

# USING NBME<sup>®</sup> INSIGHTS<sup>SM</sup> TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

Expert Advice from the Medical Education Learning Specialists (MELS) group



## The challenges of using assessment data

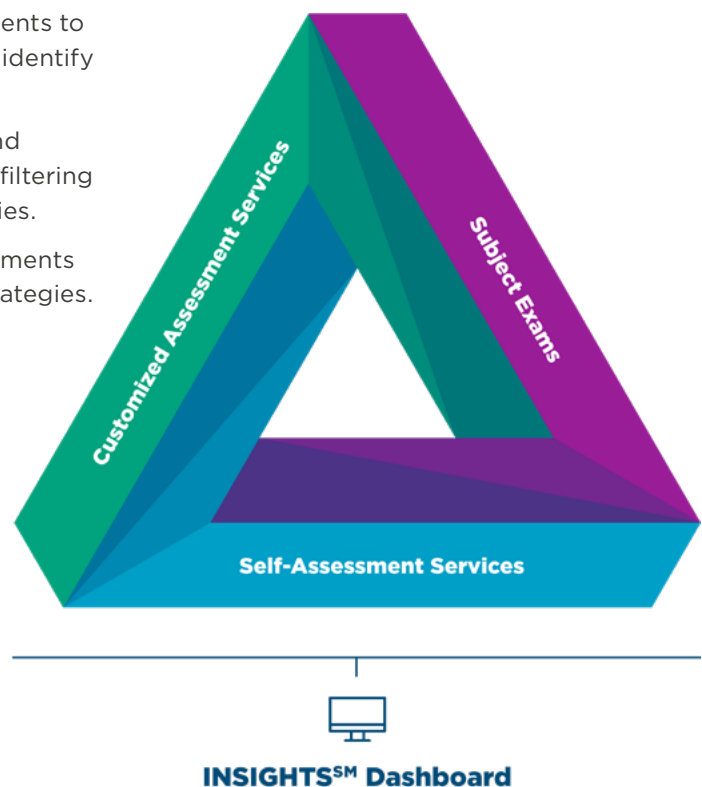
Using assessment data to support student learning presents several challenges for educators. Many students struggle to translate scores into actionable steps for improvement. Lower-performing students often find themselves overwhelmed, unsure of where to focus their efforts when confronted with consistently low scores across multiple areas, and the task of efficiently managing study time while addressing weaknesses can be daunting, especially when weaknesses are not clearly identified.

## The opportunities INSIGHTS dashboard offers

NBME INSIGHTS dashboard is an interactive dashboard that enables examinees to access all of their NBME Subject Exam, Self-Assessment and Customized Assessment Services (CAS) results in one place. This comprehensive view offers students and educators a wealth of actionable feedback that enhances learning.

It is also a robust tool that addresses many of the above challenges, and since its launch, MELS members have been exploring how to best use it to support their students' learning.

- ▶ By providing centralized exam results, it helps students to dig deeper into their performance and more easily identify areas for improvement.
- ▶ Its ability to offer finer assessments of strengths and weaknesses with the use of flagged content areas, filtering and sorting allows for more targeted study strategies.
- ▶ Inclusion of time spent per question on Self Assessments provides valuable information about test-taking strategies.



# FOSTERING THE USE OF ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

Students have historically used NBME Self-Assessments to prepare for a USMLE® exam or an NBME Clinical Science Subject Exam. But with INSIGHTS, Self-Assessments can help create a picture of progress across the learning journey, and the students with whom MELS works have seen the value in taking practice tests after periods of studying. By using INSIGHTS data, they know what content and tasks to address. It also helps educators gain a better understanding of where students are on their path to mastery and what kind of support they may need.

## Tips for educators when using the INSIGHTS dashboard

- ▶ Encourage students to explore INSIGHTS and its functionality so they become more comfortable using it.
- ▶ The sort and filter functions are powerful tools that can help students better understand their performance. Help students experiment with different filters to determine where they need to focus their studies.
- ▶ Identify the information a learning specialist would consider important indicators of performance so students can become adept at pulling out the data pieces they need. For example, look at multiple forms to more easily identify patterns.
- ▶ Students can export their data to share it with a learning specialist or faculty member, so they can look at the data, analyze patterns and give them feedback.

## Maximizing study time

### Identify strengths and weaknesses

By using INSIGHTS to regularly assess their strengths and weaknesses, students can target their studies, direct their own learning and better prepare themselves not just for future exams, but for residency.

### Target studies appropriately

Higher performing students can focus their efforts rather than conducting a broader review. Lower performing students can prioritize the flagged areas that make up large parts of the test, then slowly address other areas with additional practice tests.

### Look for patterns

Students and educators can use the longitudinal data to identify patterns across topics, tasks and forms as well as across different exam types or even in test-taking strategies, all of which can inform a more detailed study plan.

**Interested in learning more about using INSIGHTS  
to support your students?**