

About the NBME

Founded in 1915, the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that serves the public through its high-quality assessments of healthcare professionals.

The NBME develops and manages the United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE). While the individual licensing boards grant the license to practice medicine, all medical boards in the US accept a passing score on the USMLE as evidence that an applicant demonstrates the core competencies to practice medicine. As a result, healthcare consumers throughout the nation enjoy a high degree of confidence that their doctors have met a common standard. The NBME and the Federation of State Medical Boards co-sponsor the USMLE, and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates® is the third collaborator in the USMLE program.

American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine (AUC) has established five Core Clerkships: Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Surgery. The NBME core examination has been chosen to serve as the end of Core Clerkship Comprehensive standard. A core clerkship will not be considered completed, nor will a student be cleared for graduation, if the NBME Core examination is not attended and passed on the established minimum score set forth by AUC.

NBME Exam Information

The NBME Core Examinations consist of 100 multiple-Choice questions. Each core examination is 1 block and is a timed 2 ½ hour examination. These examinations are also proctored tests that will be taken at various prometric centers in the United States and also internationally. The core examinations also use the same general pool of questions from which the USMLE exams are drawn. The NBME website (www.nbme.org), contains useful resources that students are encouraged to take advantage of. Descriptions and sample questions of the exams are made available on the site as well as tips on preparing for the examination and test day policies.

Exam Administration

The NBME is diligent in ensuring the exams are both secure from duplication and administered in a consistent format. Therefore a rigid protocol for ordering, administering and proctoring these exams is dictated by the NBME and must be followed. The time and date of the exam is fixed. The exam is ordered and scheduled

in advance and must be administered on the date for which they have been confirmed by the student. Once the exam is locked and the student's permit activated, an alternate exam time and/or date is not allowed. The NBME administrators require the students to bring with them their scheduling permit and the required identification described on the student's scheduling permit. Acceptable forms of identification include the following forms of unexpired identification:

- Passport,
- Driver's license with photograph
- National Identity Card

Your identification must contain both your signature and photograph. The first and last names on your identification **must exactly match** the names on your permit. The only acceptable difference would be the presence of a middle name, middle initial or suffix on one document and its absence on the other. Immediately contact AUC if the name on your permit is misspelled or differs from your name as it appears on your identification. **Name changes or corrections cannot be made within 7 business days of your scheduled testing appointment.**

Students should also note that there is no scheduled break times allowed for your exam. Please note the following:

- While you are testing, the block and overall test session clocks continue to run even if you leave the testing room, (e.g., for a personal emergency or restroom break).
- If your test has multiple blocks, you should use the time summary feature (as described in the tutorial) in the testing software to monitor how many blocks are remaining and how much time is left in your overall test session.
- If you leave during a block, the test center staff will report that fact as an irregular incident. Because there is no scheduled break time in your exam, however, these reports may not be considered unfavorably.
- The "unauthorized break" screen, as described in the tutorial, may appear on the monitor at your workstation during a testing block after a defined period of inactivity (no mouse click or key entry).
- Thirty seconds before the appearance of the unauthorized break screen, an "inactivity timeout" warning will appear. If you do not click as instructed on the warning screen, the unauthorized break screen will appear after 30 seconds. You will then have to enter your Candidate Identification Number (CIN) in order to continue with the examination.

- Each time you leave the testing room, you are required to sign out and sign in when you return. You must present your identification each time you sign in.
- Each block ends when the block time expires or when you exit from it.

Testing Strategies

When taking the exam, students need to read each question and answer first then read the vignette, as this will save time. Also, the student will need to read the vignette thoroughly in case they have lost focus or misunderstood the question. Students should answer the matching questions, which usually appear at the end of the exam first as they find those questions easier. Students need to monitor their time and make sure all answer selections are marked in. The NBME does not allow extra time for this purpose.

Scheduling, Registration, Cancellation

AUC is only allowed to administer examinations in pre-approved prometric sites. It is necessary to plan the NBME examination in advance so that it may be completed in a timely fashion. We ask the sites to schedule examination dates to coincide with the end date of core rotations whenever possible. As each site has its own start date, there are some irregularity in dates (ex. Vacations/Holidays).

The Office of the Registrar will order all core examination permits during the last week of students respected core rotations. Once students receive NBME permits in their AUC email, they will then schedule their exams on any day during the duration of the permit. Changes, cancellations or corrections must be made 23 days before the scheduled NBME window week starts. Failure to make changes 23 days prior will result in the student's examination registration to be locked in by the NBME Administrator. When this occurs no adjustments to the roster can be made. If a student falls into this locked stage, students may incur an additional charge to schedule an exam during another administration window. Changes in rescheduling or moving a student out of a core examination window will only be made under extreme emergencies and will be decided by the Office of the Registrar if the change is approved.

Communication

It is essential that students notify the Office of the Registrar of any changes in the scheduling of clinical clerkships that occur. Students are encouraged to review their summary sheets sent by AUC to ensure that they have been scheduled for the NBME

Core Subject Exams upon being scheduled for their core clerkships. For questions regarding scheduling, students are asked to contact the Office of the Registrar at aucregistrar@aucmed.edu. If a student is encountering any stress during clinical training or needs advice in any other matter, please contact AUC's Office of Clinical Student Affairs at advisors@aucmed.edu for assistance. AUC keeps a network of support contacts available in the areas of the United States and Europe where AUC has clinical sites. AUC can make referrals for special tutoring in examination skills if necessary.