivalent, so it will be possible to compare performance across these forms.
- However, please note: The score reports from test administrations that occur through December 31, 2018 will differ, as described above (different method for reporting total test score, different content categories), compared to test administrations that occur on January 1, 2019 or later.

Coming Soon: New content outlines and sample score reports that reflect these changes will be available on <https://www.nbme.org/ifom/> by January 1, 2019.

Questions? Please contact us at ifom@nbme.org with any questions or concerns about these changes.