

**COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL SCIENCE SELF-ASSESSMENT (CCSSA)  
AND COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL SCIENCE EXAMINATION (CCSE)  
GAUGING READINESS FOR USMLE® STEP 2**



CCSSA and CCSE results can be used in conjunction with other information to gauge readiness for the United States Medical Licensing Examination® Step 2 CK, especially when the assessments are taken in conditions that mirror your Step 2 CK administration (e.g., testing in one sitting, not consulting resources while testing). When making decisions about readiness, it is important to consider each of the following:

**1. Your total CCSSA/CCSE score**, representing an estimate of your performance on Step 2 CK if you had taken both exams with the same level of knowledge and under the same conditions. CCSSA and CCSE 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 CCSSA/CCSE. The CCSSA/CCSE total scores are provided on the same 1-300 scale as Step 2 CK scores.

**2. The location of your CCSSA/CCSE likely score range in relation to the Step 2 CK low-pass range.** The CCSSA/CCSE likely score range shows how much your score could vary if you tested again without learning or forgetting any information. Under those conditions, your score would fall within 8 points of the reported score two-thirds of the time (it could be 8 points lower or higher). The Step 2 CK low-pass range represents performance above but near the passing standard, or performance sufficient to pass Step 2 CK, but only by a small margin. →Any overlap between your likely score range and the Step 2 CK low-pass range should warrant extra caution. ←

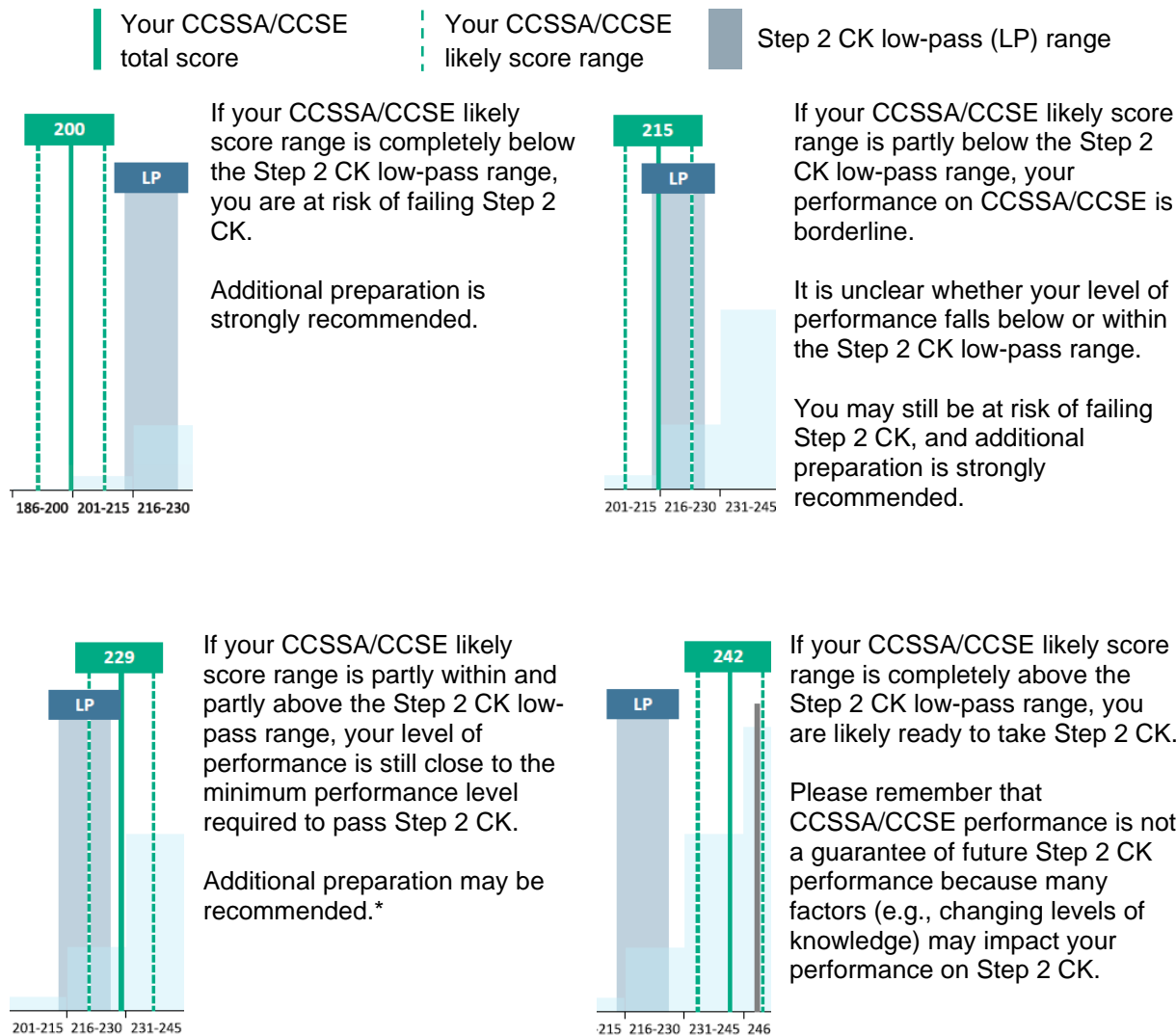
**3. Your estimated probability of passing Step 2 CK within a week**, which ranges from 1% to 99%. This probability is calculated using a statistical model based on a large group of examinees who tested within one week before taking Step 2 CK for the first time. This estimated probability should be considered along with the other results and information in the Examinee Performance Report when evaluating readiness for Step 2 CK.

**Please see the next page for guidance on specific scenarios.**

## **KEEP IN MIND**

- A 90% estimated probability of passing Step 2 CK within a week still means that 1 out of 10 students with the same level of performance will fail the test.
- The estimated probability is not the same as the percentage of the content mastered. A 90% estimated probability of passing Step 2 CK is not the same as having mastered 90% of the content.
- Your estimated probability of passing may be different if CCSSA/CCSE is taken more than a week before Step 2 CK because there is a greater chance for additional learning to occur or for material to be forgotten. Similarly, if you take CCSSA/CCSE under conditions that differ from the conditions under which you will be taking Step 2 CK (e.g., you used self-paced timing on CCSSA or consulted resources while testing), or if you take the same CCSSA/CCSE more than once, the estimated probability and other results will not be as reliable in helping you evaluate your readiness to take Step 2 CK.
- The estimated probabilities are based on a model that is updated annually. The date of the latest update is provided in the Examinee Performance Report.
- Since many factors (e.g., changing levels of knowledge) may impact performance on Step 2 CK, your estimated probability is not a guarantee of your future Step 2 CK performance.

## GUIDANCE BY SCENARIO



\*Additional preparation is typically recommended for students scoring within the Step 2 CK low-pass range. In a scenario like the one above, consider your CCSSA/CCSE trajectory and other indicators available. Performance that is partly within and partly above the Step 2 CK low-pass range on two or more CCSSAs/CCSEs may provide more reassurance of readiness than a single instance of performance in that portion of the score scale.

## IN SUMMARY

All results presented in the CCSSA/CCSE Examinee Performance Report and INSIGHTS<sup>SM</sup> dashboard are important and should be considered together when assessing readiness for Step 2 CK.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional resources are available at <https://www.nbme.org/examinees/nbme-self-assessments/comprehensive-clinical-science-self-assessment> (CCSSA) and <https://www.nbme.org/examinees/subject-exams#exam-content> (CCSE).