



NABNE®

NORTH AMERICAN BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC EXAMINERS

Ensuring the Professional Qualifications of NDs

**FEBRUARY 2021
NPLEX® PART II - CLINICAL SCIENCE
EXAMINATIONS**

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IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

November 1, 2020	Opening of the period for application to take the February 2021 NPLEX Examinations
November 30, 2020	Closing of the period for application to take the February 2021 NPLEX Examinations (The application period will close at midnight PST on December 1st.)
November 30, 2020	Deadline for submitting a Testing Accommodations Request Application and all documentation
December 21, 2020	Posting of Registration Status for the February 2021 NPLEX Examinations to online Profiles on the NABNE website
January 20, 2021	Posting of Registration Tickets for the February 2021 NPLEX Examinations to online Profiles on the NABNE website
January 25, 2021	Deadline for submitting notification of cancellation of a February 2021 NPLEX Examination without having to provide an explanation or supporting documentation
February 3, 2021	Administration of the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination (Sec. 1) Administration of the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Elective Minor Surgery Examination
February 4, 2021	Administration of the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination (Sec. 2) Administration of the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Elective Pharmacology Examination
February 5, 2021	Administration of the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination (Sec. 3) Administration of the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Elective Acupuncture Examination
March 15, 2021	Posting of unofficial February 2021 P/F exam results in online Profiles
March 18, 2021	Mailing of official reports of February 2021 exam results to examinees
April 30, 2021	Deadline for submitting a Manual Scoring Request for an examination taken in February 2021

CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19

Because we are currently living with unprecedented uncertainty due to COVID-19, it is impossible to know what the situation will be like in February. NABNE is moving forward on the assumption that it will administer the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Examinations as planned on February 3-5, 2021. Circumstances continue to change rapidly, however, and there is an unlikely possibility that the exam administration might need to be cancelled at one or more test sites in order to comply with governmental public safety requirements. NABNE will continue to monitor developments of the COVID-19 situation and will update the website regarding the February 2021 NPLEX exam administration if changes must be made. In any event, by **January 25, 2021**, NABNE will determine if the February 2021 test administration will proceed as scheduled at all test sites.

The AANMC and the CNME have allowed students to access alternative pathways to completing graduation requirements, allowing students to take the NPLEX Examinations on the dates in February 2021 that were set originally. The NABNE Board recognizes that, with disruptions to class schedules, some students might not meet all requirements for graduation before the NPLEX administration in February 2021. If, in December 2020, you are on a path to graduate no later than January 11, 2021, but you do not expect to complete all requirements for graduation by then, NABNE will allow you to take the examinations in February 2021. **By January 11, 2021, NABNE must receive a letter** of pre-verification from your school, indicating that **you will complete all requirements by March 31, 2021**. Your exam results will not be released until NABNE receives confirmation from your school that you have completed all requirements for graduation. If you do not complete all requirements for graduation by March 31, 2021, the results from the examination(s) you take in February 2021 will be nullified.

NABNE requests that you **register to take the February 2021 NPLEX examinations early in the application period, preferably within the first two weeks of November**. This will ensure that NABNE staff will be able to make adequate testing arrangements for everyone.

NABNE has made arrangements at its usual testing sites and is making back-up arrangements for alternate venues within the same locale, to ensure that the examinations can be administered as scheduled. More information will be posted on the website when it becomes available. Because NABNE must comply with restrictions due to COVID-19, examinees should expect to experience minor inconveniences in the testing process.

NABNE is taking reasonable measures to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19. When you apply to take the NPLEX in February 2021, you must acknowledge and accept that, even with the precautions NABNE has taken to minimize risk of transmission of COVID-19, there will still be some risk. Your patience and understanding are deeply appreciated as we navigate this challenging time together.

To address some of the challenges that have occurred in light of the COVID-19 situation, NABNE has temporarily revised some of its policies. Please note, some of the policies described in this Bulletin will be in effect **only** through the February 2021 administration of the NPLEX.

Continue to check the NABNE website for updates pertaining to the February 2021 NPLEX exam administration.

WHAT NABNE IS DOING TO KEEP EXAMINEES SAFE

To minimize exposure to COVID-19 at all of its test sites, NABNE has taken all reasonable precautions. Specifically,

At the time of application:

- Requiring that examinees agree that, for the 14 days prior to the exam administration, they will follow current CDC COVID-19 prevention guidelines (i.e., wearing a mask when out in public, maintaining 6 ft. (2 m.) social distancing, washing or sanitizing their hands after each potential contagion contact).

Two weeks before the exam administration:

- Sending examinees and testing personnel a reminder of social obligation to follow current CDC COVID-19 prevention guidelines during the 14 days prior to the exam administration, to which they agreed at the time of application.

The day before the exam administration:

- Requiring that each examinee and all testing personnel conduct a self-health screening and complete the *NABNE Self-Health-Screening Form*, and stay home if s/he is sick.

The day(s) of the examination(s), at the test site:

- Requiring that everyone wear a mask (one that covers their nose and mouth, and fits snugly along the sides) at all times while at the test site, regardless of whether or not they are wearing a face shield.
- Requiring that all examinees and proctors submit to a thermal temperature check and brief health screening each day.
- Requiring that examinees maintain 6 ft. (2 m.) social distancing (marked by tape) at all times while at the test site.
- Providing hand sanitizer at multiple places in the testing areas.
- Limiting the number of examinees/testing personnel in a room to 25-35.
- Maintaining a seating chart to ensure that each examinee sits at the same spot every day of the exam administration, and to facilitate contact tracing if required by the jurisdiction.
- Seating examinees at tables that are at least 6 ft. (2 m.) apart.
- Limiting the contact examinees and testing personnel have with documents and testing materials.
- Requiring testing personnel to wear gloves when handling testing materials, and allowing examinee use of gloves if desired (they must bring their own).
- Disinfecting high-touch surface areas throughout the day.
- Disinfecting bathrooms throughout the day.
- Disinfecting the testing rooms every evening.
- Compiling contact information and seating charts that will assist contact tracers if an examinee subsequently tests positive for SARS-Cov-2.

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This Bulletin contains information with which all applicants should be familiar. It describes NABNE policies, guidelines and recommendations. **The policies in this Bulletin apply to all applicants who will be taking or retaking any NPLEX examinations in February 2021, and includes special information and policies related to the situation caused by COVID-19.** (The Bulletin will be updated for subsequent exam administrations.)

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ABOUT NABNE AND NPLEX

NABNE (the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners) is an independent, nonprofit organization formed as a service to the naturopathic profession and the agencies that license/register naturopathic physicians. NABNE serves regulating bodies by qualifying applicants to take the NPLEX (Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations), administering the examinations, and sending exam results and transcripts to regulatory authorities.

The five-member NABNE Board works with an Advisory Council comprised of representatives of:

- ❑ The Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities (FNMRA) representing the State/Provincial naturopathic regulatory authorities
- ❑ The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME)
- ❑ The Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC)
- ❑ The Council of Chief Academic and Clinical Officers (CCACO) representing the nine CNME-approved naturopathic medical programs
- ❑ The Naturopathic Medical Student Association (NMSA)
- ❑ The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP)
- ❑ The Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND)
- ❑ The naturopathic profession at large

NPLEX (Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations) is an independent, nonprofit organization whose purpose is to prepare valid and reliable Part I Examinations that assess the readiness of students to enter the clinical phase of training, and Part II Examinations that assess the entry-level competence of candidates who plan to become licensed/registered naturopathic physicians. The NPLEX Council of Exam Chairs approves the contents of the examinations.

NABNE

- Qualifies applicants to take the NPLEX
- Administers the NPLEX Examinations
- Sends NPLEX exam results to examinees and to regulatory authorities
- Serves as an unbiased repository of NPLEX exam results and sends transcripts to regulatory authorities
- Upon request, manually verifies responses on answer sheets

NPLEX

- Surveys the profession to determine the competencies that an entry-level ND must master
- Publishes the competencies on which examinees will be tested
- Develops the NPLEX Examinations
- Establishes the passing score
- Scores the NPLEX Examinations

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE/REGISTRATION AS A NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIAN

Every jurisdiction in North America (with the exception of Ontario) that licenses/registers naturopathic physicians requires that you pass the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination. You may also be required to pass some or all of the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Elective Examinations (Acupuncture, Minor Surgery, and/or Elective Pharmacology), or to take additional examinations administered by a regulatory authority (see *JURISDICTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE/REGISTRATION*, PAGE 23).

ELIGIBILITY TO TAKE THE NPLEX EXAMINATIONS

APPROVED NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL PROGRAMS

To be eligible to take an NPLEX Examination, you must have completed the appropriate academic requirements at an **approved naturopathic medical program (ANMP)**^{1,2}. An ANMP is a program that has accreditation or pre-accreditation from the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) and offers a minimum four-academic-year, in-residence curriculum in biomedical science and clinical didactic studies, as well as clinical (experiential) training leading to an ND degree (United States) or diploma (Canada).

Currently, the following naturopathic medical programs have been approved:

- Bastyr University (BU): Kenmore, Washington
- Bastyr University California (BUC): San Diego, California
- Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine (BINM): New Westminster, British Columbia
- Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine (CCNM): Toronto, Ontario
- National University of Health Sciences (NUHS): Lombard, Illinois
- National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM): Portland, Oregon
- Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine (SCNM): Tempe, Arizona
- Universidad Ana G. Mendez (UAGM), formerly Universidad del Turabo (UDT): Gurabo, Puerto Rico
- University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine (UBCNM): Bridgeport, Connecticut

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

You are eligible to take the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination if:

- You will have completed all requirements for graduation by March 31, 2021.
[NOTE: This applies **only** to students who, in December 2020, were on track to graduate by January 11, 2021.]

OR

- You have graduated from an approved naturopathic medical program (ANMP) within the past five (5) years³;

AND

- You have met the biomedical science examination requirement within the past ten (10) years⁴ (i.e., you have passed the NPLEX Part I - Biomedical Science Examination).

¹ If you graduated from a CNME-approved program before it was accredited, contact NABNE.

² If you have been licensed/registered but did not take the NPLEX, OR if you were licensed/registered prior to 1986 and are planning to be licensed/registered in a different state/province, contact NABNE.

³ If you graduated more than five (5) years ago, contact NABNE regarding additional eligibility requirements.

⁴ If it has been more than ten (10) years since you passed the NPLEX Part I - Basic Science Exam Series, you are required to retake and pass the Part I - Biomedical Science Examination before you will be eligible to take any NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Examinations. If this applies to you, contact NABNE.

You are eligible to take the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Elective Minor Surgery and/or Elective Pharmacology Examination if:

- You have met the eligibility requirements for the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination;

AND

- You have met one of the following criteria:
 - You have already taken or will be taking the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination during the same NPLEX administration;

OR

- You passed the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Exam Series prior to August 2007.

You are eligible to take the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Elective Acupuncture Examination if:

- You have met the eligibility requirements for the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination;

AND

- You have met one of the following criteria:
 - You have already taken or will be taking the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination during the same NPLEX administration;

OR

- You have previously passed the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Exam Series prior to August 2007;

AND

- You have met one of the following criteria:
 - You have graduated from an ANMP that requires at least 220 hours of didactic training in acupuncture, and have completed at least 30 hours of clinical training;

OR

- You have completed at least 220 hours of didactic training and at least 30 hours of clinical training in acupuncture from an institution accredited by ACAOM, and you have submitted to NABNE:

- A transcript from the institution verifying the hours of training in acupuncture you have completed;

AND

- A letter from a regulatory authority stating that the training in acupuncture you have completed meets jurisdictional eligibility requirements for licensure/registration.

Contact the regulatory authority in the jurisdiction in which you plan to practice to determine which NPLEX Part II - Clinical Elective Examinations you will be required to pass to become eligible for licensure/registration.

APPLICATION TO TAKE THE NPLEX EXAMINATIONS

CONFIDENTIALITY

The information you provide to NABNE as part of the online application process is confidential and is used only in conjunction with the NPLEX Examinations. All administrative and testing personnel who have access to your personal information observe NABNE's confidentiality policy.

When you apply to take the NPLEX Examinations, you will be asked to provide your entire Social Security Number (SSN) or Social Insurance Number (SIN). Your entire SSN or SIN is used to uniquely identify you in our records only. You will be required to fill in only the last five digits of your SSN or SIN on every answer sheet you complete.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The period for application to take the **February 2021** NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Examinations is **November 1-30, 2020**. The application period will close at midnight PST on December 1st. NABNE recommends that you register to take the February 2021 NPLEX examinations early in the application period, preferably within the first two weeks of November. This will ensure that NABNE staff is able to make adequate testing arrangements well in advance of the exam dates. In addition, if you wait until November 30th to apply and you need technical assistance in order to submit your application, NABNE staff may not be available to help you.

You must **submit your application and payment** to take or retake the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Examinations **via the links on the dashboard of the online *Profile*** you create in the ***Applicant Portal*** on the NABNE website.

It is your responsibility to follow the instructions required to complete your application.

Before you begin your application:

- Review the current *Bulletin of Information*** pertaining to the examination(s) you are planning to take. **To address some of the challenges that have occurred in light of the COVID-19 situation, NABNE has temporarily revised some of its policies.** Please note that some of the policies described in this Bulletin will be in effect **only** through the February 2021 administration of the NPLEX.
- Contact the regulatory authority in the jurisdiction in which you plan to practice** to determine which Part II – Clinical Elective Examinations you are required pass to be eligible for licensure/registration (see *STATE AND PROVINCIAL CONTACTS*, page 24). If you need to add an Elective Examination **after** you submit your application, **DO NOT submit a second application.** Instead, contact NABNE via email prior to the application deadline. **You will not be allowed to add examinations after the application period has closed.**
- Determine the NABNE test site** at which you plan to take the examination(s). You can take the examinations at any NABNE test site. You will not be able to change your test site after the application deadline.

Have the following items ready:

- **Your Social Security (SSN) or Social Insurance Number (SIN).**
 - It is important that you **use the same SSN/SIN you provided on a previous application** so that all of your NPLEX records are linked.
- **A scanned image of your current government-issued photo identification** (e.g., driver's license, government-issued photo identification card, passport photo page, or passport card).
 - Both the **first** and **last** names on the identification you upload must **exactly** match the first and last names you enter on this application form. You are not required to include your full middle name on the application. The maximum file size of the image you submit should not exceed 1MB.
- **A scanned image of the documentation that verifies any official name change** made since the last time you applied to take an NPLEX Examination (e.g., marriage license, name change order, etc.).
 - Both the **first** and **last** names on the official document you upload must exactly match the first and last names on the current government-issued photo identification you submit with your application. The file size of the image you submit should not exceed 1MB.
- **Your debit or credit card information.**
 - The payment system accepts Visa and Mastercard only. You must complete your payment at the time of application. **If you leave the application page without completing your payment, you will NOT be able to return to it at a later time. You will be required to begin the application process again.**
- **Create an online *Profile* and password for the CURRENT exam administration.** Keep a record of your *User Name*, the email address you are using, and the password you create. **You must create a new online *Profile* and password every time you apply to take an NPLEX Examination**, regardless of whether you have created one for a previous exam administration. **DO NOT create more than one *Profile*** for the same exam administration, as this will cause problems when it's time to access your *Registration Status* or download your *Registration Ticket*.

When you apply to take the examination(s):

- **Complete the exam application** using the appropriate link located on the dashboard of your online *Profile*.
- **Enter ALL information required on the online application page.**
- **Provide the email address where you would like to receive all communication from NABNE** (please provide an email address where NABNE will be able to reach you for the next 6 months).
- **Upload an image of the current government-issued photo identification** you will use to gain admittance to the examination(s) (e.g., driver's license, government-issued identification card, passport photo page, or passport card).
- **Upload an image of documentation that verifies any official name change** made since the last time you applied to take an NPLEX Examination (e.g., marriage license, name change order, etc.).

- Select the single regulatory authority to which the report of your February 2021 results should be sent.** NABNE will send this report at no additional charge. To have a transcript of your previous NPLEX results sent to the same regulatory authority, you must include the *Transcript Fee for Part I and Previous Part II Results* of US\$25 in the total amount you submit with your application (see *TRANSCRIPTS OF PART I AND PREVIOUS PART II RESULTS*, page 7). **If you do not know the jurisdiction in which you will be practicing**, select **NONE** when you complete this section. You can submit a transcript request online after your exam results become available.
- Pay all fees in U.S. Dollars, using a debit or credit card.** The NABNE payment system accepts Visa and MasterCard only. **Payment must be made at the time of application.**
- Review your entries for accuracy.** You will not be able to edit, delete, or change the application after you click **SUBMIT**. Report any corrections that must be made to your application by contacting NABNE at info@nabne.org.

After you submit your application:

- Check your email for your *Confirmation Receipt*.** If you do not receive your *Confirmation Receipt* within the next several minutes, be sure to check your spam folder.
- Download the *NPLEX Blueprint & Study Guide*** using the link provided in the email confirmation you receive after you submit your application online.

NABNE FEES

You must submit all applications, as well as requests for study guides, transcripts, and manual scoring, via the NABNE website. All fees must be paid in **U.S. dollars** by a debit or credit card via our secure online payment system. Our payment system accepts Visa and MasterCard **only**.

Non-refundable NPLEX Part II Application & Exam Administration Fee	US\$225
<i>(Paid with every application to take an NPLEX Part II - Clinical Examination)</i>	
NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Exam Fee	US\$575
<i>(Paid with each application to take the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination)</i>	
NPLEX Part II - Clinical Elective Acupuncture Exam Fee	US\$100
<i>(Paid with each application to take the Clinical Elective Acupuncture Examination)</i>	
NPLEX Part II - Clinical Elective Minor Surgery Exam Fee	US\$100
<i>(Paid with each application to take the Part II – Clinical Elective Minor Surgery Examination)</i>	
NPLEX Part II - Clinical Elective Pharmacology Exam Fee	US\$100
<i>(Paid with each application to take the to take the Part II – Clinical Elective Pharmacology Examination)</i>	
Transcript Fee for Part I and Previous Part II Results	US\$25
<i>(Paid when you request a transcript on your Part II Application)</i>	
Post-Examination Transcript Fee	US\$25
<i>(Paid with all other transcript requests/per recipient)</i>	
Refund Processing Fee	US\$50
<i>(Assessed when exam fees are refunded)</i>	
Manual Scoring Fee - Core Clinical Science Examination	US\$60
Manual Scoring Fee - Clinical Elective Examination	US\$25
Study Guide Fee <i>(Paid to receive a study guide requested outside of the application process)</i>	US\$5

REFUNDS

The **Application & Exam Administration Fee** is non-refundable.

The **Exam Fee**, minus a US\$50 *Refund Processing Fee*, **may** be refunded in some circumstances (see *CANCELLATION*, page 10).

NABNE will not refund fees for amounts less than US\$10.

TRANSCRIPT OF PART I AND PREVIOUS PART II RESULTS

It is your responsibility to request that NABNE send a transcript of your NPLEX Part I exam results to the regulatory authority of the jurisdiction in which you plan to practice. If you are retaking the Part II - Clinical Science Examinations and are applying to be licensed/registered in a different jurisdiction, you must have a transcript of your previous NPLEX exam results sent to the regulatory authority there.

When you apply to take the Part II - Clinical Science Examinations, you will have the opportunity to order a transcript by indicating a single jurisdiction in which you plan to practice and including the US\$25 **Transcript Fee for Part I or Previous Part II Results** in the total amount you pay with your online application. **NABNE will send a complete transcript that includes all of your previous NPLEX exam results** to the **single regulatory authority** in the jurisdiction you selected on your application. This transcript is typically sent within four weeks after the application deadline. NABNE will send the results from any NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Examinations you take in **February 2021** to the same regulatory authority you selected on your application at no additional charge when they become available.

If you do not know where you will be practicing at the time you submit your application, or if you wish to have a transcript of your NPLEX results sent to additional regulatory authorities, you may order a transcript that includes **all** of your NPLEX exam results after those from the examinations you take in February 2021 are available (see *TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS*, page 20).

TRACKING YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS

When NABNE has all materials required to complete your application and has received a letter of verification⁵ or pre-verification⁶ from the registrar at your ANMP, you will be approved to take the examination(s).

- To determine if your application has been approved, **log into your online Dashboard after December 21, 2020.**

⁵ If NABNE receives written notification from your ANMP verifying that you **will not** complete all requirements for graduation by March 31, 2021, you **will not** be allowed to take the examination(s) during the current administration. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notification from your ANMP, NABNE will issue a **refund of the Exam Fee(s), minus a US\$50 Refund Processing Fee**, to the debit or credit card you used with your application. **The Application & Exam Administration Fee is non-refundable.**

⁶ If you will not have graduated by **January 11, 2021**, NABNE must receive written **pre-verification** from your ANMP that you are on track to complete all requirements for graduation no later than March 31, 2021. **If you do not complete requirements for graduation by March 31, 2021, you will forfeit all of your fees and your exam results will be nullified** [NOTE: This COVID-19 policy applies to the February 2021 exam administration only.]

PRINTING YOUR REGISTRATION TICKET

To be admitted to the examination(s), **you will be required to present a printed copy of your *Registration Ticket*.**

- To print a copy of your *Registration Ticket*, **log into your online *Dashboard* after January 20, 2021.**

REPORTING AN ADDRESS OR NAME CHANGE

It is your responsibility to ensure that NABNE has your current mailing address and valid information regarding your legal name. Without your current mailing address, NABNE cannot be responsible for ensuring that you receive your exam results in a timely manner. If the first and last names on your current government-issued photo identification do not **exactly** match the first and last names you have provided in your online application or ***Name Change Form***, you will not be admitted to take the examination.

If you have had a change of address since the time you submitted your application, you must notify NABNE online using the online ***Address Change Form***.

If you have had a legal name change since you last applied to take an NPLEX Examination, you must notify NABNE online using the online ***Name Change Form***. When you complete this form, you will be required to scan and upload a copy of:

- Documentation verifying your official name change** (e.g., marriage license, name change order, etc.).
- One piece of your current government-issued photo identification** (e.g., driver's license, government-issued identification card, or passport photo page) issued under your **new** name.

NPLEX PART II - CLINICAL SCIENCE EXAMINATIONS

The NPLEX 400-item Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination (CCSE) is an integrated, case-based examination that covers the topics of diagnosis (physical, clinical, and lab diagnosis, diagnostic imaging, and interpretation and application of research studies), materia medica (botanical medicine and homeopathy), other treatment modalities (nutrition, physical medicine, and psychology), and medical interventions (emergency medicine, medical procedures, public health, and pharmacology). The CCSE is designed to test the skills and knowledge that an entry-level naturopathic physician must have in order to practice safely. The examination is comprised of clinical summaries followed by several questions pertaining to each patient's case. For example, for a single case, you might be asked to provide a differential diagnosis, to select appropriate lab tests, to prescribe therapies which safely address the patient's condition, to respond to acute-care emergencies, and to evaluate the results of research studies.

There are three 75-item Part II - Clinical Elective Examinations that may be required for licensure/registration by some jurisdictions (see *JURISDICTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE/REGISTRATION*, page 23). The Elective Acupuncture (ACU) and Elective Minor Surgery Examinations (MSUR) are case-based, i.e., 15-20 brief clinical summaries are presented and several questions are asked about each case. The Elective Pharmacology Examination (EPE) is comprised of 75 stand-alone items.

The first step in preparing to take the Core Clinical Science and/or Clinical Elective Examinations is to review the official ***NPLEX Blueprint & Study Guide for the Part II - Clinical Science Examinations***. All exam items are multiple-choice with one correct answer and three distractors; however, the way the questions are asked may take any of several forms.

As part of your application to take the NPLEX, you will receive a free PDF download of the *NPLEX Blueprint & Study Guide* for the Part II - Clinical Science Examinations. The study guide is copyrighted, however, and may not be distributed.

If you are not applying to take the NPLEX Part II Examinations, but wish to obtain a PDF of the study guide, you may submit your request and payment via the NABNE website, using the *Study Guide Order Form*.

The *NPLEX Part II Blueprint and Study Guide* is updated each year with information pertaining to both the August and subsequent February NPLEX exam administrations (e.g., August 2020 and February 2021), and may be ordered on or after May 1st. A study guide ordered prior to May 1st of each year will be from the previous NPLEX administration and will not contain updated blueprint changes.

Study guides produced by individuals or organizations who are not affiliated with NPLEX can be useful in preparing to take the examination. NPLEX cannot warrant, however, that the information contained in these materials is representative of the content of the NPLEX Examinations.

CANCELLATION

NABNE does not defer/hold fees or transfer fees to later exam dates.

If you fail to notify NABNE regarding your absence before your exam date, all fees will be forfeited. **Notify NABNE by completing the *Cancellation Form*** found in the ***Applicant Portal*** on the NABNE website.

If you submit your notice of cancellation of a February 2021 NPLEX Examination ON or BEFORE January 25, 2021:

- You **will not** be required to submit documentation of a reason for your cancellation.
- Your name will be removed from the roster and you **will not** be admitted to the examination(s).
- You will be issued a refund of the ***Exam Fee(s)*** you paid with your application, minus a US\$50 ***Refund Processing Fee***, within thirty (30) days of notice of cancellation. This partial refund will be made to the same debit or credit card you used with your application. **The *Application & Exam Administration Fee* is non-refundable.**

If you submit your notice of cancellation of a February 2021 NPLEX Examination AFTER January 25, 2021, and you have cancelled due to illness, a death in the family, inclement weather, or if you are unable to travel to the test site due to inclement weather or COVID-19 restrictions⁷:

- To receive a partial refund, you **will** be required to submit documentation of a reason for your cancellation (see below).
- Your name will be removed from the roster and you **will not** be admitted to the examination(s).
- You will be issued a refund of the ***Exam Fee(s)*** you paid with your application, minus a US\$50 ***Refund Processing Fee***, within thirty (30) days of the date all documentation is received by NABNE (see below). This partial refund will be made to the same debit or credit card you used with your application. **The *Application & Exam Administration Fee* is non-refundable.**

To receive a refund, you must:

- **Notify NABNE regarding your absence by completing and submitting the online *Cancellation Form* within 24 hours of your exam date**, explaining the circumstances that prevented you from taking the examination.
- **Send documentation that verifies the reason for your absence to NABNE within two (2) weeks after the exam date** (e.g., a note from a licensed doctor that verifies your illness or the illness of a family member, a detailed explanation of an emergency, verification of a death in the family, a copy of a web page showing a local weather report or road closures, etc.). Upload a scanned copy of this documentation with your *Cancellation Form* or send it via email to info@nabne.org.

If you cancel your registration, but re-apply at a later date, you will be required to complete and submit a new application and fees.

⁷ If, once you have begun to take the examination, you are prevented from **completing** it due to illness, a family emergency, or inclement weather, **notify the proctor immediately, then notify NABNE** the same day by submitting the *Cancellation Form*. You will not be admitted to the subsequent section of the examination during the current exam administration, and your exam results from the section you previously took during the current NPLEX administration will be nullified.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE NPLEX EXAMINATIONS

NABNE TEST SITES

When you choose a NABNE test site, you acknowledge that travel restrictions related to COVID-19 might prevent you from taking the examinations. For the 14 days prior to the exam administration, NABNE requires that you agree to follow current CDC COVID-19 prevention guidelines (i.e., wearing a mask when out in public, maintaining 6 ft. (2 m.) social distancing, washing or sanitizing their hands after each potential contagion contact).

In **February 2021**, the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Examinations will be administered at the following test sites:

WESTERN TEST SITES		EASTERN TEST SITES	
AZ	Mesa, Arizona	CT	Trumbull, Connecticut
BC	Vancouver, British Columbia	IL	Glen Ellyn, Illinois
CA	San Diego, California	ON	Toronto, Ontario
OR	Portland, Oregon	PR	Gurabo, Puerto Rico
WA	Redmond, Washington		

There are different exam schedules for the Eastern and Western test sites. Be sure you follow the correct exam schedule for the specific test site you have selected.

NABNE OBLIGATION TO ADMINISTER EXAMINATIONS

NABNE shall not be held responsible if the NPLEX Examinations cannot be administered due to any circumstances beyond the control of NABNE that would make it inadvisable, illegal, unsafe, or impossible to administer the examinations at the pre-determined time or on the pre-determined date. These circumstances include, but are not limited to: COVID-19 restrictions, inclement weather, floods, earthquakes, fires, other natural disasters, power failures, strikes, curtailment of transportation systems, epidemics, accidents, explosions, riots or civil disorder, terrorism, acts of war or other national emergencies, or if the test site at the sponsoring institution is closed or compromised. If any of these events occur, your only recourse will be to take the examination(s) at the next regularly scheduled administration.

RESTRICTIONS DUE TO COVID-19

NABNE is taking steps to maximize the likelihood that the test sites in February 2021 will comply with COVID-19 restrictions. NABNE cannot, however, guarantee that any given test site will be open. If a test site cannot be open due to governmental public safety restrictions, NABNE will post an announcement on the website at www.nabne.org, and you will be notified via email.

When you register to take the examination(s), you agree to abide by all measures NABNE is taking to keep examinees and proctors safe and to prevent transmission of COVID-19. These measures include having your temperature taken before you enter the testing room, being required to wear a face mask, and complying with social/physical distancing guidelines.

NPLEX PART II - CLINICAL SCIENCE EXAM DATES AND SCHEDULES

The Part II - Clinical Science Examinations are administered two times each year, in February and in August. In **February 2021**, the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Examination will be administered according to the following dates and schedules. **Be sure to allow sufficient time to arrive at the test site on the day of your examination. You are expected to be at the test site and ready to check in at the BEGINNING of the period for admission, seating, and instructions.**

There are **different exam schedules** for the **Eastern** and **Western** test sites. **Be sure you follow the correct schedule** for the specific test site you have selected.

EASTERN TEST SITES (CT, IL, ON, PR)

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Admission, seating, and instructions
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Clinical Elective Minor Surgery Exam Administration <i>(75 exam items, 1½ hours to complete the examination)</i>
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Break
12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Admission, seating, and instructions
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Core Clinical Science Exam Administration - Section 1 <i>(135 exam items, 3½ hours to complete the section)</i>

Thursday, February 4, 2021

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Admission, seating, and instructions
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Clinical Elective Pharmacology Exam Administration <i>(75 exam items, 1½ hours to complete the examination)</i>
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Break
12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Admission, seating, and instructions
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Core Clinical Science Exam Administration - Section 2 <i>(135 exam items, 3½ hours to complete the section)</i>

Friday, February 5, 2021

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Admission, seating, and instructions
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Clinical Elective Acupuncture Exam Administration <i>(75 exam items, 1½ hours to complete the examination)</i>
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Break
12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Admission, seating, and instructions
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Core Clinical Science Exam Administration - Section 3 <i>(130 exam items, 3½ hours to complete the section)</i>

WESTERN TEST SITES (AZ, BC, CA, OR, WA)

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Admission, seating, and instructions
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Core Clinical Science Exam Administration - Section 1 <i>(135 exam items, 3½ hours to complete the section)</i>
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Break
1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Admission, seating, and instructions
1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Clinical Elective Minor Surgery Exam Administration <i>(75 exam items, 1½ hours to complete the examination)</i>

Thursday, February 4, 2021

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Admission, seating, and instructions

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Core Clinical Science Exam Administration - Section 2

(135 exam items, 3½ hours to complete the section)

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Break

1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Admission, seating, and instructions

1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Clinical Elective Pharmacology Exam Administration

(75 exam items, 1½ hours to complete the examination)

Friday, February 5, 2021

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Admission, seating, and instructions

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Core Clinical Science Exam Administration - Section 3

(130 exam items, 3½ hours to complete the section)

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Break

1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Admission, seating, and instructions

1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Clinical Elective Acupuncture Exam Administration

(75 exam items, 1½ hours to complete the examination)

Contact the regulatory authority in the jurisdiction in which you intend to practice regarding administration of jurisprudence and jurisdiction-specific examinations.

ADMITTANCE TO THE EXAMINATIONS

Because the NPLEX Examinations are administered in public facilities, NABNE must comply with the policies of sponsoring institutions, many of which ban the use of scented personal products. **NABNE has adopted a fragrance-free policy at all test sites.** Due to chemical sensitivities of other examinees and testing personnel, we ask that you refrain from using fragrances (such as essential oils, perfume, after-shave, and cologne), or strongly scented personal products (such as powder, hair spray, deodorant, essential oils, etc.) during the days of examination. If you use noticeably scented products, the proctor may refuse to admit you to the testing room.

Before you leave home to go to the test site, be sure you have your **current government-issued photo identification** (e.g., driver's license, government-issued identification card, or passport), and a printed copy of your **Registration Ticket**. Plan to bring a **face mask**, which you will be required to wear at all times once you have entered the test site. If you don't have a face mask, you will not be allowed to enter the testing room. You may bring a pair of disposable gloves if you wish.

You must be at the test site and ready to check in at the BEGINNING of the admission time for your first examination of each day, because the precautions NABNE is taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will take more time than usual. This will ensure that you have time to have your temperature taken and complete a brief health screening, check in, be seated, and hear instructions before the testing period is scheduled to begin. **If your temperature is above 100.4°F (38° C), you will not be allowed to take the examination(s).** If you arrive late (after all examinees have been seated and the testing room door is closed), you will not be admitted to take the current or subsequent section of the examination, your results from a section you took earlier in the current administration will be nullified, and you will forfeit all exam fees.

You will be admitted into the testing room only if you have been approved to take the examination(s) and have presented a **printed copy of your Registration Ticket** and one piece of your **current photo identification** to the proctor. The **first** and **last** names on your photo identification must **exactly** match the first and last names on your *Registration Ticket*. Because you are not required to include your middle name on the application, it will not appear on your *Registration Ticket*.

You should keep your *Registration Ticket* and photo identification with you at all times during the testing period. You will need to refer to your *Registration Ticket* when filling in the identification information on every answer sheet you complete.

TESTING PROCEDURE

The Part II - Clinical Science Examinations will be administered in three sections, according to the *Part II - Clinical Science Exam Schedules* on page 13. You will be allowed 3½ hours (210 minutes) to complete 135 items in each section of the Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination, and 1½ hours (90 minutes) to complete 75 items on each of the Part II - Clinical Elective Examinations (Acupuncture, Minor Surgery, and/or Elective Pharmacology).

Before the testing period begins, you will receive an answer sheet and exam booklet, and will be given instructions by the proctor. **You must not open the exam booklet until you are instructed by the proctor to do so.**

After the testing period begins, the proctor will write the beginning time and the ending time on the white board. In addition, the proctor will verbally announce when there are 60, 30, 15, 5, and 1 minute(s) remaining in the testing period⁸. Pay attention to the announcements and manage your time accordingly, as **you will not be allowed to transfer answers from the test booklet to your answer sheet after the proctor has announced the end of the testing period.**

During the testing period, you will be permitted to leave the room only if you are accompanied by a proctor. Before you leave the room for **any** reason, you will be required to turn in all exam materials to a proctor. It is important to remember that you will **not** be given extra time to make up for time lost due to breaks you take during the testing period.

To avoid common errors associated with completing the exam answer sheet, you should keep these guidelines in mind:

- Use only the #2 pencil provided by NABNE.**
- Complete all personal identification sections of the answer sheet using information EXACTLY as it appears on your *Registration Ticket*.** Complete this information correctly and consistently on every answer sheet to ensure that your results are attributed to you.
- Fill in the bubbles darkly and completely.** A mark that is too light or fills only part of the bubble may be interpreted by the optical mark reader as unanswered, and you might not be given credit for your intended answer.
- Record ALL your answers on the answer sheet.** You may write in your exam booklet, but you will be given credit for **only** those answers you have recorded on your answer sheet. Exam booklets are shredded immediately after they are returned to NABNE.
- Make sure you have marked your answer for each item on the correct line of your answer sheet.** For example, marking the answer for item #4 in a bubble on the line designated for item #5 will cause all your remaining answers to be marked on the incorrect line.

⁸ If you choose to wear earplugs, it is your responsibility to track the time remaining in the testing period.

Erase all stray marks or smudges on your answer sheet.

Do not fold or bend the answer sheet.

Some of the items will be very challenging. You do not need to answer every item correctly to pass. While you should have no trouble completing the entire examination in the time allotted, some exam items will require more time to answer than others, and spending too much time on one item may cause you to feel pressured to speed through the rest. **The penalty for an unanswered item is the same as that for an incorrect response.** When you encounter an item for which you do not know the answer with certainty, try to eliminate some of the response alternatives. If, after eliminating one or two of the response alternatives, the correct answer is still not apparent, mark your best guess from among the remaining choices and return to the item later if time allows.

At the end of the testing period, you will be instructed to close your exam booklet and put down your pencil. After the proctor has announced the end of the testing period, **you will not be permitted to mark additional responses on your answer sheet.**

After you have completed the examination, you will be allowed to leave the room when the proctor has verified that you have turned in your answer sheet and exam booklet, and have signed and dated the *Affirmation of Compliance*.

NABNE TESTING REGULATIONS

NABNE testing regulations require that you:

Adhere to all COVID-19 prevention guidelines required by NABNE. These measures include:

- Having your temperature taken before you enter the testing room
- Being required to wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth
- Complying with social/physical distancing guidelines

Keep your *Registration Ticket* with you at all times during the testing period. You will be permitted to take into the testing room **only**:

- Your *Registration Ticket*
- One piece of your current government-issued photo identification (e.g., driver's license, government-issued identification, passport photo page, or passport card)
- A non-alcoholic beverage in a closed (non-breakable) container
- A face mask
- One pair of disposable gloves
- Reading glasses
- One pair of foam earplugs

You will be required to show all items to a proctor before you will be allowed to enter the testing room.

Minimize the number of personal belongings you bring with you to the test site in order to avoid cross-contamination of personal effects.

- ❑ **Leave ALL other personal belongings that you choose to bring with you in the designated area outside of the testing room.** Before you check in for an examination, turn off all electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, pagers, etc.) and leave them in the designated area outside the testing room. You will not be allowed access to your personal belongings, and will not be permitted to use any communication device at any time during the testing period. NABNE testing personnel will ensure that your belongings are secure during the testing period **only**.

If you are found to be in possession of any of the following items during the testing period, either inside or outside of the testing room, you could be dismissed from the examination:

- Electronic devices, including cell/mobile phones, listening devices (e.g., ear pieces, headphones, etc.), pagers, PDAs, laptop computers, electronic tablets, MP3 players, calculators, digital watches, recording or filming devices, radios, etc.
- Books, notes, study materials, scratch paper
- Backpacks, handbags, briefcases, wallets
- Outerwear⁹ (e.g., coats, jackets, gloves)
- Headwear (e.g., hats, caps, hoods, except those worn for religious purposes)
- Sunglasses, visors
- Tissue, writing instruments, erasers; these will be provided by NABNE.

You will not be allowed to bring food inside the testing room. If you need to eat, take medications, or have access to medical supplies during the testing period, you must leave these items with a proctor at the registration table when you check in for an examination. **These items must be clearly labeled with your first and last name** before you leave them with a proctor.

- ❑ **Present your *Registration Ticket* and current government-issued photo identification to a proctor to gain admittance to each section of the examination.**
- ❑ **Enter the testing room immediately after you check in for the examination.** Once you have checked in and have entered the testing room, you will not be allowed to leave without the permission of a proctor. You should use the restroom **before** you check in.
- ❑ **Follow all testing regulations set forth in this *Bulletin*, as well as all instructions given by the proctor(s).** A violation of any such regulation or instruction regarding any part of the examination process may result in dismissal from the current and/or any subsequent section(s) of the examination. Other sanctions may also be imposed, including but not limited to invalidation of exam results, forfeiture of exam fees, preclusion from taking future NPLEX Examinations, and/or notification of legitimately interested entities (e.g., your naturopathic medical school, the Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities, etc.).
- ❑ **Read, sign, and date the *Affirmation of Compliance* on the back cover of your exam booklet prior to the beginning of each examination.** NABNE will not release exam results without having a signed and dated *Affirmation of Compliance* on file for each section/examination you take.

⁹ You will be allowed to keep a sweater or light jacket with you in case the room temperature changes.

- ❑ **Return all exam materials to a proctor before you leave the testing room at any time.** When you have finished the examination, you will be allowed to leave the room only when the proctor has verified that you have turned in your answer sheet and exam booklet, and have signed and dated the *Affirmation of Compliance*.

IRREGULAR BEHAVIOR

Irregular behavior refers to violations or attempted violations of the rules regarding any part of the examination process. This includes, but is not limited to:

- ❑ **Violations before the testing period:**
 - Accessing unauthorized study materials
 - Providing false information on the application
 - Providing false admittance information

If, in advance of the exam administration, you know that organized or widespread cheating is occurring (e.g., an illegal study guide containing actual exam items is circulating), or is going to occur (e.g., examinees plan to exchange information during the examination), you should contact NABNE immediately.

- ❑ **Violations during the testing period:**
 - Impersonating an examinee or engaging an impersonator
 - Possessing unauthorized items in the testing room or accessing them during a break
 - Failing to adhere to a proctor's instructions or requests
 - Failing to comply with NABNE COVID-19 safety precautions
 - Communicating with other examinees during the testing period
 - Copying or allowing answers to be copied by another examinee during the testing period
 - Accessing written notes or electronic information during the testing period
 - Reproducing exam content manually or electronically
 - Taking exam materials from the testing room at any time before, during, or after the testing period

If you have knowledge that any of any of these violations are occurring during the exam administration, you should notify the head proctor immediately.

- ❑ **Violations after the testing period:**
 - Reproducing exam items, by any means, including reconstruction from memory
 - Communicating about exam items and/or answers with other examinees, potential examinees, or formal or informal test preparation groups
 - Altering exam results or transcripts

If, after the exam administration, you have reason to believe that there has been such a violation, you should contact NABNE immediately.

CONSEQUENCES OF IRREGULAR BEHAVIOR

If evidence is found of a breach in the security of exam materials **before** an exam administration, and such evidence suggests that the behavior is organized and/or may involve a number of examinees, NABNE reserves the right to cancel the test administration. If evidence is found of a breach in the security of exam materials **after** an exam administration, and such evidence suggests that the behavior was organized and/or may have involved a number of examinees, NABNE reserves the right to nullify the exam results of some or all examinees.

If violations are observed **during** the exam administration, the head proctor will report them to NABNE, and an investigation will ensue. If it is determined that there is sufficient evidence of irregular behavior, the violator will be advised of the nature of the evidence and will be given an opportunity to respond in writing. If exam results have not been reported previously, they will be withheld during any further investigation or review, and the violator may not be permitted to take subsequent examinations until a final decision regarding irregular behavior has been made.

If, upon review of the available information, it is determined that irregular behavior has occurred, the violator's exam results may be invalidated, s/he may be prohibited from taking NPLEX Examinations in the future, special administrative procedures may be implemented for any future examinations, and/or notice regarding the determination and the sanctions imposed may be provided to legitimately interested entities, including all transcript recipients.

If the irregular behavior involves the unauthorized reproduction and/or distribution of exam materials, or the dissemination of specific exam content, NABNE may pursue every legal means available to protect copyrighted materials.

The actions described above do not preclude NABNE from seeking legal redress against the violator.

NPLEX PASSING STANDARDS

The NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination (CCSE) is a single, integrated examination that is designed to test your knowledge of diagnosis, treatment, and medical interventions. To pass the examination, you must be able to demonstrate concurrent¹⁰ competence in four **general** exam areas (GEAs)¹¹: **Diagnosis, Materia Medica, Other Modalities, and Medical Interventions.**

You have passed a Part II - Clinical Elective Examination (Acupuncture, Elective Pharmacology, and/or Minor Surgery) when you have achieved a minimum converted¹² score of 75.

REPORTING OF EXAM RESULTS

If you have graduated by time you have taken the examination(s):

- Your **unofficial** exam results (Pass/Fail only) will be posted to the dashboard of your online *Profile* approximately six (6) weeks after the exam administration. You will be notified by email when your results can be viewed online. An **official** hard copy of your exam results will be sent to you by regular mail within the same week.

If you have not completed all requirements for graduation by the time you take the examination(s):

- Your exam results will not be released until NABNE has received, **no later than March 31, 2021**, confirmation from your ANMP that you have completed all requirements for graduation. If NABNE does not receive this letter by the deadline, your exam results will be nullified and all fees will be forfeited.

NABNE will make every attempt to ensure that the exam results posted online are correct; however, because implementation of this feature requires manual transfer of data (which introduces the possibility of human error), **NABNE cannot guarantee that the information posted online is accurate.** NABNE suggests that you **do not** make any decisions based on these results.

The **official** report of your Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination results you receive in the mail will provide information regarding your overall passing status, and will include a visual scale that illustrates your performance in each of the four **general** exam areas relative to the minimum percentage of items you must correctly answer to pass that **general** exam area.

¹⁰ You must pass all four **general** exam areas within the **same** exam administration in order to pass the examination (e.g., passing two **general** exam areas in one exam administration and the other two in another exam administration does not constitute a passing result).

¹¹ You have passed the Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination when you have correctly answered at least the number of questions that NPLEX subject matter experts (licensed/registered NDs) have determined are required to demonstrate competence in each of the four **general** exam areas (NPLEX uses a modified Angoff method to set the passing score).

¹² A **converted** score of 75 is a scaled score that represents the minimum percentage of items you must answer correctly in order to pass the examination. It is **not** the percentage of correct answers. The actual **percentage** represented by a converted (scaled) score of 75 is usually in the range of 60-70%, depending on the difficulty of the particular examination.

❑ **Comprehensive Mastery** indicates, with either a **P** (Pass) or **F** (Fail) designation, whether or not you have passed the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination. You have passed the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination when you have achieved a **P** (Pass) in all four **general** exam areas:

- **Diagnosis**, which reflects the result you achieved on the exam items that relate to physical & clinical diagnosis, lab testing & diagnostic imaging, and interpretation and application of research studies.
- **Materia Medica**, which reflects the result you achieved on the exam items that relate to botanical medicine and homeopathy
- **Other Modalities**, which reflects the result you achieved on the exam items that relate to nutrition, physical medicine, and psychology
- **Medical Interventions**, which reflects the result you achieved on the exam items that relate to emergency medicine and pharmacology

If you fail the examination, your report will also provide a visual scale that illustrates the strength of your performance in each of the nine **specific** exam areas relative to your performance in the other **specific** exam areas.

If you have taken any Part II - Clinical Elective Examination(s), the report you receive in the mail will include a section that shows a **P** (Pass) or **F** (Fail) designation along with the converted score(s) you achieved.

NABNE will also send, to the single regulatory authority you indicated on your *Part II Application*, an official report of your Part II - Clinical Science exam results (including the Core Clinical Science and any Clinical Elective Examinations you took).

Exam results are the property of the examinee. NABNE serves as an unbiased repository of those results. Your exam results will only be released to the regulatory authorities that you have designated on your application or transcript request, or to other parties with your written permission. To avoid possible misinterpretation and to protect your privacy, **exam results will not be reported to you by telephone, fax, or email.**

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

After you receive your results from the current NPLEX administration, you may request that a transcript be sent to additional regulatory authorities. The transcript NABNE sends will include your Part I - Biomedical Science Examination results, your Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination results, and results for any Clinical Elective Examinations (Acupuncture, Elective Pharmacology, and/or Minor Surgery you have taken).

Submit your *Transcript Request* and payment of US\$25 online. Transcript requests are typically processed within three to five (3-5) business days of receipt.

Official transcripts of NPLEX exam results must be sent directly from NABNE. A transcript sent directly to you will be **unofficial** and will be noted as such.

RE-EXAMINATION POLICIES

Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination

If you do not pass any of the four **general** exam areas (Diagnosis, Materia Medica, Other Modalities, and Medical Interventions), you will be required to retake the entire Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination.

If you do not pass the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination within ten (10) years of passing the NPLEX Part I - Basic Science Series or Biomedical Science Examination, you will be required to retake and pass the Part I - Biomedical Science Examination before you will be allowed to take or retake the Part II - Clinical Science Examinations. If this applies to you, please contact NABNE regarding additional eligibility requirements.

Part II - Clinical Elective Examinations

Once you have taken the Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination, you may retake any Part II - Clinical Elective Examination (Acupuncture, Elective Pharmacology, and/or Minor Surgery) during any subsequent NPLEX exam administration. You will not be required to retake a Part II - Clinical Elective Examination you have previously passed, regardless of whether or not you are required to retake the Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination.

MANUAL SCORING REQUESTS

Every answer sheet used for an NPLEX Examination is scanned by a state-of-the-art optical mark reader, and errors are reviewed by the scanning operator. The possibility of a scanning error is negligible. However, you may request a manual scoring from the most recent exam administration to verify that the answers you marked on your answer sheet(s) correctly match the answers recorded by the scanner. You will be notified of the results of this manual scoring; however, you will **not** receive additional information regarding your exam results (e.g., numerical scores, specific questions answered incorrectly, etc.).

If you would like to receive a manual scoring of an examination you take in **February 2021**, you must submit your request and payment online **no later than April 30, 2021**. The *Manual Scoring Fee* of **US\$60** for the Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination and/or **US\$25** for each Part II - Clinical Elective Examination must be paid using a debit or credit card.

ISSUES AND APPEALS

Because NPLEX uses an extensive post-test analysis process (including statistical analysis of individual items), the exam results sent to you reflect changes made after post-test analysis of items that did not perform as expected. Consequently, **NABNE does not change exam results.**

If you wish to appeal a **policy** decision, you must submit your appeal to NABNE in writing, addressed to the Executive Director of NABNE. Your appeal will be presented to the NABNE Board. The Board will make every effort to respond to you with a decision within six (6) weeks of receipt of your appeal.

NABNE - Appeals

Suite 119, #321
9220 SW Barbur Blvd.
Portland, OR 97219
Attn: Executive Director

LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

The NPLEX Examinations measure minimal competence in the medical knowledge you need to be a safe naturopathic practitioner. “Board Certification” implies additional education and testing beyond this degree of entry-level qualification. Therefore, passing the NPLEX Examinations does **not** mean you are “board-certified”.

DOMAIN OF AUTHORITY & ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE/REGISTRATION

You must abide by NABNE policies regarding **examination** (e.g., eligibility requirements, and examination/re-examination policies). You must abide by jurisdictional policies regarding **licensure/registration**. Successful completion of the NPLEX Examination process does not guarantee eligibility to become licensed/registered as a naturopathic physician/doctor in every jurisdiction.

JURISDICTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE/REGISTRATION

The NPLEX Examinations are international examinations and you are expected to have the general knowledge required to practice in all jurisdictions within the U.S. and Canada. This may mean that you are required to have knowledge over and above the scope of practice in any particular jurisdiction. In jurisdictions that regulate the licensure/registration of naturopathic physicians/doctors (with the exception of Ontario), you are required to pass both the NPLEX Part I - Biomedical Science and the Part II - **Core** Clinical Science Examination. In addition, to be eligible for licensure in some jurisdictions, you may be required to also pass NPLEX Part II - Clinical **Elective** Examinations in Acupuncture, Elective Pharmacology, and/or Minor Surgery.

Jurisdictional requirements are subject to change. NABNE cannot guarantee that the information below is accurate. You should check with the jurisdiction in which you plan to practice regarding jurisdiction-specific policies and to confirm which NPLEX Examinations are required for eligibility to become licensed/registered as a naturopathic physician.

State Requirements

NPLEX EXAMS	AK	AZ	CA	CO	CT	DC	HI	ID	KS	MD	ME	MN	MT	ND	NH	NM	OR	PR	RI	UT	VT	WA	
Part I - BSE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Part II - CCSE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Part II - Acupuncture		•							•														
Part II - Minor Surgery		•					○			•			•			•	•				•	•	•
Part II - Pharmacology								•								•	•					○	

Provincial Requirements

NPLEX EXAMS	AB	BC	MB	ON	SK
Part I - BSE	•	•	•	♣	•
Part II - CCSE	•	•	•		•
Part II - Acupuncture	○				•
Part II - Minor Surgery	○	•			
Part II - Pharmacology					

○ You are required to take the examination only if you wish to use these modalities in your practice.

♣ Ontario will only accept your NPLEX Part I exam results if you register with CONO prior to November 15, 2020.

You should contact individual regulatory authorities for the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding their specific requirements for licensure/registration. Some regulatory authorities require jurisprudence, oral, and other jurisdiction-specific examinations. These jurisdiction-specific examinations are not prepared, coordinated, scheduled, or administered by NABNE. NABNE administers only NPLEX Examinations. To confirm NPLEX exam requirements and to apply for and arrange to take jurisprudence and other jurisdiction-specific examinations, you are responsible for checking with the regulatory authority in the jurisdiction in which you plan to practice.

STATE AND PROVINCIAL CONTACTS

ALASKA (AK)

Division of Corporations, Bus. & Prof. Lic.
Naturopath Section
PO Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
Phone: 907-465-3811
Email: Naturopathy@Alaska.gov
Website: www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ

ALBERTA (AB)

Cherie Baruss BA, LL.B, Registrar & Complaints
Director
College of Naturopathic Doctors of Alberta
#216-20 Sunpark Plaza, SE
Calgary, AB T2X 3T2
Phone: 403-266-2446
Email: info@cnda.net
Website: www.cnda.net

ARIZONA (AZ)

Gail Anthony, Executive Director
Arizona Naturopathic Physicians Medical Board
1740 West Adams, Suite 3002
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: 602-542-8242
Email: info@nd.az.gov
Website: www.nd.az.gov

BRITISH COLUMBIA (BC)

CNPBC
Suite 840-605 Robson St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3
Phone: 604-688-8236
Email: registration@cnpsc.bc.ca
Website: www.cnpbc.bc.ca

CALIFORNIA (CA)

Rebecca Mitchell, Executive Officer
Naturopathic Medicine Committee
1300 National Dr., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834
Phone: 916-928-4785
Email: naturopathic@dca.ca.gov
Website: www.naturopathic.ca.gov

COLORADO (CO)

Colorado Dept. of Regulatory Agencies (DORA)
Office of Naturopathic Doctor Registration
1560 Broadway, Suite 1350
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 303-894-2988
Email: dora_dpo_licensing@state.co.us
Website: www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Naturopathy

CONNECTICUT (CT)

Connecticut Department of Public Health
Naturopathic Physician Licensure
410 Capitol Ave., MS #12 APP
PO Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134
Phone: 860-509-7603
Email: dph.healingarts@ct.gov
Website: www.ct.gov/dph

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (DC)

DC Health
Naturopathic Physician Licensing
899 North Capitol St., NE
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202-442-5955
Email: doh@dc.gov
Website: www.dchealth.dc.gov

HAWAII (HI)

DCCA - PVL
Attn: NAT
PO Box 3469
Honolulu, HI 96801
Phone: 808-586-3000
Email: <https://cca.hawaii.gov/contact/>
Website: www.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/naturopathy

IDAHO (ID)

Idaho State Board of Medicine
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0058
Phone: 208-327-7000
Email: licensing@bom.idaho.gov
Website: <http://Licensing@bom.idaho.gov>

KANSAS (KS)

Kansas Board of Healing Arts
800 SW Jackson, Lower Level - Suite A
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: 785-296-7413
Email: KSBHA_Licensing@ks.gov
Website: www.ksbha.org

MAINE (ME)

Jessica Gowell, Professional Licensing Supervisor
Board of Complementary Health Care Providers
Naturopathic Doctors
#35 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Phone: 207-624-8640
Email: comphealth.lic@maine.gov
Website: www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing

MANITOBA (MB)

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Manitoba Naturopathic Association
971 Corydon Ave., PO Box 434
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Website: www.mbn.ca

MARYLAND (MD)

Maryland Board of Physicians
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Phone: 410-764-4777
Email: mpbmail@rcn.com
Website: www.mpb.state.md.us

MINNESOTA (MN)

Elizabeth Larson, Licensure Unit Manager
Minnesota Board of Medical Practice
Naturopathic Doctor Registration
University Park Plaza
2829 University Ave., SE, Suite 500
Minneapolis, MN 55414
Phone: 612-548-2144
Email: Elizabeth.Larson@state.mn.us
Website: www.mn.gov/boards/medical-practice

MONTANA (MT)

Montana Board of Alternative Health Care
301 S Park Avenue, 4th Floor
PO Box 200513
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: 406-444-6880
Email: dlibsdhhelp@mt.gov
Website: www.althealth.mt.gov

NEW HAMPSHIRE (NH)

New Hampshire Office of Professional
Licensure and Certification
Philbrook Building
121 South Fruit St.
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-271-2176
Email: naturopathic@oplcnh.gov
Website: www.oplc.nh.gov/naturopathic-examiners/

NEW MEXICO (NM)

New Mexico Medical Board
2055 S Pacheco St., Bldg. 400
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Phone: 505-476-7220
Email: nmbme@state.nm.us
Website: www.nmmb.state.nm.us

NORTH DAKOTA (ND)

North Dakota Board of Integrative Health Care
c/o A Music Therapy in Motion
6046-B 14th St. S
Fargo, ND 58104
Phone: 218-791-0908
Email: ndbihc@gmail.com
Website: www.ndbihc.org

ONTARIO (ON)

College of Naturopaths of Ontario (CONO)
150 John St., 10th Floor
Toronto, ON M5V 3E3
Phone: 416-583-6010
Email: info@collegeofnaturopaths.on.ca
Website: www.collegeofnaturopaths.on.ca

CONO has developed its own examination that will be required for registration in Ontario. Contact them for more information.

OREGON (OR)

Mary-Beth Baptista
Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 407
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 971-673-0193
Email: naturopathic.medicine@state.or.us
Website: www.oregon.gov/obnm

PUERTO RICO (PR)

Sra. Rebeca Osorio
Junta Examinadora de Doctores en Naturopatia
PO Box 10200
San Juan, PR 00908-0200
Phone: 787-765-2929, Ext. 6598
Email: losorio@salud.gov.pr

RHODE ISLAND (RI)

Rhode Island Department of Health
Naturopathic Physician Licensure
3 Capitol Hill, Room 104
Providence, RI 02908
Phone: 401-222-5960
Email: <http://health.ri.gov/contact>
Website: www.health.ri.gov

SASKATCHEWAN (SK)

Dr. Vanessa DeCicco
Office of the Registrar
SANP
206-3775 Pasqua Street
Regina, SK S4S 6W8
Phone: 306-757-4325
Email: info@sanp.ca
Website: www.sanp.ca

UTAH (UT)

Larry Marx, Bureau Manager
Div. Of Occupational & Professional Licensing
160 East 300 South
PO Box 146741
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6741
Phone: 801-530-6628
Email: [l Marx@utah.gov](mailto:lm Marx@utah.gov)
Website: www.dopl.utah.gov/licensing/naturopathy

VERMONT (VT)

Corey Young
VT Office of Professional Regulation
89 Main Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3402
Phone: 802-828-2373
Email: corey.young@vermont.gov
Website: www.vtprofessionals.org

WASHINGTON (WA)

Washington State Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Naturopathic Physician Credentialing
PO Box 47877
Olympia, WA 98504-7877
Phone: 360-236-4700
Email: ESM.cred@doh.wa.gov
Website: www.doh.wa.gov

COURTESY ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a temporary limitation (e.g., a fractured arm or leg, advanced pregnancy, etc.) that does not rise to the level of a functional disability, NABNE will work with you and the testing facility to provide physical arrangements to meet your needs. These types of limitations do not require extensive evaluation by a specialist because they require only modification of a **physical** component of the testing environment; however, you may be required to submit a note from your physician or other professional. You must submit a ***Courtesy Accommodations Request Form*** to NABNE, **no later than two (2) weeks prior to the exam date**. If you have not requested the accommodations at least two (2) weeks prior to the exam date, the testing facility is under no obligation to accommodate your request. Write to NABNE at testingaccommodations@nabne.org to receive a copy of the *Courtesy Accommodations Request Form*.

Extended testing time or off-the-testing-clock break time are not considered courtesy accommodations. If you are requesting **extended testing time**, you must request and complete the appropriate forms (*NABNE TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS REQUEST PACKET*), and be evaluated by a professional who can provide objective evidence (results of psycho-educational testing) of a functional limitation that requires that you receive this accommodation.

NABNE TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

In general, a **disability** is defined as a physical, cognitive, or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of an individual's major life activities. Not all disabilities, however, impact an examinee's ability to access (take) a multiple-choice examination. To be granted testing accommodations by NABNE for the administration of the NPLEX, the applicant must submit objective evidence that s/he has a disability which causes functional limitations that are relevant to taking a multiple-choice examination¹³. Providing accommodations to an examinee who does **not** have a disability is likely to provide an advantage that other examinees have not received, compromising the fairness of the exam process.

To have an application for testing accommodations be considered for the **February 2021** exam administration, you must register to take the upcoming NPLEX examination¹⁴, and NABNE must receive, **no later than November 30, 2020**, all required documentation¹⁵, establishing that:

- You are an individual who has current functional impairments that arise due to a disability;
- These impairments cause functional limitations that impact your ability to access a multiple-choice examination;

AND

¹³ The NPLEX is a multiple-choice examination that requires you to be able to read and comprehend text. The examinations do not require math calculation, oral fluency, or compositional writing.

¹⁴ NABNE will make a final determination regarding the provision of accommodations only in reference to the upcoming exam administration, and only if you are currently registered and have submitted timely and complete requests for accommodations.

¹⁵ If the documentation submitted to NABNE by the deadline is not sufficient to establish that you have a **disability** that impacts your ability to access a multiple-choice examination, it is **not** NABNE's responsibility to follow up and obtain the required information.

- The requested testing accommodations are reasonable¹⁶ and address the specific functional limitations relevant to taking a multiple-choice examination.

To apply for testing accommodations, you should request the **CURRENT NABNE Applicant Testing Accommodations Request Forms** by writing to testingaccommodations@nabne.org.¹⁷ If NABNE has not received the testing accommodations application, on **current** forms, with **complete documentation by the end of the exam registration period** (November 30, 2020), your request will not be evaluated in time for the upcoming exam administration. It is not NABNE's responsibility to follow up to obtain missing documentation. If any required documentation is received **after** the application period has ended, you will be given the option of either taking the examination(s) without the requested accommodations, or cancelling your application and forfeiting all application fees and part of the exam fees.

Initial Testing Accommodations Request

To apply for testing accommodations and ensure that your request will be considered in time for the upcoming NPLEX administration, it is your responsibility to:

- Register to take an NPLEX examination.**
- Complete the CURRENT NABNE Applicant Testing Accommodations Request Form.**
- Prepare and submit a personal statement describing the nature of your disability** and how the testing accommodations being requested will address the functional limitations associated with that disability (e.g., how a cognitive disability affects your access to a multiple-choice examination, why a physical disability requires extra testing time, etc.).
- Have a professional** who is qualified to assess your particular disability¹⁸ send **current**¹⁹ documentation **directly to NABNE**²⁰ on the **NABNE Evaluator's Report** that includes:
 - **A description of the nature of the condition**, to include:
 - A verbal description, or a specific diagnosis²¹ such as a DSM-5 or ICD code.
 - The **criteria used to substantiate any diagnosis** made.
 - **An explanation of how the condition or diagnosis was determined**, to include:

¹⁶ A **reasonable accommodation** is an adjustment to or modification of standard testing conditions that addresses the functional limitation(s) that is (are) related to an examinee's disability, without giving undue advantage to the examinee who receives the accommodation; without compromising the validity or security of the examination; without fundamentally altering the measurement of knowledge, ability, or skill that the test is intended to measure; and without imposing an undue hardship on NABNE.

¹⁷ The new forms for the upcoming administration will be available from NABNE approximately two (2) months before the deadline for submission.

¹⁸ For example, cognitive/developmental/psychological disorders will be appropriately evaluated by a neuropsychologist.

¹⁹ "Current" depends on the nature of the disability. If your most current evaluation is more than five (5) years old, you will be required to have a new evaluation; if it is less than five (5) years old, contact NABNE to find out if a new evaluation is required. **Regardless of the recency of your evaluation, you must have your evaluator complete the new February 2021 NABNE Evaluator's Report form.**

²⁰ The report must be sent directly from the evaluator to NABNE. NABNE will not accept *NABNE Evaluator's Reports* sent by you.

²¹ A diagnosis (e.g., DSM-5 or ICD code) is not required, but because it is a shorthand version of describing a condition, it can substitute for a lengthy verbal description. Although information regarding diagnosis and history may be withheld at your discretion, if the information is not provided, it may affect NABNE's ability to reasonably assess the accommodations request.

- A **history** of the disability with a review of **objective** information (e.g., school performance before accommodations were granted, reports by former teachers or family members etc.).
 - Appropriate **psycho-educational test scores²²** and/or **physical findings** that are relevant to your ability to access a multiple-choice examination.
 - **Interpretation** of test scores and/or physical findings.
 - A **clinical summary**, integrating history and results of psycho-educational testing and/or objective physical examination, indicating how they relate to your ability to take a multiple-choice examination.
- A **description of your *current* functional limitations** and how they relate to taking a multiple-choice examination.
 - Proof of the **evaluator's qualifications** (e.g., the evaluator's credentials, licensure status, membership in an applicable professional regulatory body, speciality, etc).
- **Ensure that all accommodations request documents are received by NABNE no later than the end of the application period: November 30, 2020.**

Applications for accommodations and all required documentation
for the upcoming exam administration should be:

Emailed in PDF format to:
testingaccommodations@nabne.org

If you cannot send your materials via email, please contact NABNE at 503-452-2953.

To ensure that your request will be evaluated in time for the
February 2021 exam administration, **all documentation
must be received by NABNE no later than November 30, 2020.**

Your documentation will be reviewed by one or more of NABNE's expert documentation review specialists (DRSs), each of whom will provide an impartial interpretation of the information provided. Every NABNE documentation review specialist has a doctoral degree (Ph.D., Ed.D., or Psy.D.) with specialty training in the disability assessment process. All have many years of experience reviewing evaluations such as the ones submitted by applicants for accommodations, and are aware of applicable legal requirements. After the DRS reviews the documentation, NABNE will determine whether or not the request for accommodations will be granted.

²² Most people who take an entire battery of neuropsychological tests will demonstrate relative strengths and weaknesses and/or limitations in one or more areas. While scores on such tests provide useful supporting documentation when an individual is claiming a cognitive disorder, a few low scores are insufficient, in and of themselves, to establish the existence of a disability.

A request for testing accommodations may be *denied* if NABNE determines that:

- The **objective** evidence provided in the documentation furnished by your evaluator is:
 - Not adequate to substantiate the claimed disability and/or the claimed functional limitation(s).

AND/OR

- Not consistent with, or not adequate to substantiate a claim that the limitation(s) is (are) significant in the context of taking a multiple-choice examination.
- The specific testing accommodation(s) you have requested is (are) not reasonable or not appropriate to the functional limitation(s) related to your disability.

Notice of Determination

Four weeks prior to the scheduled exam date, you will be contacted via letter and/or email with the decision regarding your request. If your request is granted, you will be sent a memo documenting the accommodations you will be provided; you will need to sign and return this document to NABNE. If your request is denied, you will be given an explanation for the decision; your options will be to take the examination(s) without the requested accommodations, or to cancel your application and forfeit all application fees and part of your exam fees.

NABNE is under no obligation to provide the same accommodations as those provided by your current naturopathic medical program (ANMP).

Subsequent Testing Accommodations Requests

If you have been granted testing accommodations in the past, you will not **automatically** be granted the same accommodations for a subsequent exam administration. To request testing accommodations for subsequent exam administrations, you must submit a new *NABNE Applicant Testing Accommodations Request Form* every time you apply to take the NPLEX. Although new documentation from a disability specialist **might not** be required, you are responsible for ensuring that the documentation NABNE has on file meets the requirements outlined earlier.

If your previous request for accommodations was denied, for a future exam administration you may resubmit an accommodations request that includes **additional information**. However, further documentation will not change the outcome if the information provided in the new report is not consistent with the claimed disability or relevant functional limitations.

Issues and Appeals Regarding Testing Accommodation Decisions

If you wish to appeal a decision regarding your testing accommodations application, you must submit your appeal to NABNE in writing, addressed to the Test Accommodations Committee of the NABNE Board. Send your letter to testingaccommodations@NABNE.org. Due to the short time frame between when the letters of decision are sent out, the Board will not be able to respond to you before the upcoming exam administration, but NABNE will make every effort to respond to you with a response to your appeal within six (6) weeks of receipt of your appeal.