

# ITEM WRITING WORKSHOPS

*Available Globally*



# NBME®

[www.nbme.org](http://www.nbme.org)

## **CONSTRUCT BETTER QUALITY MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME®) has been developing test items (questions) and examinations for licensure and other assessment purposes since 1915. NBME staff are internationally recognized experts in the field of test development, psychometrics and medical education research. For over 20 years, members of NBME's professional test development staff have served as a resource to medical school faculty wishing to improve their item-writing techniques. The NBME is pleased to offer workshops to help faculty enhance the quality of their items for use in their own examinations and programs.

NBME staff will plan and facilitate a workshop to meet a medical school's individual needs. Workshops are available globally on a year-round basis and can take place in your own school.

## **WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS**

- Participants will benefit from a thorough review of item-writing guidelines and engage in a dynamic item-writing session.
- New item writers will learn to write, review, and refine test items with a focus on one-best-answer formats.
- Experienced item writers will find this a useful refresher course and an opportunity to learn new skills.
- Participants from different disciplines can participate in the same workshop, promoting valuable cross-discipline and collegial exchange.
- Participants will write items in teams and provide feedback within and across teams.
- Participants will be provided with examples of "good" and "bad" basic and clinical science test items.

## **SPECIAL TOPICS**

- Eliminating technical item flaws
- Avoiding clues that benefit test wise examinees
- Recognizing irrelevant item difficulty
- Writing items that focus on application of knowledge versus recall of isolated facts
- Writing clinical vignettes
- Writing items that integrate basic science knowledge and clinical application

## **BENEFITS**

- Participants can use the items developed in the workshop in their own tests and programs.
- Participants take home the NBME item-writing guide, *Constructing Written Questions for the Basic and Clinical Sciences*.
- Participants learn techniques that can improve their item-writing efficiency and increase the quality and number of items they write.
- Participants learn techniques that can be applied to other types of exams.

## **ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

The NBME can also provide guidance in other important test development areas:

- Interpretation of item analysis results
- Examination planning and blueprinting
- Setting pass/fail standards
- Organizing a group to write items

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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