

NBME Academy: Interpreting Score Reports and Dashboards Course Overview Video

Mara: Hello, I'm Mara McFadden, a psychometrician at NBME.

On-screen: [Mara Sadtler, PhD. Psychometrician, NBME.]

Welcome to "From Data to Action: Interpreting Score Reports and Dashboards." Medical educators are increasingly asked to use assessment data to inform decisions about learners, courses, programs, and curricula. Score reports and dashboards are often central to those decisions. They can provide a wealth of information, including scores, benchmarks, performance categories, trends, group comparisons, and visualizations of performance over time.

At the same time, these reports can be challenging to interpret. An exam score may seem straightforward, but its meaning often depends on how it was calculated, what comparison is being made, and how much uncertainty surrounds the result. Similarly, dashboards can contain so much information that it can be difficult to sort out which assessment results are relevant or meaningful to my situation and how I should interpret them.

This course was designed to help you become a more informed user of assessment data. Whether you serve as an academic advisor, course director, clerkship director, program director, assessment leader, or faculty member, the ability to interpret assessment information accurately is an important part of supporting learners and making informed educational decisions. Throughout this course, we will focus on practical interpretation rather than statistical calculation. You will learn how to make sense of common scores and visualizations, how to recognize meaningful patterns in assessment results, and how to avoid common interpretation pitfalls. The course is organized into two modules.

In the first module, you'll build a foundation for understanding assessment data and the information that's commonly presented in score reports and dashboards. In the second module, you will apply those concepts to realistic case studies that reflect the kind of questions commonly encountered in practice. By the end of the course, my goal is that you will feel more confident navigating score reports and dashboards, evaluating the conclusions that they support, and using assessment information responsibly and effectively.

Let's get started.

On-screen: [NBME. Copyright 2026 NBME. All rights reserved]