# Standard NBME Web-Based Testing Requirements

The standard NBME web-based testing requirements apply to exams delivered over both wired *and* wireless networks. Any combination of fixed desktops, institutional laptops, and examinee personal laptops may be used for exam delivery.

| **Dedicated technical support staff with "Admin" privileges is required prior to and on the test days.** | |
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| **Windows and Mac OS (Operating System†)** | • Windows 11[1]<br>• Mac OS version 13 or higher[1]<br>• 1 GHz processor or higher<br>• 17" or larger color monitor recommended (Desktops)<br>• 13" or larger color monitor recommended (Laptops)<br>• A minimum screen resolution of 1024 x 768<br>• 32-bit color setting enabled<br>• Turn off Windows, virus scanner, and Citrix Workspace updates to avoid interruptions during the exam<br>• Virtual machines and applications are not allowed<br>• ASUS Laptops with touchpad/touchscreen are not allowed |
| **Browser†** | • Edge[2]<br>• Google Chrome[2]<br>• Mozilla Firefox[2]<br>• Safari 16 or higher[1] |
| **Browser Settings** | • JavaScript, CSS, Cookies and Pop-ups all enabled<br>• If possible, disable toolbars and Adware/Spyware programs to prevent slowness.<br>• TLS 1.2 or higher |
| **Apple iOS (iPad)** | • Operating System: iOS 16 or higher[1]<br>• Visit the App Store to download the "NBME Exam Delivery" app<br>• Device: iPad 9th generation or newer, iPad Air 4 or newer, iPad Pro 11 3rd generation or newer, iPad Pro 12.9 5th generation or newer, or iPad mini 6 or newer<br>• Web-based Testing on iPads is allowed only for NBME Subject Exams, International Foundations of Medicine® (IFOM), and Customized Assessment Services (Proctored and Practice) exams.<br>• **Not Supported**<br>– Self-Assessment exams, In-Training/In-Service exams<br>– Remote testing on iPad devices<br>– Android tablets |
| **Internet/Network Bandwidth** | • Broadband (Fiber, DSL, or Cable). For best results, candidates and testing locations should use a broadband connection with a minimum download speed of 25 Mbps and upload speed of 5 Mbps. You should use the NBME Site Readiness link found in the * Chief Proctor Manual to confirm your download and upload speeds. |
| **Network Security** | • If examinees are using a wireless network (Wi-Fi) for testing, they should consult their local technical administrator to ensure their network adheres to best practices for wireless network design. We recommend wireless access points that support at least 802.11ac, use WPA2 encryption, and provide a 100BASE-T uplink to the local area network. |
| **Secure Browser (Windows and Mac OS)** | • A Secure Browser is required to administer an NBME web-based exam; this application "locks down" the computer and prevents examinees from accessing other software |

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| | applications during the exam. The Secure Browser will also detect any programs running on the examinee's computer that could compromise exam content. |
| **Workstation Certification for Institution-owned Computers*** | • The NBME provides a utility that checks the computer for web-based testing compatibility and launches a sample test. This utility must be run on each computer in the testing room prior to test day. Fourteen days prior to the test date, you will receive an email with a URL, a unique ticket number and instructions to run the Workstation Certification utility. Do not forward this email to examinees – it is for institutional use only. |
| **Workstation Certification for Examinee-owned Laptops*** | • Examinees with personal laptops are required to run a separate Workstation Certification check. Prior to test day, forward the URL and Workstation Certification instructions from the 'Prior to Test Day' section of the Chief Proctor's Manual to examinees. Do not send examinees the unique ticket number used for the institutional version of the utility.<br><br>• Examinees with personal laptops should also be advised to arrive early to re-run Workstation Certification to detect any problems with the local firewall. |
| **Additional Computers** | • Additional computers should be available to replace devices that may malfunction during the test session. These spares should be enabled for wired and wireless LAN use. |

[1] **Versioning policy:** Minimum versions are shown by major release. NBME supports the latest available minor/patch version of each listed major version and any newer major versions, unless otherwise specified.

[2]Edge, Chrome and Firefox support is limited to the current version plus one previous version due to forced automatic updates.

†NBME does not support the use of other browsers and operating systems. Other browsers and operating systems have not been tested for their compatibility, and some features may not work as expected. NBME is not responsible for any system issues that are related to the use of unsupported browsers or operating systems.

*** Review the Chief Proctor Instructions for additional details regarding Workstation Certification.**