

NBME Basic Science Exams Timing & Score Scale - Change Now Effective

The time allocated to complete each item (item pacing) and the total time allotted to complete each exam for the Basic Science subject examinations has increased and the score scale has been changed. The time per item now corresponds to the time allocated to complete each item on USMLE Step 1. [See chart](#) for timing changes. The number of items on the Basic Science subject examinations has not changed.

New Score Scale, Reporting Changes, Exam Fees and More	
The New Equated Percent Correct Score Scale	<p>Similar to the rescaling of the Pathology exam, the new score scale for all Basic Science examinations except the Histology exam is now an equated percent correct score. This new score reflects an examinee's mastery of the content domain, calculated as a percentage of items in the total content domain that would be answered correctly based on an examinee's proficiency level. The scores are equated across test administrations and are statistically adjusted for variations in difficulty across examination forms. Consequently, these scores can be used to compare and track school and examinee performances over time.</p> <p>Similar to the old scores, the new equated percent correct scores will retain the usefulness of the previous subject examination scores as a tool for comparing the performance of a school's examinees with that of a large, nationally representative group taking the examination as an end-of-clerkship assessment.</p>
Score Feedback	<p>All current score feedback will continue to be provided; the content and format of the feedback will remain the same, but has been updated to reflect the new equated percent correct score scale (except for the Histology exam which is not being rescaled at this time). Updated and new score feedback will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score Interpretation Guide • Roster of Equated Percent Correct Scores and Descriptive Statistics • National norms translated to the new score scale • Content Area Detailed and Summary Item Analysis Reports • Examinee and School Performance Profiles • Approximate Score Equivalents from the old scaled score to the new equated percent correct score scale <p>Schools that received interim percent correct scores for the Pharmacology and Biochemistry exams in 2016 will now have equated percent correct score feedback posted to the NBME Services Portal (NSP). All previously posted interim percent rosters will remain on NSP.</p> <p>Note: Scaled scores will continue to be reported for the Histology exam.</p>

Exam Fees	The fees for all Basic Science subject examinations will remain the same.
Questions	For specific questions about this rescaling and score scale change, please contact us at subjectexams@nbme.org .

Please forward this notification to faculty or staff responsible for placing orders and administering examinations.

**Medical School Services | National Board of Medical
Examiners**

Send questions or comments to medicalschoolservices@nbme.org