



True or False:
NBCE Exam Fees are higher than
Other Professions.

FALSE!

Fees for NBCE exams are very comparable to other professions with four-part exams:

NBCE:	\$3,215*
MDs/Surgeons:	\$3,230
Osteopathy:	\$3,225
Podiatry:	\$3,930
Dentistry:	\$3,005

*2014-2015 fees

The number of exams given are far lower for NBCE than for other health professions with four-part exams.

- . NBCE: 12,199 examinees per year
- . MDs/Surgeons: 141,523 examinees per year
- . Osteopathy: 21,177 examinees per year
- . Podiatry: 21,979 examinees per year
- . Dentistry: 23,994 examinees per year

The Nursing boards have 24 times the number of exams given annually by the NBCE - 298,000 examinees per year. They develop and administer only 2 required board exams with a \$200 per exam fee, at regional examining centers. They do not administer a practical exam.

The MDs/Surgeons give over 11 times the number of exams given annually by the NBCE - 141,523 examinees per year. Their exam fees are \$3,230.

In comparison, the NBCE administers approximately 12,200 board exams annually at a combined fee cost of \$3,215.

The NBCE annual exam revenue is much lower than other exam organizations, yet the fees for all NBCE exams are similar to other professions with four-part exams.

NBCE:	\$10,722,115 annual revenue
MDs/Surgeons:	\$112,869,650 annual revenue
Osteopathy:	\$16,968,750 annual revenue
Podiatry:	\$21,669,360 annual revenue
Dentistry:	\$23,176,275 annual revenue
Nursing:	\$59,571,800 annual revenue (two-part)

2014 Data

EXAM FEE SUMMARY

- ◆ NBCE combined exam fees for Parts I, II, III, and IV are comparable to other health professions' board exam fees.
- ◆ The annual number of exams given by the NBCE and the annual revenue are much lower than other professional board exams.

How is this possible? Shouldn't it cost more per exam if less exams are given due to fixed costs for developing the exams?

EXAM COST ANALYSIS

Three Main Factors -

Development, Delivery, and Administration (overhead) Costs

- ♦ Exam development costs are a relatively fixed cost. These costs don't change based on the number of exams given.
- ♦ Exam delivery costs can vary greatly. Many examining boards use third party exam administrators (PearsonVue) and charge extra for computer seat time.
- ♦ The NBCE delivers all their exams right on the chiropractic college campuses. Students do not pay additional third-party exam administrator charges nor do they incur travel costs (airfare, hotel, meals, car rental) traveling to regional testing centers.

EXAM COST ANALYSIS

- ♦ Administration costs (overhead) will generally increase by the volume of exams processed, but these administration costs should conceivably go down per exam delivered because they can process more exam applications and records without increasing the overhead administration costs and personnel.
- ♦ The NBCE has successfully held overhead costs very level for the past five years. This frugal financial budgeting resulted in no exam fee increases last year. The 2016 fees for Parts I,II,III,IV were increased 4% (\$125). This was primarily done to absorb credit card processing fees, to be instituted later this year.

COST CONTAINMENT RESULTS

- ♦ Examining boards that give large numbers of exams should reap a benefit of being able to spread their fixed costs over a much greater number of exams given, potentially reducing their exam fees. The nursing board exams are a good example of this. They administer 224,000 exams and charge \$200 per exam.

The NBCE's resourceful methods of development, delivery and overhead have resulted in the NBCE's exam expenses being well below other similar examining boards. These cost efficiencies have allowed the NBCE exam fees to be at par with the other examining agencies even though the NBCE administers fewer exams.

How are the NBCE exam fees determined?

Every year the board of directors performs a rigorous financial evaluation of all expenses and gives direction to the administrative staff for new efficient procedures, i.e. computerized examinee applications, electronic methods of payment ACH (soon credit card), and computerized exam delivery. Then, student enrollment projections are added to the total impact of these decisions and exam fees are calculated

FYI

The NBCE had no idea how close its exam fees were to other health profession examining boards until a survey was done a year ago; it is purely a coincidence. The NBCE does not use a comparison of the other board's fees to arrive at the fees determined for chiropractic students.

The NBCE board of directors are extremely proud of the fact that they have been able to maintain competitive exam fees for the chiropractic profession, even though the NBCE is one of the smallest healthcare related examining boards in the United States.