NBME Academy: Item Analysis Module 1

Francis: Welcome to the first module of Item Analysis and Assessment Quality.

On-screen: [Francis O'Donnell, PhD. Senior Psychometrician, NBME.]

In this course, you'll learn how to calculate and interpret item statistics for multiple choice questions on an assessment and how to use them in the assessment development process. We'll explore foundational concepts that underpin effective assessment design.

We begin by focusing on the purpose and use of assessment, a critical first step in ensuring that our tools are aligned with our goals. You'll learn to describe common assessment purposes and understand why clearly specifying them is essential to meaningful item analysis.

Next, we'll delve into two key pillars of assessment quality, reliability and validity. You'll learn what it means for a test to produce consistent results and how to ensure those results are meaningful and appropriate for their intended use.

Together, these concepts provide the lens through which we'll approach item analysis for the rest of the workshop. By grounding our work in purpose, reliability, and validity, we set the stage for developing high quality and effective assessments.

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