

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES



NABNE®

NORTH AMERICAN BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC EXAMINERS

Ensuring the Professional Qualifications of NDs

AUGUST 2026 NPLEX® TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES HANDBOOK

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PURPOSE

The North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE) is committed to providing all examination candidates an equitable opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities in the examination setting. NABNE provides reasonable and appropriate testing accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the United States (US) and in accordance with applicable human rights and accessibility legislation in Canada.

Testing accommodations should remove barriers to examinee performance. They should neither advantage nor disadvantage any examinee. Testing accommodations are purposely designed to remove obstacles that are presented by an individual's disability, without modifying the nature or level of the qualification that is being assessed and without compromising the reliability or validity of the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX). Regulatory authorities rely on NABNE to provide reliable and valid examination results.

If a candidate has a disability that impairs their equal access to the NPLEX, the candidate may request testing accommodations to provide equal access. NABNE will consider testing accommodations requests for the NPLEX from eligible candidates who have a demonstrated disability and need for accommodation if the requests are:

- Reasonable and properly documented
AND
- Do not fundamentally alter the examination
AND
- Do not jeopardize exam security or validity

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Testing accommodations are purposely designed to remove obstacles that are presented by an individual's disability, without modifying the nature or level of the qualification that is being assessed and without compromising the reliability or validity of the NPLEX.

Testing accommodations should neither advantage nor disadvantage any examinee.

UNDERSTANDING THE STANDARD TESTING CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT

The NPLEX Part I - Biomedical Science Examination is administered in two (2) sections on the same day. Examinees are allowed 2½ hours (150 minutes) to complete each 100-question section. There is a 1-hour break between the sections of the examination.

The NPLEX Part II – Core Clinical Science Examination is administered in three (3) sections over a series of three (3) days, one section each day. Examinees are allowed 3 ½ hours (210 minutes) to complete each section. Section 1 and 2 have 135 questions and section 3 has 130 questions.

The NPLEX Part II – Clinical Elective Examinations (Acupuncture, Elective Pharmacology, Minor Surgery, and Parenteral Medicine) are administered on separate days. Examinees are allowed 1½ hours (90 minutes) to complete the 75 questions in each Part II – Clinical Elective Examination.

Examinees will take the examinations at their selected Prometric test sites on computers.

[Prometric test center experience](#)

[Prometric test center policies](#)

[Prometric test center procedures](#)

Please refer to the [NABNE Examinee Handbook](#) or [Prometric's Preapproved Items](#) list for more details about what is allowed into the testing room and what is not allowed.

COMFORT MEASURES (Prometric Preapproved Items)

Comfort measures are not testing accommodations and do not require a finding that the applicant has a qualifying disability as is necessary for testing accommodations.

Please refer to [Prometric's Preapproved Items](#) list to see what is allowed into the testing room without prior approval.

Only Bluetooth-attached medical devices will be permitted in the Prometric testing room. Any external remote-control devices, such as a cell phone, must remain in the locker and silenced during the exam.

A comfort measure approval is required by NABNE if the applicant is medically unable to disable Bluetooth on the applicant's cell phone or test without a cell phone. Please contact NABNE at testingaccommodations@nabne.org to obtain a *Comfort Measure Request Form* to apply for approval.¹

The completed *Comfort Measures Request Form* may be submitted to NABNE by email at testingaccommodations@nabne.org no later than **May 1, 2026, for the August 2026 NPLEX administration.**

While NABNE aims to grant requests for comfort measures to individuals who request them, approval is not guaranteed.

¹ A letter will be required if the examinee has an implanted medical device that has external communication capability, but that capability cannot be turned off for the duration of the testing session. No later than the deadline, the letter should be emailed directly to NABNE at testingaccommodations@nabne.org by the treating professional on office letterhead and signed by the applicant's fully licensed practicing physician or other qualified professional. The letter should be dated, have the applicant's name, and explain the necessity of the implanted device being connected to external communication during the testing session.

UNDERSTANDING NABNE TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

DEFINITION OF TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

A testing accommodation refers to any modification to the standard administration of the NPLEX to address an examinee's disability. Testing accommodations are designed to remove obstacles that are presented by an individual's disability without modifying the nature or level of the qualification and competencies that are being assessed.

AVAILABLE TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Applicants may request testing accommodations to facilitate equal access to the NPLEX. Testing accommodations that may be provided include, but are not limited to:

- Off-the-testing-clock breaks – additional break time but unchanged total testing time
- Assistive technology or personnel
- Access to medication in the testing room
- Extended testing time
- Private or semi-private testing space
- Visual notification of start time, time remaining, and stop times.

Examinees are not permitted to provide their own readers, recorders, or interpreters.

WHICH CANDIDATES SHOULD REQUEST TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS?

Candidates who have a qualifying disability that impairs their equal access to the NPLEX should consider applying for testing accommodations. NABNE defines a “qualifying disability” as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity (US) or as defined by applicable human rights legislation (Canada). Please note that all requests for testing accommodations must be supported by appropriate documentation, as outlined on pages 7, 8, and 9 in this Handbook.

- Applicants must initiate the request for testing accommodations themselves. Requests for testing accommodations from third parties (e.g., naturopathic medical programs, instructors, healthcare providers, or relatives) are not accepted.
- Modifications to the testing environment will not be considered or approved at the test site on the day of the NPLEX administration.
- NABNE does not assess additional fees to candidates who request testing accommodations.

QUALIFYING DISABILITIES

To receive testing accommodations, an applicant must have a qualifying disability (pursuant to the ADA or applicable disability legislation in Canada) that impairs their access to the NPLEX. There must be a *documentable* physical or mental impairment *AND* objective evidence that the disability impairs the applicant's equal access to the NPLEX.

Some conditions, such as complete blindness or deafness, are always substantially limiting. A variety of other impairments might be disabling for some individuals, though not for others, depending on the impact on their major life activities.

Testing accommodation requests require documentation from a qualified professional supporting the existence of a disability that impairs access to the examination and indicating that the requested accommodation is necessary to provide equal access to the NPLEX. It is important that the applicant's qualified professional understands that the NPLEX requires examinees to be able to read and comprehend text.

The Part I – Biomedical Science Examination, the Part II – Core Clinical Science Examination, the Part II – Acupuncture Elective Examination, and the Part II – Minor Surgery Elective Examination do not require math calculations, oral fluency, or writing.

The Part II – Elective Pharmacology Examination and the Part II – Parenteral Medicine Elective Examination do not require oral fluency or writing, but approximately 1% of the questions (1 point out of 75 total points) do require basic math calculations.

REQUESTING TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

REQUIRED FORMS

To request reasonable accommodations, the following must be completed and submitted to NABNE:

1. A completed and signed *NABNE Testing Accommodations Request form*. This is to be provided by the applicant; and
2. A completed and signed *NABNE Testing Accommodations Applicant Checklist*. This is to be provided by the applicant; and
3. A completed *NABNE Evaluator's Report Form (NERf)* and required documentation. This is to be signed by and sent by a qualified professional.

Requests for testing accommodations will not be considered until items 1, 2, and 3 above are received. NABNE will not consider incomplete requests.

Requests for testing accommodations will not be considered until items 1, 2, and 3 above are received. NABNE will not consider incomplete requests.

The information requested on the NABNE forms may be withheld at the applicant's discretion.

OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE REQUIRED

NABNE requires objective evidence in support of testing accommodations requests. The *NERf* is designed to help the qualified professional submit the information NABNE requires to appropriately assess the testing accommodations request.

OPTIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The applicant may submit documentation to NABNE of testing accommodations granted by the applicant's academic institutions, and/or testing accommodations on another standardized examination (e.g., SAT, ACT, MCAT, USMLE, COMLEX, NCLEX). The documentation must be dated, signed by an appropriate representative, on office letterhead, and include the applicant's name.

The applicant may submit a personal statement that specifically describes how the applicant's functional limitations impact their ability to take a standardized, multiple-choice examination like the NPLEX. This statement is not required and is intended to give the applicant an opportunity to provide relevant information that might not be provided by the qualified professional.

The applicant may submit any other objective evidence of substantial functional limitations.

CURRENCY OF THE EVALUATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

All documentation should reflect current functioning.

Testing accommodations are assessed based on the current impact of the applicant's disability on the testing activity. It is in the applicant's best interest to provide recent documentation because the manifestations of a disability may vary over time and in different settings. Certain conditions such as some physical and psychiatric conditions are subject to change and should be updated to reflect current functioning. Contact NABNE at testingaccommodations@nabne.org to find out if a current evaluation is required, as "current" depends on the nature of the impairment.

EVALUATOR'S DOCUMENTATION - WHO IS A "QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL"?

Applicants requesting testing accommodations must arrange for a qualified, appropriate professional who is familiar with the *current* impact of the applicant's disability on the applicant's ability to perform on the NPLEX or other similar timed, standardized examinations to complete and sign the *NABNE Evaluator's Report form (NERf)* and provide supporting documentation. At a minimum, the professional must have demonstrated expertise *and* recognized credentials (e.g., licensure, certification, or specialized training) in the diagnosis and assessment of the disability or impairment in question. For example, for a cognitive/developmental/psychological disability, qualified evaluators must be trained to administer and interpret psychoeducational assessments and typically have a PhD or PsyD or equivalent training or experience in psychology. A relative, employer, friend, or member of the same household of the applicant will not be considered a qualified professional.

The applicant's qualified professional must perform an individualized assessment of the applicant, complete, sign, and submit the *NERf* and the requested supporting documentation directly to NABNE. Recommendations made by qualified professionals are taken into consideration by NABNE; however, testing accommodations are not guaranteed.

DEADLINES

All requests for testing accommodations must be supported by appropriate documentation, as outlined above, and be received by May 1, 2026, for the August 2026 NPLEX administration. Before a request for testing accommodations will be considered by NABNE, the applicant must be registered for the current administration of the NPLEX and all forms and required documentation must be completed and submitted. Failure to complete and submit the required documentation by the deadline will result in no testing accommodations being provided on the day of examination(s) for that applicant.

Before a request for testing accommodations will be considered by NABNE:

- 1. The applicant must be registered for the current administration of the NPLEX; and**
- 2. All forms and required documentation must be completed and submitted.**

NABNE strongly encourages applicants to submit their testing accommodations requests as early in the registration window as possible.

NABNE will initiate review of testing accommodations requests once an applicant has registered and submitted all the completed forms and required documentation. If time allows, NABNE strives to inform applicants where additional information is needed in order to make a determination. NABNE *strongly encourages* applicants to submit their testing accommodations requests as early in the registration window as possible. Doing so may allow time for NABNE to review the submissions and notify applicants with deficient accommodations requests so that they might submit additional or clarifying information prior to the deadline.

If any of the completed forms or required supporting documentation is not received by the deadline, the request for testing accommodations will not be considered. NABNE must receive all the completed forms and required documentation no later than the deadline in order to properly assess the request.

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NABNE must receive all the completed forms and required documentation no later than the deadline in order to properly assess the request.

If the documentation submitted to NABNE by the deadline is incomplete, the applicant has the choice to either: 1) take the examination(s) without the requested accommodations, or 2) cancel their registration and be refunded according to the [NABNE's Cancellation and Refund policy](#).

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all necessary information is submitted to NABNE. It is

not NABNE’s responsibility to ask for the required information. Ultimately, the applicant is responsible for testing accommodations requests; it is not NABNE’s responsibility to follow up to obtain the required information.

TIMELINE FROM SUBMISSION TO DECISION

	August 2026 NPLEX Administration
Submission of testing accommodations requests begins	April 1, 2026
Deadline for submitting testing accommodations requests	May 1, 2026
NABNE consideration of requests	May 1 to 31, 2026
Notification of NABNE decisions	By June 5, 2026

CONSIDERATION OF TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS REQUESTS

Requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis. All decisions are based on current NABNE policies and protocols applicable to all applicants and in accordance with all applicable laws, including the ADA in the United States and the principles of applicable human rights and accessibility legislation in Canada.

There is no guarantee that NABNE will grant the requested testing accommodations.

WITHDRAWAL OF REQUEST FOR TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

An applicant may withdraw their request for testing accommodation at any time.

If an applicant chooses to withdraw their request for testing accommodations without cancelling their registration, the applicant must send an email to testingaccommodations@nabne.org stating that the applicant is making an informed decision to take the examination without testing accommodations.

If an applicant chooses to cancel their registration for the NPLEX examination, then their request for testing accommodations will be withdrawn. If the applicant has already made arrangements through Prometric to schedule at a test site, then the applicant must contact Prometric at IQTAdaCoordinator@isoqualitytesting.com to cancel their registration. The applicant will be refunded according to [NABNE’s Cancellation and Refund policy](#) in effect at the time of cancellation. Additionally, applicants should email testingaccommodations@nabne.org to notify the testing accommodations team of their cancellation of registration.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

If a request is approved, NABNE will email the applicant a Decision Letter. The Decision Letter will have further instructions to confirm and accept the approved testing accommodations by signing a Testing Agreement and how to schedule through Prometric. Approval of testing accommodations is applicable only to the current NPLEX administration.

DENIAL OF REQUEST FOR TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

If a request is denied, the applicant will receive a Decision Letter detailing the rationale for NABNE's decision.

If the testing accommodation request is denied in full or in part, the applicant may:

- Take the exam without testing accommodations (if the request was denied in full).
- Take the exam with the approved testing accommodations (if the request was denied in part).

OR

- Cancel the registration within one (1) week of the date of the Decision Letter and be refunded fully for the registration. To cancel, the applicant must email testingaccommodations@nabne.org and state in writing the intention to cancel your registration.

If the applicant cancels the registration more than one (1) week after the date of the Decision Letter, the applicant will be refunded according to [NABNE's Cancellation and Refund policy](#) in effect at the time of the cancellation.

Additionally, the applicant may also appeal the decision.

APPEALS REGARDING TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS DECISIONS

If an applicant wishes to appeal a decision, the applicant must submit an appeal to NABNE in writing, addressed to the Testing Accommodations Review Committee of the NABNE Board. Please send the appeal letter via email to testingaccommodations@nabne.org. Because of the short time frame between accommodations decisions and the exam administration, the Board will not be able to respond before the upcoming exam administration, but NABNE will seek to provide a response to the appeal within ten (10) weeks of its receipt.

SUBSEQUENT ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE NPLEX AND TESTING ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

A candidate must submit a new *NABNE Testing Accommodations Request Form* every time the candidate registers to take the NPLEX and requests testing accommodations.

A *NERf* and supporting documentation from a qualified professional does not need to be resubmitted IF:

- The applicant's previous request for testing accommodations was approved for an NPLEX administration that took place within the past year.
AND
- The same testing accommodations are requested.
AND
- The applicant certifies that their degree of impairment is the same or substantially similar to that when the testing accommodation was granted.

Submission of a new *NERf* and supporting documentation may be required IF:

- The applicant's previous request for testing accommodations was approved for an NPLEX administration that took place more than one year ago.
OR
- The applicant is requesting additional or different accommodations.
OR
- The applicant's previously submitted documentation does not reflect current functioning.
OR
- The applicant does not satisfy all of the criteria listed above in the event testing accommodations were approved within the past year.

Some impairments are not subject to improvement, in which case, NABNE may not require a new *NERf* for subsequent administrations of the examinations. NABNE will consider the applicant's circumstances when deciding if a new *NERf* and supporting documentation will be required. Please contact NABNE at testingaccommodations@nabne.org to inquire.

If a request for testing accommodations was previously denied, applicants seeking future accommodations should submit a new request for a future exam administration, along with additional documentation or new information that is responsive to the feedback provided in the Decision Letter.

PRIVACY POLICY

Information submitted in support of a request for testing accommodations will be handled in accordance with NABNE's Privacy Policy, which is available on the NABNE website, and will be used solely for the purpose of evaluating and administering appropriate testing accommodations.

APPLICABILITY OF NABNE POLICIES

Nothing in this *Testing Accommodations for Disabilities Handbook* shall diminish the applicability of the policies and procedures outlined in the [NABNE Examinee Handbook](#).