

COMPREHENSIVE BASIC SCIENCE SELF-ASSESSMENT (CBSSA) GAUGING READINESS FOR USMLE® STEP 1



CBSSA results can be used in conjunction with other information to assess readiness for the United States Medical Licensing Examination® Step 1, especially when the self-assessment is taken in conditions that mirror a Step 1 administration (e.g., standard-paced format, testing in one sitting with brief breaks between blocks). When making decisions about readiness, it is important to consider each of the following:

1. Your total equated percent correct score, indicating the percentage of the content you have mastered on a 0-100 scale. CBSSA scores are statistically adjusted (equated) to account for slight variations in exam form difficulty, allowing you to accurately track progress if taking more than one CBSSA.

2. The location of your CBSSA likely score range in relation to the Step 1 low-pass range. The CBSSA likely score range shows how much your score could vary if you tested again without learning or forgetting. Under those conditions, your score would fall within 4 points of the reported score two-thirds of the time (it could be 4 points lower or higher). The Step 1 low-pass range represents performance that is above but near the passing standard. In other words, performance that is sufficient to pass Step 1, but only by a small margin. Any overlap between your CBSSA likely score range and the Step 1 low-pass range should warrant extra caution.

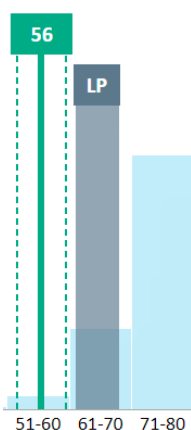
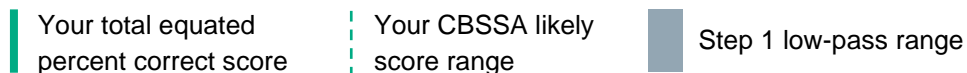
3. Your estimated probability of passing Step 1 within a week, which ranges from 1% to 99% and is calculated using a statistical model based on a large group of examinees who tested within one week before taking Step 1 for the first time. This probability should be considered along with the other results on page 1 described above when deciding whether you are ready to take Step 1.

Please see the next page for guidance on specific scenarios.

KEEP IN MIND

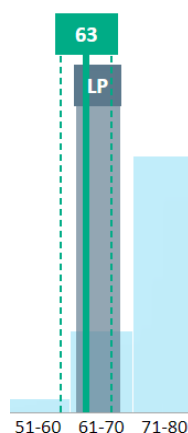
- A 90% probability of passing Step 1 within a week still means that 1 out of 10 students with the same level of performance will fail based on the predictive model.
- The probability is not the same as the percentage of the content mastered. A 90% probability of passing Step 1 is not the same as having mastered 90% of the content.
- Your probability of passing may be different if CBSSA is taken more than a week before Step 1 because there is a greater chance for additional learning to occur or for material to be forgotten.
- Since many factors (e.g., changing levels of knowledge) may impact performance on Step 1, your estimated probability is not a guarantee of your future Step 1 performance.

GUIDANCE BY SCENARIO



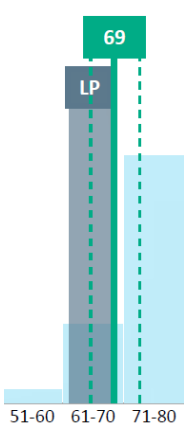
If your CBSSA likely score range is completely below the Step 1 low-pass range, you are at risk of failing Step 1.

Additional preparation is strongly recommended.



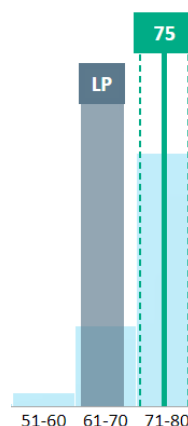
If your CBSSA likely score range is partly below the Step 1 low-pass range, your CBSSA performance is borderline. It is unclear whether your level of performance falls below or within the Step 1 low-pass range.

You may still be at risk of failing Step 1, and additional preparation is strongly recommended.



If your CBSSA likely score range is partly within and partly above the Step 1 low-pass range, your level of performance is still close to the minimum performance level required to pass Step 1.

Additional preparation may be recommended.*



If your CBSSA likely score range is completely above the Step 1 low-pass range, you are likely ready to take Step 1.

Please remember that CBSSA performance is not a guarantee of future Step 1 performance because many factors (e.g., changing levels of knowledge) may impact your performance on Step 1.

*Additional preparation is typically recommended for students scoring within the Step 1 low-pass range. In a scenario like the one above, consider your CBSSA trajectory and other indicators available. Performance that is partly within and partly above the Step 1 low-pass range on two or more CBSSAs provides more reassurance of readiness than a single instance of performance in that portion of the score scale.

IN SUMMARY

All results on page 1 of the CBSSA Examinee Performance Report are important and should be considered together when assessing readiness for Step 1. The content area results on the subsequent pages can be used to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional CBSSA resources are available at <https://www.nbme.org/examinees/nbme-self-assessments/comprehensive-basic-science-self-assessment>.