



NBME[®]

National Board of Medical Examiners

Customized Assessment Services System Requirements for Test Construction Activities

Hardware	PC with Intel P3 1GHz or higher processor
Operating System	Microsoft Windows XP, Vista Note: <i>The test construction system is optimized for use with a PC. Macs may be used, but some navigation elements may not work properly.</i>
Browser	Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6.0 or higher. Do not use beta versions. <i>Other browsers are not supported.</i>
Browser Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ JavaScript enabled▪ Cookies enabled▪ CSS enabled▪ Popups enabled
Internet Connection	Broadband (DSL, Cable, or T1)
Monitor	17" or larger color monitor
Resolution	1024 x 768
Color Setting	32-bit or better
Other	Adobe [®] Flash Player 9.0 or higher RSA Secure ID authentication key (provided by the NBME)

Customized Assessment Services

Standard NBME Web-based Testing Requirements

The standard NBME web-based testing requirements outlined below apply to exams delivered over both wired *and* wireless networks. Examinees may use personal laptops, either Macs or PCs, to take an exam.

Dedicated technical support staff is required prior to and on the test day(s).		
	Windows	Mac OS
Hardware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PC with Intel Pentium 3 1GHz or higher processor ▪ Windows 7, Windows Vista, Windows XP, or Windows 2000 ▪ 512MB of Memory or higher ▪ 17" or larger color monitor recommended ▪ 1024x768 display with 32-bit color setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPC or Intel Mac ▪ Mac OS X 10.3.9 or higher ▪ 512MB of Memory or higher ▪ 17" or larger color monitor recommended ▪ 1024x768 display with 32-bit color setting
Browser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher - do not use beta versions. Other browsers are not supported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safari 1.3.2 or higher - do not use beta versions. Other browsers are not supported.
Browser Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JavaScript enabled ▪ Cookies enabled ▪ CSS enabled 	
Internet Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broadband Internet connection (DSL, Cable or T1) ▪ Network bandwidth of 256Kbps or higher per computer (including Internet access) ▪ Disable Adware/Spyware programs, if possible, to prevent slowness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broadband Internet connection (DSL, Cable or T1) ▪ Network bandwidth of 256Kbps or higher per computer (including Internet access)
Security	<p>Some level of encryption must be in place on the wireless network while the exam is in progress. SSL can be supplemented with another security protocol, such as but not limited to WEP, WPA or WPA2.</p>	
Workstation Certification <i>For exam rooms with fixed workstations and laptops owned by the institution:</i> NBME provides an automated certification utility that checks the workstation. This must be run on every workstation/institutional laptop prior to the test date, including the Chief Proctor's computer.	<p>This process checks that the browser settings listed above are correct and launches a sample test. 14 days prior to the test date the technical resource person charged with configuring the workstations for web-based testing will receive an e-mail with a URL, unique ticket number, and instructions to run the workstation utility on each workstation in the testing room or on any institutional laptops to be used for delivering the exam. The system will return a pass or fail result on each machine and provide instructions for correcting any problems.</p>	

STANDARD NBME WEB-BASED TESTING REQUIREMENTS (CONT'D)

	Windows	Mac OS
The Secure Browser	<p>A secure browser is required to administer an NBME web-based exam. It “locks down” the computer, preventing the examinee from accessing applications such as email or notepad. It also includes a function that detects any applications and programs that may be running on workstations or examinee personal laptops. It will temporarily pause or suspend any computer applications or unauthorized programs that should not be running during the testing session.</p> <p>The secure browser application <i>does not require configuration or administrator rights</i> to install and is downloaded on test day when the examinee URL is provided by the proctor. This URL is:</p> <p>http://examinee.nbme.org/wbtexam</p> <p><i>Advise examinees to arrive 30 minutes prior to the exam start time to download the secure browser and re-run the system check. Those with personal laptops should also be advised to arrive early to detect any problems with the local firewall.</i></p>	
Extra workstations/laptops	<p>It is also advisable to have extra workstations or institutional laptops available as back-ups in case of hardware failure on test day.</p>	