



NBEO 2023 Changes and Announcements

Released: January 20, 2023

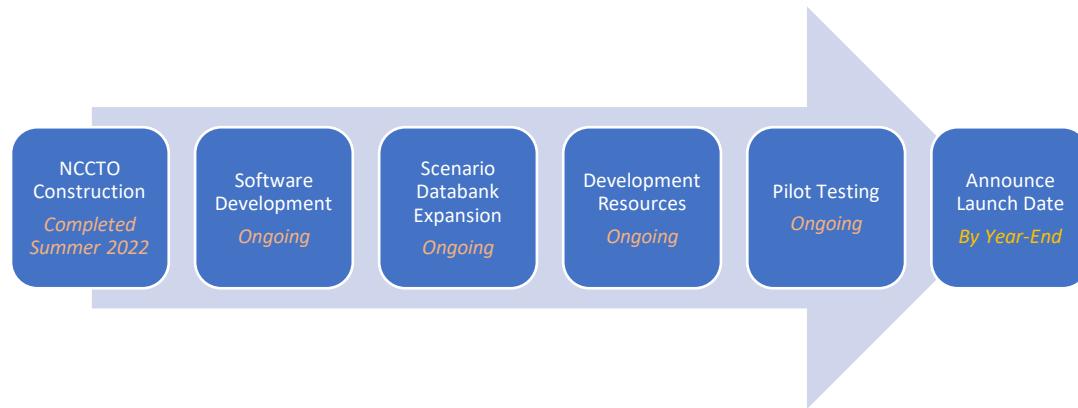
The National Board of Examiners in Optometry® (NBEO) expresses sincere appreciation to all who assisted in advancing the assessment of optometric competency in 2022. We are committed to public protection through the development, administration, scoring, and reporting of examinations that reflect contemporary optometry. As we begin 2023, please review the following key updates and organizational announcements.

New Part III PEPS Examination Launch Date Expected by Year-End

NBEO has made substantial progress towards the new Part III PEPS (Patient Encounters and Performance Skills) examination. This revised exam format will complement the Part I ABS® and Part II PAM/TMOD® (Patient Assessment & Management / Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease) exams in assessing a candidate's competency for initial licensure for the independent practice of optometry. Part III PEPS will replace the current Part III CSE® (Clinical Skills Examination) once live.

In 2022, NBEO worked with a diverse range of subject matter experts at every step of examination development. Contractors completed renovations last summer to add new examination rooms to the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO®) in preparation for the new Part III PEPS examination. Currently, we are focused on software development, expansion of our scenario databank, and pilot testing. We are excited for the continued progress in 2023 and expect to announce before the end of the year the launch date for Part III PEPS.

Part III PEPS: Current Priorities



LSPE® Registration Opens in March

There has been a steady increase in the number of candidates registering for the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE®), which is designed to assess optometric cognitive and technical ability to appropriately manage and perform laser and surgical procedures. LSPE is the only nationally standardized examination of its kind, measuring competency in laser and surgical skills, decision-making, and patient management. It is a stand-alone, elective examination containing both laser and surgical sections. Each of these sections includes a performance of clinical skills and computer-based multiple-choice items.



LSPE will be entering its fifth administrative year beginning in August 2023, with registration opening on March 29, 2023. Registration is open to 4th-year optometric students, optometric residents, and optometric practitioners. Candidates may register to take LSPE in its entirety or have the option to take the laser or surgical sections separately as needed. For more information, click [here](#) to visit the LSPE webpage.

New Part I ABS® Practice Items Databank Now Available, Part II PAM/TMOD® Practice Items Databank Expected Fall 2023*

We are excited to announce that Part I ABS candidates now have a new subscription-based, online tool to help prepare for the Part I ABS examination. This tool allows candidates access to NBEO Part I ABS items that are no longer being used. Candidates may select from items based on examination content or may complete an entire examination session (total of 185 items).

With the purchase of a one-month subscription for \$199, candidates have unlimited access to items in the Part I ABS Practice Items Databank for one month. For a discounted price of \$149, candidates may renew their subscription for one additional month at any time up until the date of that respective Part I ABS administration. Candidates may subscribe to the new Part I ABS Practice Items Databank after registering for the Part I ABS examination. Click [here](#) to learn more.

In the fall of 2023, NBEO is planning to make available a Part II PAM/TMOD Practice Items Databank to Part II PAM/TMOD candidates through the same online tool and at the same cost. More information will be provided as the date nears.

2023 Job Task Analysis Survey Extended to January 31

NBEO is in the process of conducting a Job Task Analysis. This survey helps make sure that NBEO examinations closely align with current practice, ensuring fairness for candidates and protection of the health, safety, and welfare of patients. You may have seen an email in your inbox in December seeking your feedback.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey. We have extended the deadline for completion until January 31, 2023. Please be certain to provide your input in this critical process.

Examination Fees to Increase for Exams Administered Beginning in August 2023

NBEO expenses increased substantially over the past year due to several factors, the foremost of which include Part III PEPS examination scenarios and software development, ongoing infrastructure needs, and strategic planning requirements to accommodate a growing number of examination candidates. In addition, NBEO has continued to see inflationary increases, which are affecting most businesses, including NBEO vendors. All increases in expenses must be offset by exam fees.

NBEO leadership understands that exam fees can be a challenge for many candidates and, therefore, any potential increase in fees is discussed at length during the annual, comprehensive financial review. During this latest review, it was determined that examination fees must increase for all NBEO examinations to compensate for these higher costs. The following table shows the new fees for each examination and when they will take effect.

Examination	New Fee	Applies to the following Exam Administrations
Part I ABS®	\$1380	August 2023 and March 2024
Part II PAM®	\$1380	December 2023 and April 2024
Part III CSE®	\$1380	August 2023 - July 2024
TMOD®	\$585	December 2023 and April 2024
ISE®	\$325	August 2023 - July 2024
LSPE® - Laser Section	\$1170	August 2023 - July 2024
LSPE® - Surgical Section	\$1170	August 2023 - July 2024
CPDO®	\$650	September 2023 and March 2024
ACMO®	\$1015 standard fee \$625 current optometry resident fee	June 2024
Remote OSLE®	\$35	August 2023 - July 2024
In-House OSLE®	\$130	August 2023 - July 2024

Cost increases are expected to continue for the foreseeable future, and therefore, NBEO leadership anticipates that smaller examination fee increases will continue in the years ahead. As always, future fee increases will only be determined as needed to offset expenses and maintain high-quality examinations that meet the needs of the regulatory boards.

"The NBEO remains focused on responsibly delivering the highest quality optometric examinations to fulfill our mission of serving the public and our profession while balancing organizational expenses," said NBEO Board President Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. "Clearly, achieving this balance is an ongoing challenge. NBEO's leadership will continue to work to control costs to the extent possible, however, without compromising exam quality and excellence."

Part II Patient Assessment & Management (PAM®)/ Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD®) Exam Format Changes effective December 2023

We are pleased to announce that the format for the Part II PAM/TMOD examination will be modified beginning with the December 2023 administration. There will be no changes to the content matrix, number of items, or examination time. Instead of splitting the exam into three distinct sections (full cases, solo items, and mini-cases), the full exam will be composed solely of full cases. This modification will provide for greater consistency for the candidates on test day. With the new format, there no longer will be screen background color changes that corresponded to the three sections, which will improve the uniformity of the exam display and testing experience.

More details will be forthcoming on our website.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing support, and we look forward to working with you in 2023. Questions may be sent to nbeo@optometry.org.

*NOTE: SUBSCRIPTION TO AND/OR COMPLETION OF THE PART I ABS PRACTICE ITEMS DATABANK OR PART II PAM/TMOD PRACTICE ITEMS DATABANK DOES NOT GUARANTEE A PASSING SCORE ON ANY NBEO EXAMINATION.

About NBEO — Established in 1951, NBEO is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization whose examinations are universally accepted for optometric licensure in the United States and accepted internationally. NBEO's mission is to serve the public and profession of optometry by developing, administering, scoring, and reporting results of valid examinations that assess competence.