

PART III PEPS BLUEPRINT & MODEL

Released: June 19, 2020

The NBEO has made substantial progress in the development of a new Part III exam and is pleased to release the blueprint and exam model. The name of the exam, Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS) reflects the content and focus of the exam. PEPS will be comprised of twelve stations; ten stations with patient encounters in which candidates interact with standardized patients and two stations in which candidates perform clinical skills. This new exam will complement the Part I and Part II exams in assessing whether candidates are qualified to enter the independent practice of optometry. The new Part III exam represents a shift toward clinical decision-making while still including the physical performance of five essential skills.

The exam development process has been grounded in research-based methods and psychometric best practices. A diverse group of leaders and experts from the optometric and assessment communities were involved in the creation of the blueprint and model to ensure that a wide variety of perspectives and ideas were considered. Additionally, stakeholder feedback has been incorporated in every phase of development; formal opportunities to provide input occurred with the stakeholder survey and the focused job task analysis.

The NBEO has made a concerted effort to keep the optometric community informed and engaged regarding exam development, and additional information about the exam will be provided as further details of the exam emerge. The next step in the process is to build a bank of case scenarios which will be used to create multiple versions of the exam. The final step prior to exam implementation is pilot testing. The purpose of pilot testing is to finalize the exam structure and content and to ensure operational readiness. This stage of exam development will be the most extensive due to the high-stakes nature of the exam.

The blueprint and model are consistent with the NBEO's mission of public protection and achieve the purpose and goals set forth for the new exam. The NBEO looks forward to continuing to serve the public through the further development of the PEPS exam.

To view the blueprint and model, please click [here](#).

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