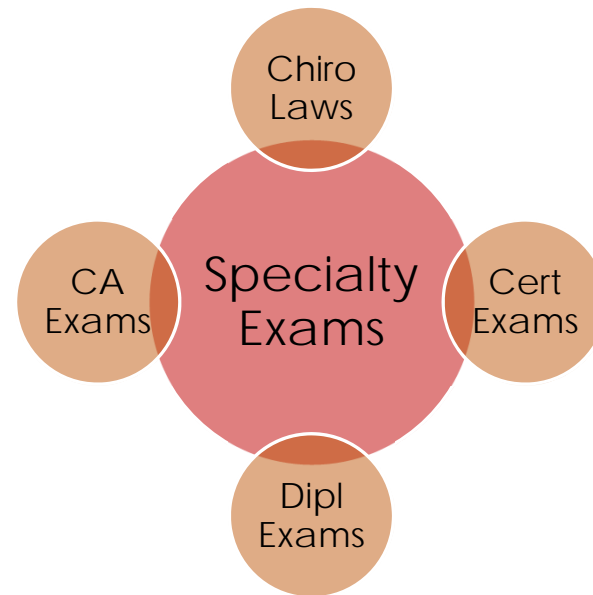
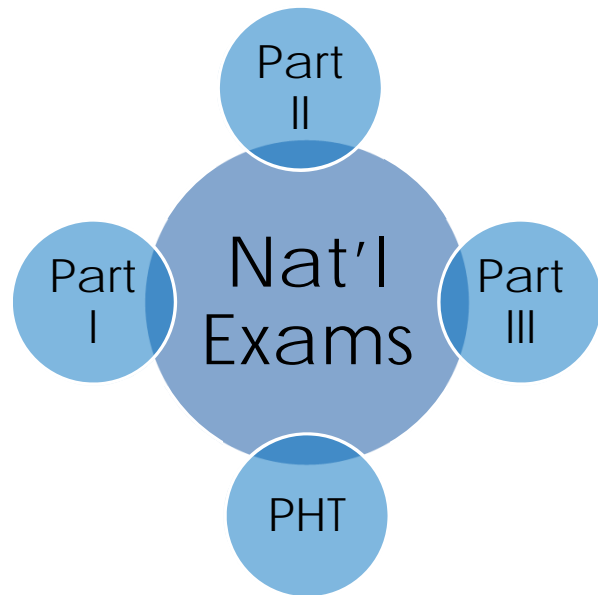




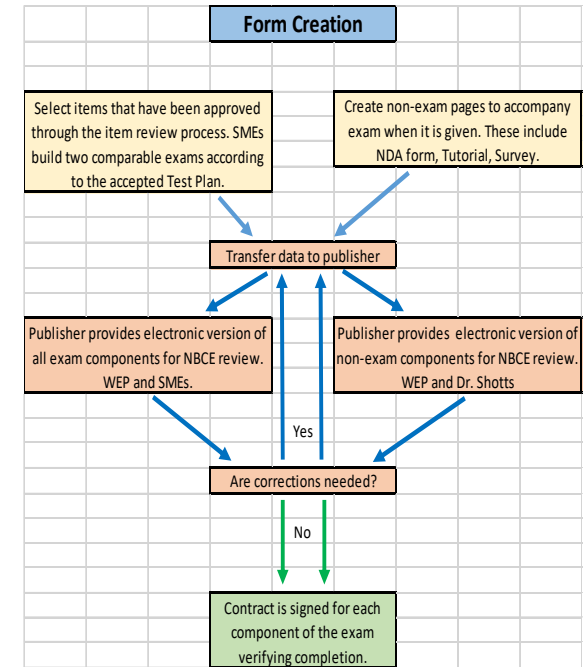
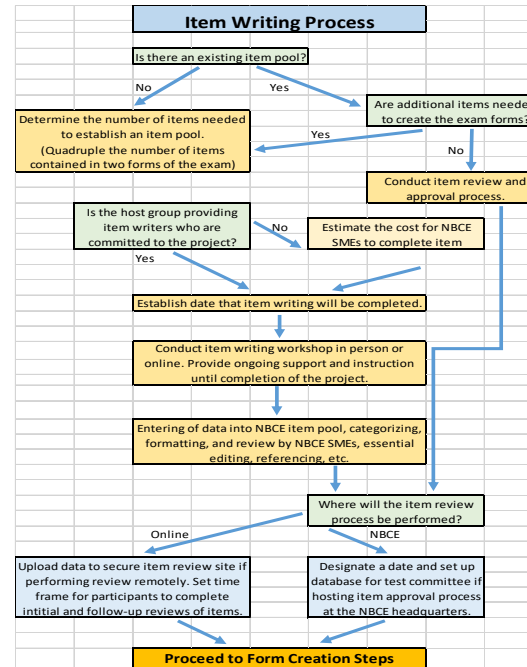
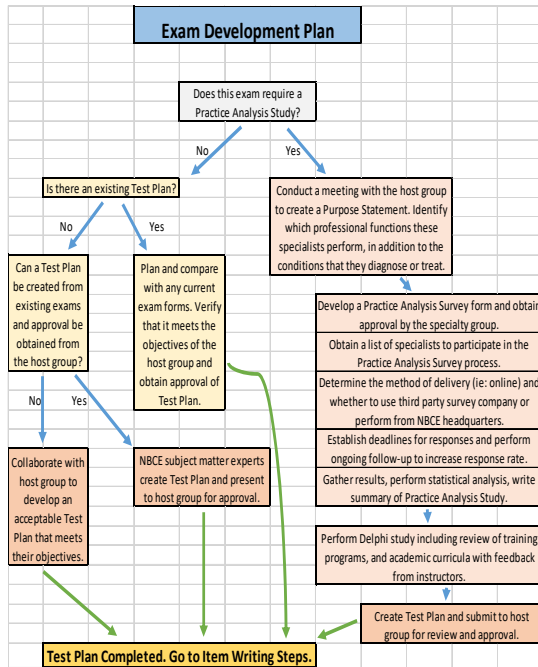
**2018 NBCE STUDENT  
LEADERSHIP FORUM**



# NBCE Written Exams Department



# Building an Exam



# DCP Curricula & NBCE Exams

- ▶ College curricula dictate exam content for Parts I, II, and PHT.
- ▶ The purpose of the national exams is to verify that students have obtained the necessary knowledge and skills to practice the art and science of chiropractic.
- ▶ Through Delphi studies, the NBCE gathers information about what is being taught at chiropractic colleges.
- ▶ Faculty members participating in test committees approve only core material and concepts in each subject area.

## DCPs, State Boards & NBCE Exams

- ▶ The colleges and state boards provide input regarding content of the Part III and Part IV exams.
  - ▶ Faculty from chiropractic colleges and state boards throughout the United States meet multiple times during the year to evaluate content that appears on NBCE exams.
  - ▶ Input from state board members in addition to results from our Survey of Chiropractic Practice ensure that our tests reflect what chiropractors see and do in practice.

# State Licensure and NBCE Exams

- ▶ State Boards rely on results of NBCE exams to provide a fair measure of ability and competency.
- ▶ Results must accurately reflect KSAs of examinees.
  - ▶ Faculty at the chiropractic colleges teach students how to become competent chiropractors that patients can trust and rely on for care.
  - ▶ Successful completion of NBCE exams indicates the doctor has the competency and ability to practice safely.
- ▶ NBCE exams provide an independent, third party assessment of a doctor's readiness to practice, regardless of the school the doctor attended or the state in which the doctor wishes to practice.



# NBC E Scores

Pass

Vs

Fail

- ▶ The passing score is established through a process called standard setting.
  - ▶ Set by a committee of subject-matter experts such as chiropractic college professors or chiropractors representing state licensing boards.
  - ▶ Committee members incorporate their knowledge of examinees, curriculum, and instruction as they analyze and rate each question. They then discuss with their colleagues what examinees should know and be able to do before determining the final cut score.
- ▶ Passing scores are periodically reviewed, and are re-examined when there is a significant change in a test plan.



## Myth: Grading on a Curve

- ▶ The NBCE does not predetermine the number or percentage of examinees who will pass any of its exams.
  - ▶ Theoretically, as many as 100% of candidates could pass.
  - ▶ Conceivably, the passing rate could be 0%.
  - ▶ Naturally, neither of these extremes has happened in any administration of the NBCE exams.
- ▶ The passing rate may vary from one chiropractic college to another, and from one year to another.
- ▶ Passing is based on individual performance, not on an established distribution of scores, such as a bell curve.





# NBCE Scores

## Why the Wait?

- ▶ It takes approximately six weeks to score examinations.
- ▶ The NBCE releases scores when it has completed all of the steps required in the scoring process.
- ▶ Processing and scoring of NBCE examinations are done in a fair, secure, and accurate fashion.
- ▶ Therefore, the NBCE must follow a number of quality assurance steps.



**Still  
Waiting...**

► **Steps in scoring include:**

- Accounting for all answer sheets, which may include verifying that the bubbled-in examinee number is completed
- Carefully reading all comments made by examinees
- Researching certain questions based on the comments made
- Processing scores, including answer and scanning verification
- Conducting post-exam review for problematic test questions involving a panel of judges and several references
- Running multiple sets of equating and comparing equating results
- Hand-checking of scores just below the failing point
- Performing data forensics to detect possible occurrences of non-independent test-taking
- Proofing and posting scores to an individual's permanent record
- Releasing scores

The logo for NBCE Scores features a stylized blue and yellow flame icon to the left of the text "NBCE" in yellow and "Scores" in white. The background is a dark blue gradient with a white circular shape on the left side.

**NBC E**  
**Scores**

**Worth the  
Wait.**

- ▶ 375+ club: Membership has its advantages.
  - ▶ Identifies professionals capable of practicing safely and effectively.
  - ▶ Barrier to incompetent practitioners or unlicensed persons.
  - ▶ Upholds status of profession.
  - ▶ Validates participation in health care programs.
  - ▶ Entitles reimbursement.
  - ▶ Makes your family proud.



375+ Club

▶ **Just the beginning...**