



NBME ITEM-WRITING WORKSHOP

The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME®) is pleased to offer workshops to help medical school faculty and other health profession organizations enhance the quality of their multiple-choice questions (MCQs) for use on their own examinations and programs. NBME staff will plan and facilitate a workshop specific to the needs of your school or assessment body, tailoring examples and exercises to align with your healthcare discipline(s).

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Learn methods that promote versatility in MCQ writing and use
- Distinguish MCQs requiring simple recall from those requiring critical thinking and application of knowledge
- Identify and correct common MCQ flaws, including irrelevant difficulty and clues that benefit test-wise examinees
- Review and write MCQs that focus on application of knowledge and cover topic areas in both clinical and foundational sciences

BENEFITS

- New writers will learn to write, review, and refine MCQs in single-best-answer formats.
- Experienced writers will benefit from a useful refresher course and an opportunity to learn new skills.
- All participants will learn techniques to improve their question-writing efficiency and increase the quality and number of questions they write.
- Participants from different disciplines and backgrounds can participate in the same workshop, promoting valuable cross-discipline and collegial exchange.
- Participants take home the NBME writing guide, *Constructing Written Questions for the Basic and Clinical Sciences*.
- Participants will be provided with examples of “optimal” and “flawed” MCQs.
- Participants will receive feedback during the workshop from peers and NBME staff.

ABOUT NBME

NBME has been developing test items (questions) and examinations for licensure and other assessment purposes since 1915. NBME staff includes internationally recognized experts in the field of test development, psychometrics, and medical education research. For over 25 years, members of NBME’s professional test development team have served as a resource to faculty at medical schools and other health profession organizations wishing to improve their item-writing techniques.



WORKSHOP OPTIONS

IN-PERSON

- One NBME staff member will conduct a 3.5 to 4-hour workshop in person for up to 25 participants; each increment of 25 participants will require an additional staff facilitator at an additional cost
- System requirements: LCD overhead projector with HDMI connection, high-speed Internet, microphone/speaker system
- Fixed cost for domestic workshops
- Fixed cost plus travel expenses for international workshops
- PowerPoint slide deck can be translated into language of choice
- Presentation will be conducted in English; customer is responsible for providing interpreter for translation, if needed

Best for...

- New item writers
- Collaboration and networking
- In-depth dialogue and real-time feedback from experienced NBME staff

REMOTE

- One NBME staff will conduct a 2 to 2½-hour workshop via video conferencing software with participants
- System requirements: LCD overhead projector with HDMI connection, high-speed Internet, audiovisual system with ability to connect to WebEx
- NBME recommends asking participants to submit 1 item per person in advance of the workshop to review with the group in place of the review and rewrite exercise (please note, we will attempt to facilitate a discussion on as many items as possible but cannot guarantee review of all items)

Best for...

- Refresher course for experienced item writers
- Multiple satellite campuses
- Budgetary or deadline constraints that might preclude travel or advanced notice for scheduling