

PART *IV* ADVANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

CHANGES TO PART III & IV EXAMS

Part IV Advancement and Development Project

Visit the Part IV Advancement and Development project website here:
www.nbce.org/pad

- Overview of the project plan and schedule.
- View previous announcements on the “Updates” page.
- Add your email address to our mailing list by visiting the “Contact Information” tab.

PART IV ADVANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE | PLAN/SCHEDULE | RESEARCH CONDUCTED | UPDATES | ADVISORY BOARD | CONTACT INFORMATION

Developments in Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) have prompted us to evaluate updating the Part IV exam. Through researching other testing organizations we believe we can leverage advancements in OSCEs to produce a more efficient exam, while maintaining exam reliability and validity.

Purpose of the Part IV Advancement and Development Project

Identify current and future trends in practical testing and vet potential changes to the Part IV exam based on the following criteria:

- Best Practices in the industry
- Maintaining or increasing the validity of the assessment
- Impact on standardization
- Impact on external stakeholders
- Feasibility of implementation

MOVING THE DIM EXAM TO PART III

PROJECT PLAN

The current content of the DIM exam will be moved to the Part III exam, and the domain name will be changed to Diagnostic Imaging Interpretation (DXI). The Part III exam will be reduced to accommodate this additional content, without extending the exam session.

Rationale

- The DIM is not associated with an OSCE in terms of content or exam format.
- The DIM exam is now delivered on the computer, so it aligns better the delivery of the Part III.
 - We will no longer have to assemble a computer lab at each site every administration.
- We will eliminate Fridays from our testing schedule.

Summary Comparison of Current Part III to New Format with DXI

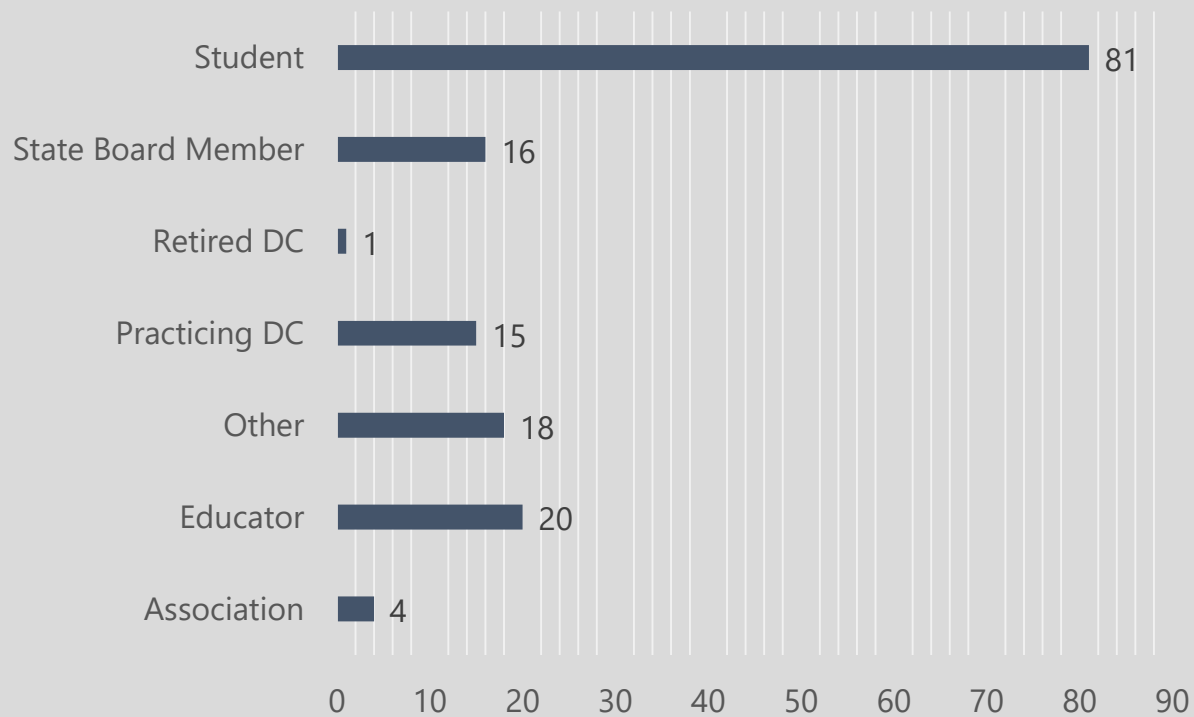
	Current Part III	<u>Updated</u> Part III with DXI
Number of items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 110 traditional multiple-choice questions. • 10 case vignettes with three extended multiple-choice questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 traditional multiple-choice questions. • 20 case vignettes with one extended multiple-choice question. • 20 images with two multiple-choice questions per image. (DXI Exam)
Testing Time (includes instructions and breaks)	4.5 hours	4.5 hours

Summary

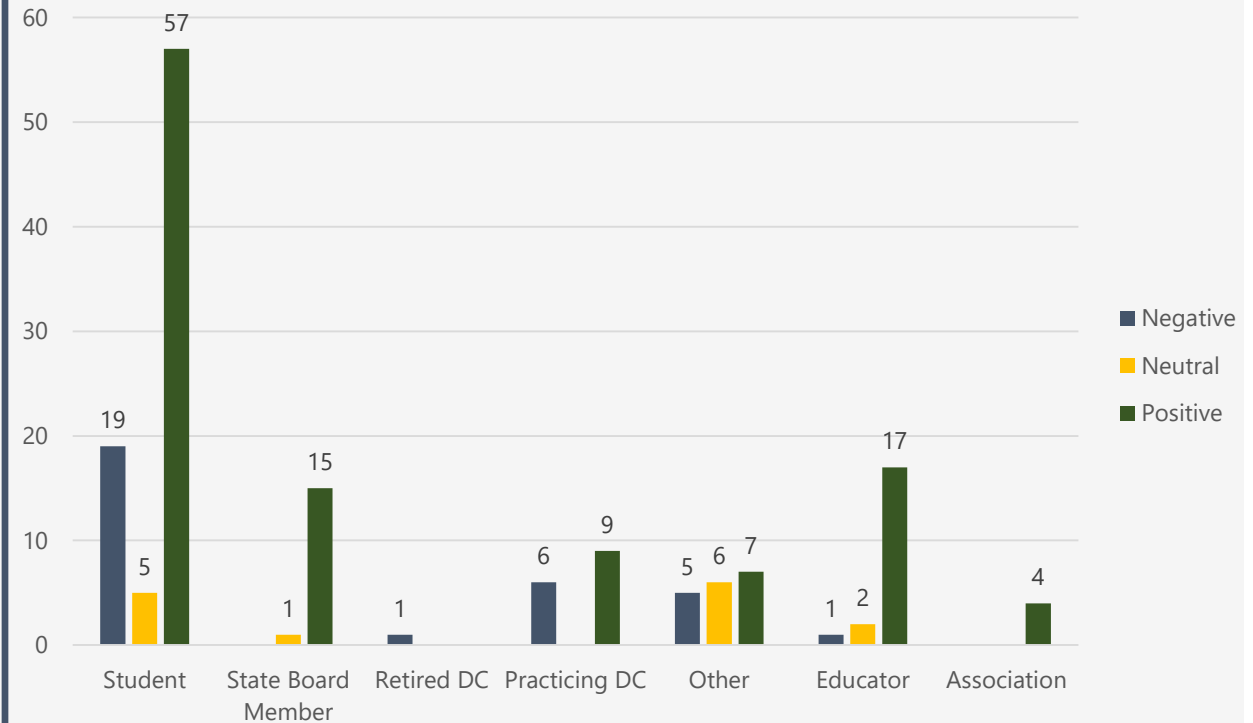
April 28th: Sent "Proposed Changes to the NBCE Parts III and IV Exams" Communication to Stakeholders.

- Delivered to 1,957 State Board members, DCP leadership, and examinees
- 70.3% Open Rate
- Opened public comment period from April 28th until May 24th
- Received 155 comments, which represents an 8% response rate.

Number of Comments by Stakeholder Group



Comment Classification by Stakeholder Group



Overview of Public Comments

EXAMPLES OF POSITIVE COMMENTS

Students:

"I think this would be a great switch. As a student I am having to travel for Part IV. Having the test on 2 days increases the time I'm in the area and paying for a hotel which drastically increases the cost of the exam, so something that would result in one day testing for all exams seems fantastic. On top of that I agree that material included in DIM melds better with Part III allowing students taking Part IV to focus solely on the practical."

"It would be nice to only focus on just the clinical application for part 4. It gets pretty exhausting coming in twice for 2 different stressful tests."

Educator:

"I believe that it is most appropriate to move the diagnostic imaging from Part IV to Part III. I understand that it will not detract from the content assessed in Part III and it certainly will not detract from Part IV. I am fully in support of the change. Thank you."

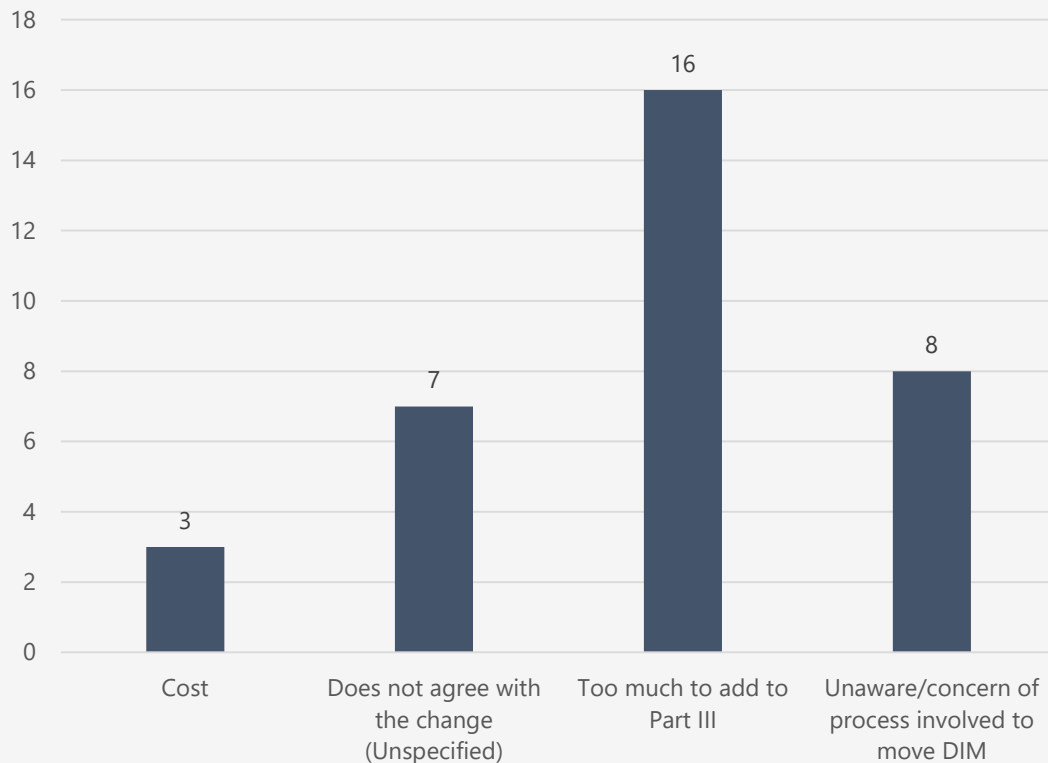
State Board Member:

"I am in support. This will bring efficiencies to the process for students, NBCE and the host sites. It is also noted that bringing some small financial relief to students during this time and process will be well received."

Overview of Public Comments

SUMMARY OF NEGATIVE COMMENTS

Specific Areas of Concern (Negative Comments)



Cost

- General discontent over cost of exams or the amount of exams required.

Too much to add to Part III

- Part III is already too hard or too long.

NBCE Response: This particular view did not seem to be the consensus among examinees. A lot of the supportive student comments mentioned how long and difficult the Part IV exam is, and how removing the DIM domain will improve the examinee experience. Also, we believe some of the commenters may have overlooked the information pertaining to the reduction of content in the current Part III, which will allow us to keep the exam at 4.5 hours even with the DXI domain added.

Unaware or Concerned about Process

- Misconception that they may have to take the same DIM content twice.

*NBCE Response: An examinee is only required to pass **either** the DIM domain of Part IV or the equivalent DXI domain of Part III. Under no circumstances will they be required to pass both. The NBCE will make sure to emphasize this point in future communications.*

Impact to Examinees Taking the Part III in July 2021

- All examinees will be receiving the Part III exam without the DXI domain.
- We will allow examinees to reschedule to October, if they would prefer to take the Part III **with** DXI, up until July 5th.
 - This does not apply to examinees who intend to take the Part IV exam in November of 2021.
 - The November 2021 Part IV exam will only be offered with the DIM domain.
 - Even if an examinee signs up for the October Part III, they will still receive the version of Part III without DXI if they are also signed up for the November Part IV.

Impact to Examinees Taking the Part III in October 2021

We will be delivering the Part III **without** DXI to examinees:

- Have already passed the Part IV
- Are signed up to take the Part IV in November 2021

We will be delivering the Part III **with** DXI to examinees:

- Have not passed the Part IV **and**
- Have not signed up to take the Part IV in November 2021

August 30th: Application Sweep

HOW THE NBCE WILL ENSURE THAT EVERY EXAMINEE RECEIVES THE CORRECT VERSION OF THE PART III EXAM

- August 17th is the November Part IV application deadline.
- On August 30th, the NBCE will temporarily close the Part III applications to perform a sweep:
 - Everyone who had applied for the November Part IV, and has an October Part III application on file, will be assigned the Part III **without** DXI.
 - Everyone who has an October Part III application on file, but does not have a November Part IV application on file, will be broken into two groups:
 - Has already passed the Part IV: assign Part III **without** DXI.
 - Has not passed Part IV: assign Part III **with** DXI.
- When the applications reopen, examinees will be assigned the correct form based on their Part IV status.

Impact to Examinees Taking the Part IV in November 2021

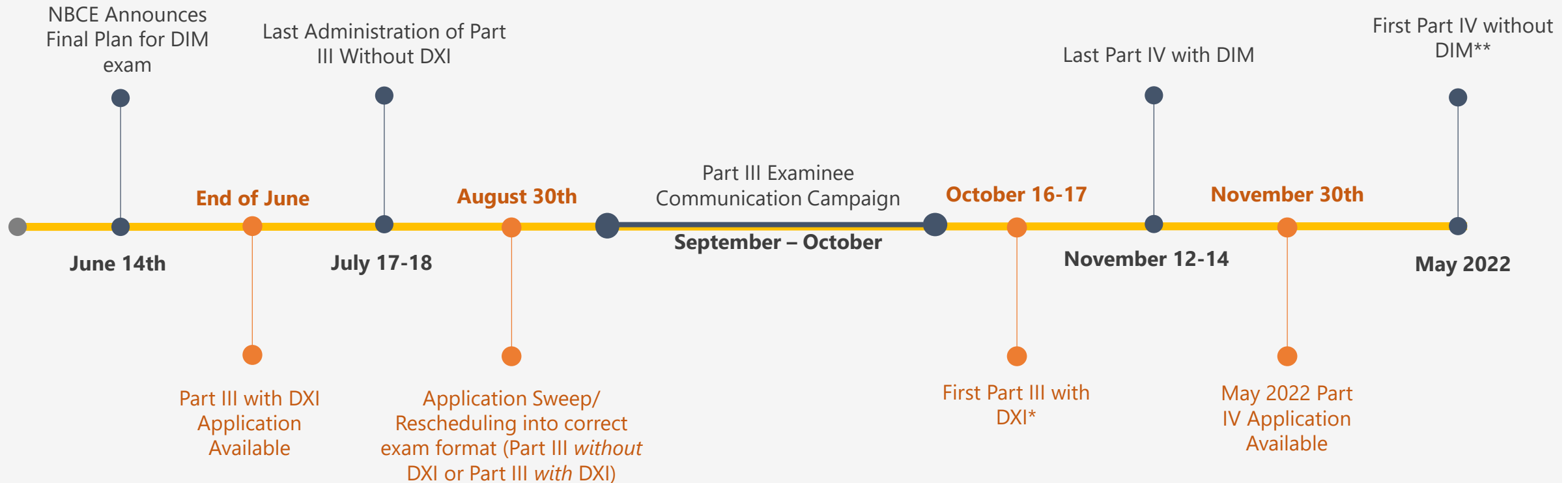
All examinees will be receiving the Part IV exam **with** the DIM domain.

Impact to Examinees Taking the Part III or Part IV in 2022 and Beyond

- If an examinee has passed a version of the Part III without the DXI domain, they will be assigned a version of the Part IV with DIM.
- If an examinee has passed a version of the Part IV with the DIM domain, they will be assigned a version of the Part III exam without DXI.
- If an examinee has not yet passed Part IV, they will receive a version of the Part III with the DXI.
- If an examinee has not yet passed Part III, they will receive a version of the Part IV without DIM.

MOVING THE DIM EXAM TO PART III

ROLLOUT TIMELINE



* A version of the Part III exam ***without*** the DXI domain will still be available to eligible examinees. If an examinee signs up to take the October 2021 Part III **AND** the November 2021 Part IV, they will receive the Part III exam without the DXI domain, and the Part IV with the DIM domain.

** A version of the Part IV exam ***with*** the DIM domain will still be available to eligible examinees.

Reach Out

If you have any questions, feedback, suggestions please email us at support@nbce.org..

Thank you for your time!

We appreciate your assistance in communicating these changes, and their impact, to your students.