



Common Questions about NBME[®] CCSE Score Report Changes

For Educators

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COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL SCIENCE EXAM (CCSE)

COMMON QUESTIONS

What is changing on the CCSE score reports?

Score Reports for Examinees

For each content area, the Examinee Performance Report will include an equated percent correct (EPC) score, the average EPC score for a USMLE® Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) comparison group, and boxes indicating whether performance was lower, the same, or higher in relation to the comparison group. The boxes indicating whether content area performance was lower, the same, or higher than one's overall performance are going away.

In addition, the report will show the student's estimated probability of passing the Step 2 CK exam if they take it within one week of their CCSE (i.e., with a similar level of knowledge as when they took CCSE). This estimated probability will be calculated based on a large group of students who tested within one week of taking Step 2 CK for the first time. Of course, many factors may impact performance on Step 2 CK and the estimated probability is not a guarantee of future Step 2 CK performance.

There will be an additional score report for each student showing the content description of each question, whether the student's response was correct or incorrect, and the percentage of students nationally who answered the question correctly.

What's not changing?

- Overall performance will still be reported as a 3-digit score. This score represents estimated performance on Step 2 CK if a student had taken it under the same conditions and with the same level of knowledge as when taking CCSE. Please remember that estimated performance based on taking CCSE is not a guarantee of future performance on Step 2 CK. Many factors may result in a Step 2 CK score that is higher or lower.
- There will still be a histogram depicting overall performance. It will show the distribution of Step 2 CK scores for a national comparison group, with lines indicating the student's specific score and the low-pass range for Step 2 CK, which corresponds to performance that is above but near the minimum passing score. The average Step 2 CK score for the comparison group will also be indicated.
- All content areas are staying the same. The percentage of the test comprised by each content area will continue being reported.
- The boxes indicating whether performance was lower, the same (average), or higher in relation to a Step 2 CK comparison group will still be provided.

The new EPC scores that will be reported for each content area can help provide more detail about areas of strength and weakness, and the boxes that will continue being reported are designed to help students interpret their results as accurately as possible.

Score Reports for Schools

What else will change?

Several enhancements requested by customers will be implemented:

- Refined explanations will be provided across reports, making it easier to understand how to use each result. The name of some reports will be updated for clarity.

- The “Content Area Item Analysis Summary Report” will be renamed to “Content Area Report.” For each content area, it will display the average EPC score and standard deviation for the current administration, the Step 2 CK comparison group average EPC score and standard deviation, the difference in the two averages, and the percentage of items on the test that contribute to the content area (as a range).
- The “Content Area Item Analysis Report” will be renamed to “Item Analysis Report” and continue providing the same item-level results. A downloadable text file with the same information will also be available.
- Schools will receive an additional downloadable text file displaying the content description of each question, each student’s response (correct or incorrect), and the percentage of students nationally who answered the question correctly.
- The Roster Report is staying the same. The downloadable roster text file will be updated to show each student’s content area EPC scores in addition to overall scores.
- The School Summary Profile Report, which shows a visual summary of group-level performance using profile bands, will be discontinued.

A key advantage of content area EPC scores is that they are comparable regardless of which CCSE form students take, supporting more accurate comparisons of content area performance over time and across groups. The content area p-values provided on the current Content Area Item Analysis Summary Report are not directly comparable across forms.

When will the new CCSE score reports be released?

The new score reports will be released on December 5, 2022.

Will CCSEs still report a 3-digit score?

Yes, the 3-digit score corresponding to the USMLE Step 2 CK score scale will be reported because Step 2 CK numeric scores are still reported.

What does equated mean?

Equating is a statistical procedure that adjusts scores for slight variations in exam form difficulty so all scores are comparable regardless of which exam form is taken. Both the 3-digit score and EPC scores on CCSE reports are equated.

What are the benefits of an equated percent correct score?

Equated percent correct scores tell you how much of the content your students mastered using the familiar 0-100 scale so you can easily understand their performance, including areas of strength and weakness.

How does equated percent correct differ from classic percent correct?

Equated percent correct scores are statistically adjusted to account for slight variations in exam form difficulty, so they can support more accurate comparisons than unadjusted percent correct scores.