



Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE[®])

Laser Section CANDIDATE GUIDE

EDISON BUILDING, 2nd FLOOR
7910 MICROSOFT WAY
CHARLOTTE, NC 28273
800.969.3926, EXTENSION 2

EXAM DATES:
August 2026 - May 2027

OVERVIEW OF ROLES

Candidate: An individual taking the exam.

NCCTO Staff: NBEO employees who administer the exam.

Proctor: NCCTO staff member who will monitor the examination for safety purposes.

Skills Examiner: A licensed optometrist trained to score the candidate's skills performance.

Model Patient: The artificial patient utilized for candidate performance of certain skills.

OVERVIEW OF TERMS

Evaluation Form: A checklist that an examiner uses to evaluate the candidate.

Exam Cycle: Time interval between the start and finish of the clinical portion of the exam. The exam cycle for the clinical portion of the Laser Section of LSPE is 40 minutes.

Finished: Condition when a candidate has completed their performance and will no longer be scored on exam items.

Item: A numbered procedural element within each skill.

Incident Report: A submitted irregularity which a candidate thinks may have negatively impacted their performance

LSPE®: Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination

NBEO®: National Board of Examiners in Optometry®

NCCTO®: National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry

Observation Time: Three minutes before the clinical skills exam cycle starts. Candidates may use this time to familiarize themselves with the room layout.

Overview Information: a brief reminder of the skills to be performed, provided on the exam room computer during the observation time.

Repeat: Condition where a candidate wishes to repeat an item within a skill.

Skill: 1 of the 3 procedures performed in the clinical skills portion of the Laser Section of LSPE.

Station: Exam room where the candidate performs skills.

Stop: When a candidate's performance is stopped for safety purposes.

LSPE LASER SECTION OVERVIEW

The Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE) is composed of a Laser Section and a Surgical Section. Each section has a clinical skills portion and a computer-based multiple-choice portion. Candidates have the option to register for one or both sections. **If taking both sections (Laser and Surgical), you must register and pay for each section individually.**

Candidates are expected to thoroughly review this guide in preparation for the Laser Section of LSPE.

CLINICAL SKILLS PORTION

Candidates will have 40 minutes to complete three skills: Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT), Peripheral Iridotomy (PI), and YAG Capsulotomy. In addition to this Candidate Guide, candidates are expected to thoroughly review the following information available on the NBEO website:

- Content Outline
- Skills Evaluation Form
- Sample Case History and Pre-Op Notes
- Orientation Video
- Site Information and Equipment List
- Quantel Optimis™ Fusion Laser User Manual

MULTIPLE CHOICE PORTION

Immediately following completion of the clinical skills portion, candidates will be escorted to the Computer Based Testing room at NCCTO to complete the multiple-choice portion. Candidates will have 75 minutes to complete 62 multiple-choice items: 50 of the 62 items are scored, and 12 of the 62 items have been designated as pre-test items which will not be scored. Candidates will not know which items are the scored items and which items are the non-scored pre-test items. The items cover the following content: SLT, PI, and YAG Capsulotomy. In addition to this Candidate Guide, candidates are expected to thoroughly review the following information available on the NBEO website:

- Content Outline
- Multiple-Choice Tutorial

EQUIPMENT

The NCCTO will provide all necessary equipment used during the exam. Candidates should not bring their own equipment. Please review the LSPE Site Information and Equipment List for more information.

ATTIRE

Candidates are expected to wear professional attire.

- NBEO considers professional attire as attire that **EXCLUDES** jeans, shorts, athletic pants, T-shirts, scrubs, garments that are immodest (e.g., tank tops, sheer clothing), tennis shoes, sneakers, or flip-flops.
- Collared short-sleeved shirts are acceptable.
- **Candidates must bring and wear white lab coats throughout the exam.**
- **Jewelry and other reflective accessories are not allowed in the Laser Section of LSPE.** Candidates must remove all jewelry during check-in for the Laser Section of LSPE.

The NCCTO staff will address candidates reporting to the NCCTO in attire deemed inappropriate, **and they may not be permitted to take the exam.**

NBEO ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Candidates must know their OE TRACKER® number and NBEO password, which will be used to check-in at the NCCTO. The NBEO password is the same password the candidate created and used to register for the NBEO exam or to view scores on the NBEO website.

ARRIVAL TO NCCTO

REPORTING LOCATION AND TIME

Edison Building
7910 Microsoft Way, 2nd Floor
Charlotte, NC 28273

Candidates must report to the NCCTO on the date and time for which they registered online.

The check-in process begins at the time reflected in the candidate's email regarding registration. Candidates can [review registration here](#).

- **Candidates should carefully check their registration date and time. Please note, if a candidate arrives at the NCCTO on the wrong date and/or at the wrong time, the NCCTO will not be able to accommodate the candidate. Candidates who arrive later than their scheduled exam date/time will need to register again and the standard exam fees will apply.**

Candidates should anticipate being on-site for approximately three hours for the Laser Section. This time includes check-in, orientation, clinical skills examination, computer-based multiple-choice examination, and check-out. Candidates should arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to their listed registration time. Entrance to the building will not be permitted prior to that time. No guests are allowed in the building.

Candidates who arrive late for check-in may be disqualified from the examination session. In the event of a late check-in, the candidate forfeits their right to being tested (and the exam fee) for that date's administration.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

Before you are allowed entry into the Edison building, you will be required to show one valid government-issued photo identification. Once inside the testing center, you will be required to show two valid forms of personal identification. In order to be considered valid, the ID must match the name used to register for the exam. Both forms must contain your signature and must be current (not expired). At least one form must be a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, a passport, or a military ID. The other ID may be a student identification card, a credit or debit card, or another card that has your name and signature. Candidates who do not have proper ID may be denied admission to the Edison building and exam and are not eligible for a refund of the exam fee.

ON-SITE EXAM DAY CHECK-IN

ARM BANDS / CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION

All candidates will be provided with two armbands to display their assigned candidate badge number. These arm bands must be worn throughout the exam.

- The candidate badge number should always be displayed on the side of the arm.
- The back/inside of the badge will contain the candidate's name and OE TRACKER number. These are provided for verification purposes. Candidates should introduce themselves by their OE TRACKER when the exam cycle begins. Proctors or staff may ask a candidate for their OE TRACKER, if not stated.

PHOTOGRAPH

A staff member will take a digital photo of each candidate during check-in to ensure that the correct candidate is being evaluated.

- For identification purposes, the candidate should appear in the photo as they will during the exam. For example, if the candidate plans to wear glasses during the exam, the candidate should wear them in the photo; if they plan to have their hair pulled up in a ponytail, they should do so in the photo.

PERSONAL ITEMS AND LOCKER USE

Candidates **cannot** enter the NCCTO with any item considered luggage. Please plan accordingly.

Luggage items are considered: suitcases, roller bags (larger than backpack-size), and any item not able to fit in the lockers.

- Candidates will be turned away if luggage is brought to the NCCTO, which could impact the amount of time a candidate has for orientation.
- **NO FIREARMS OR OTHER WEAPONS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED IN THE NCCTO. CANDIDATES FOUND TO BE IN POSSESSION OF ANY SUCH ITEM WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ADMITTANCE INTO THE NCCTO AND/OR WILL BE ESCORTED FROM THE PREMISES BY NCCTO SECURITY.**

Lockers will be provided for candidates to store small personal items not allowed in the testing area. Personal items include cell phones, watches, wallets, purses, backpacks, etc. **In addition, jewelry and other reflective accessories are not allowed in the Laser Section of LSPE.** Candidates must remove all jewelry during check-in for the Laser Section of LSPE.

- Locker dimensions: 16 ½ inches deep, 10 ½ inches wide, and 27 ½ inches tall. All personal items must fit securely inside the locker space.

HARD COPY AND ELECTRONIC FILES

Upon arrival, candidates must place all electronics, study materials, and outside materials in their locker. If a candidate has a question about storing any item, please ask staff.

No notes (including both electronic and written materials) may be taken into the orientation room or testing area at any time.

- Any notes and/or written materials discovered during the exam will be confiscated by NCCTO staff and may be considered Improper Conduct (as defined in the Candidate Agreement).

Please see the Candidate Agreement (available on the NBEO website) for information on Improper Conduct and the potential consequences of Improper Conduct.

ORIENTATION TIME

Following check-in, the candidates will be directed into the orientation room. A slideshow presentation will be shown. This Orientation Video is also available on the NBEO website.

Model eyes and lenses will be available for candidate familiarization. The laser and the model patients will **not** be available during orientation.

- Candidates are expected to treat the equipment with care.
- If there are any issues with the equipment or supplies, please inform a staff member immediately.

The following information will be available during orientation time:

- Candidate Guide
- Site Information & Equipment List
- Quantel Optimis™ Fusion Laser User Manual

- Evaluation Form
- Candidate Orientation Slides
- Multiple-Choice Tutorial

It is **optional** for candidates to review this information on exam day. **NBEO strongly encourages candidates to review all documentation included on the website.**

DURING THE EXAMINATION

REASONABLE ITEMS

Candidates are allowed to have reasonable items during the examination. All items must be provided to staff for inspection and approval.

Examples of reasonable items are:

- Tissues
- Cough drops, mints, gum
- Lip balm, hair ties, hair clips, sanitary items, etc.
- Eye patch

The following reasonable items must remain outside the exam room:

- Bottles of water/soda, etc. Labels on bottles must be removed, and bottles must contain a lid.
- Individually wrapped snack items.

STAFF INTERACTIONS

Proctors and staff are trained to be neutral and show little emotion during the exam. Candidates should not regard this as a personal dislike or as an indication of performance quality. Candidates should be aware that NBEO is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of dignity and respect at all times.

Staff Interaction During Exam

- During the exam, proctors are not permitted to say much beyond what has been scripted.
- If a candidate asks a question that cannot be answered, proctors or staff may respond with "I do not have that information," "I cannot answer that," or "It is up to you." These comments are not indicators of a candidate's performance or decisions but simply an answer for a situation where the proctor/staff cannot provide guidance.
- If asked, proctors will not provide guidance on how or what to perform. Candidates must use their best judgment in these situations.
- **In the event that a candidate has a problem with equipment or otherwise needs assistance during the exam cycle, the candidate must inform the proctor.** The proctor will summon staff to evaluate the issue. Staff will resolve the problem and will instruct the candidate on how to proceed, including giving additional time, if appropriate.

Patient Titles

- Candidates may refer to the model patients as "Mr. or Ms. Lee." Lee is the fictitious family name assigned to all NBEO patients.

CASUAL CONVERSATION

Beyond a cordial hello, proctors will not initiate any casual conversation with candidates. Casual conversation may occur **ONLY if the candidate initiates the conversation.**

Candidates should not discuss:

- Information regarding NBEO/NCCTO
- Information regarding LSPE or any NBEO exam
- Proctor's position (how long employed, experience with NBEO exams, etc.)

- Candidate's performance
- Optometry school the candidate attends/attended
- Other information about the candidate or their performance

CANDIDATE WOUNDS / INJURIES / MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Any open wounds on a candidate's finger or hand must be covered.

- If a candidate has questions or concerns about whether a wound needs to be covered, please show the wound to staff during the check-in process.
- A bandage and gloves will be provided if a candidate becomes injured during the exam.

Candidates who believe they have injured themselves must immediately notify an NCCTO staff member.

- When a candidate experiences an injury in which the potential for blood-borne pathogen exposure is possible, candidates must use Universal Precautions. The CDC recommends Universal Precautions in the care of all patients, regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status.
- Out of concern for safety and to prevent contamination of exam equipment, **any bleeding must be reported and stopped before continuing the exam.**
- No additional time will be given during the exam for injuries due to a candidate error.
- In the event a medical emergency occurs during the exam, candidates should remain calm and a staff member will be there to assist and assess the situation.

RESTROOM / DRINKING FOUNTAIN USE

Candidates should use the restroom before the examination begins. **No additional time allowance** is given for restroom use during the examination session. If a candidate needs to use the restroom during the clinical skills portion, they should inform the proctor, who will escort them to the restroom. If a candidate needs to use the restroom during the multiple-choice portion, they can use the call button to request assistance from NCCTO staff. Candidates may request to use the restroom between the clinical skills portion and the multiple-choice portion. The same principles for restroom use apply to retrieving water.

DURING THE CLINICAL SKILLS PORTION

CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION & INTRODUCTION

During the exam, candidates should refer to themselves by their OE TRACKER number.

PROCTORS

A proctor will be present in the exam room throughout the observation period and exam cycle. The proctor may talk to the candidate, provide instructions, and record readings from the laser during the exam. Do not be alarmed; this is part of the exam. The proctors will confirm the presence of a view if asked. The proctors will also change the model patients between the PI and YAG Capsulotomy skills.

TIMEKEEPING

Candidates are responsible for monitoring their time. Proctors will not remind candidates of the remaining time.

- No watches are allowed in the exam rooms; watches must be placed in the candidate's locker at check-in time.
- A countdown timer is available on the exam room computer monitor for candidates to use. **Use of the countdown timer is optional. It is not the official timer for the exam; announcements are the official timers.**
- If time expires before a candidate completes the station, the items not performed cannot be scored.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following orientation, candidates will be escorted to the exam hallway and stand outside the exam room. The following announcements will be played:

"Candidates, please enter the exam room." - signals candidates to enter their station and begin their 3-minute observation time.

- Proctors will be in the room during observation and the entire exam cycle.

"You have 30 seconds of observation time remaining."

"The exam cycle has begun." - signals the official start of the 40-minute exam cycle. Candidates should close their doors at this time.

"The exam cycle has ended, please exit the room." - signals the end of the cycle, at which point the candidate will exit the room to complete the incident report.

OBSERVATION TIME

Candidates are provided with three (3) minutes of observation time in the station before the exam cycle begins. Station instructions are posted on the computer monitor for candidates to review. The posted station instructions are also available at the end of this Candidate Guide.

- Exam room computers are only for viewing the station instructions and using the countdown timer. Candidates are prohibited from using these computers for any other purpose.
- Proctors will be present in the room during observation time.
- Any scoreable item must be performed within the timed exam cycle to receive credit.

During the observation time, candidates are encouraged to:

- Become familiar with the layout of the exam room
- Set out supplies that will be used
- Become familiar with slit lamp operation (do NOT activate laser)
- Review the station instructions
- Review the repeat policy (posted on the exam room door)
- Ask "where" questions, if needed

During the observation time, candidates cannot:

- Perform any skill
- Activate the laser
- Write on any pieces of paper

USE OF MODEL PATIENTS

LSPE skills do not utilize live patients. Models will be provided for each skill. Any attempt to perform a skill on the proctor present in the exam room will result in an automatic STOP. You may address the proctor when discussing pre-operative and post-operative information.

The model patient will already be placed in the slit lamp when the candidate enters the room. Candidates are not required to disinfect the slit lamp or align the patient. The proctor will change and align the model patient between the PI and YAG Capsulotomy skills.

SEQUENCE OF ITEMS / SKILLS

Items are sequenced in the order in which they should be optimally conducted. Candidates may alter the sequencing of certain items performed within a skill as long as the candidate's sequence makes logical sense.

Candidates may NOT alter the sequence of skills within the LSPE exam. Candidates must perform the skills in order: SLT, PI, YAG Capsulotomy. Candidates should notify the proctor when they are finished with one skill and ready to begin the next skill.

CASE HISTORY AND PRE-OPERATIVE NOTES

Candidates will be provided with a Case History at the beginning of the SLT skill which they will use to review pre-operative information for SLT. For the PI and YAG Capsulotomy skills, a Pre-Operative Note will be provided once the candidate indicates they are ready for that skill. Candidates may review the Pre-Operative Note for the YAG Capsulotomy skill while the proctor is changing the model patients. Samples of the SLT Case History and the PI and YAG Capsulotomy Pre-Operative Notes are provided on the NBEO website. Candidates may use the phone number listed at the top of each note for the emergency contact information expressed to the patient.

USE OF MODEL EYES

Candidates should be aware of the following characteristics of the model eyes:

SLT

- There will be a visible burn pattern while performing SLT

PI

- There will not be pigment plume observed on PI
- All four iris crypts of the model eye should be visible. If the eye is not in an appropriate position to view, please notify the proctor

YAG Capsulotomy

- The capsulotomy may take more energy than on a real patient
- The capsulotomy should be centered in the pupil

LENSES AND GEL

Candidates are not required to clean the lenses for any laser skills. They will be cleaned prior to the candidate entering the examination room. Candidates must prepare each lens with the provided GenTeal® or similar gel prior to use.

SLIT LAMP / LASER VIEWS

Magnification of 16X (or higher) is recommended for optimal viewing by the video recording equipment on all laser procedures. **Please leave the room lights on for all skills to aid in laser display video capture.**

Location of Cameras

As part of the exam process, the slit lamps are equipped with cameras that obtain live images as viewed by the candidate.

- The camera is mounted on the **left** ocular of the slit lamps. Candidates should ensure that the image they are viewing is completely seen through the left ocular.
- Candidates are scored based on what the camera captures through the left ocular.
- When examining any ocular structure, the views cannot be "**fleeting.**"

Extensive time has been spent ensuring cameras, monitors, video feeds, and recording systems are calibrated. As a result, if the view is not obstructed, the recorded image will be exactly as viewed.

Obtaining and Confirming Views

Candidates are responsible for ensuring the proctor has a view. Candidates may ask at any point if there is a view, and they will be given a response of either "I have a view" or "I do not have a view."

- Proctors will only comment on the views while they are being performed. If a candidate asks at the end of a skill if the proctor had views during the skill, they will be told, "I can only comment on a view while it is being performed."
- If a proctor confirms the presence of a view, it means that something is visible.
- Confirmation of a view does not indicate:
 - Quality of a view.
 - Whether the view meets the minimum criteria.
 - Whether the view is of the correct angle/structure.
- If a proctor says they do not have a view, candidates are encouraged to troubleshoot and ensure nothing obstructs the view through the left ocular of the slit lamp.
- There will be a monitor in the room for proctor use only. Candidates are not allowed to view the monitors at any time. Monitors are calibrated and positioned in a certain manner for optimal views by proctors trained to view the monitors.
- If it is determined that a candidate is attempting to view the monitor, this action may be considered Improper Conduct under the Candidate Agreement.

Candidate Concerns

Candidates who are amblyopic or monocular are advised to use the better eye for observing through the left ocular of the slit lamp. This may involve candidates altering their position at the slit lamp so that they can look through the left ocular using their right eye or wearing a patch on their right eye.

For safety purposes when using the laser, candidates are required to wear a patch over an eye if the eye is not viewing through the eyepiece of the laser. Candidates must provide their own patch. The use of an eye patch does not require an accommodation.

STATING FINDINGS

Candidates must state their findings in the same manner as they would be entered into a patient's medical record. Candidates are strongly encouraged to talk throughout their exam. Candidates are encouraged to speak **clearly** and **audibly**.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS DURING THE EXAM

Outside of regular exam questions (e.g., confirming views) during the exam, proctors will only answer "where" questions, such as where supplies/clinical materials are located.

- Candidates may ask **where** questions during observation and exam times.
- Questions such as **how** to use optometric equipment, or other instructional questions are not appropriate and will not be answered.
- **Questions regarding how to operate the laser and the location of laser functions/buttons are not appropriate and will not be answered.**
- **No additional examination time will be provided for time used to ask and answer candidate questions.**

REPEATING ITEMS / SKILLS

Repeat information is posted in the exam room on the door.

Repeating Items

- If repeating an item, the last intentional performance of an item will be scored.
- Candidates can repeat item(s) as long as they are within the same skill.
- Candidates should be aware that patient safety is of paramount concern to NBEO. All simulated models should be treated as if they are a real patient.

- Candidates should consider the impact of repeating items with regards to the impact it would have on a real patient.

Repeating Skills

- **Repeating an entire skill is not allowed on LSPE.** Candidates will receive only one model eye for each procedure. This is to simulate the real-life nature of the clinical performance of each skill.

CANDIDATE COMPLETION OF SKILLS PORTION / END OF SCORING

The skills portion of the exam ends with the last announcement, or by the candidate stating they are finished, whichever occurs first.

- Candidates who finish the station before the ending announcement plays and wish to end the scoring portion of the station may make the following statement to the proctor: "**I am finished with this station.**" At this time, the candidate **will not be allowed to perform any additional items** and will be escorted out of the exam room. It is up to the candidate to decide whether to make this statement.
- If the candidate makes a confusing statement or begins any casual conversation, the proctor will remind the candidate that it is the candidate's responsibility to let them know if they are finished.

OBSERVERS

Occasionally, NBEO-approved personnel may be on-site observing the exam. Approved individuals may observe any aspect of the exam and be present in the exam room during the stations. Observers will not impact a candidate's score and should be ignored by the candidate. Observers have been instructed not to converse with candidates or proctors in the examination rooms.

SAFETY AND STOPS

Handwashing

Candidates are expected to follow the CDC's guidelines for hand washing.

Intervenes/Corrective Actions

If there is an intervention by the proctor, corrective action is expected on the part of the candidate before the candidate proceeds with the rest of the skill.

Laser Safety

Candidates should utilize proper safety techniques with the laser at all times. The laser should remain inactive until ready to perform each actual procedure. **Failure to adhere to this safety protocol will result in an automatic STOP of the skill.** Candidates must state "laser is active" prior to activating the laser, and "laser is inactive" prior to returning the laser to standby mode. Candidates should verify that the proctor is safely in position with protective eyewear before activating the laser.

Candidates must not operate the laser while the proctor is near the slit lamp. The proctors will need to change model patients between the PI and YAG Capsulotomy skills. Please ensure that the laser is inactive prior to this transition. While the proctor is changing model patients, the candidate must move away from the laser and must not touch the laser. Failure to provide a safe environment for the proctor will result in an automatic STOP.

Model Patients

LSPE skills do not utilize live patients. Models will be provided for each skill. Any attempt to perform a skill on the proctor present in the exam room will result in an automatic STOP.

Candidates should be aware that patient safety is of paramount concern to NBEO. Candidates should treat model patients as if they are a real patient and should consider the impact of their procedures and techniques with regards to the impact it would have on a real patient.

STOPS

During the station, proctors are responsible for ensuring safety. If a proctor believes the examination

techniques or procedures used by a candidate are placing the candidate, the model patient, or the proctor at harm, the proctor may terminate the skill being assessed at any time and will state “You are being stopped for safety reasons.”

The proctor may stop a candidate who exhibits improper technique. Additionally, remote examiners will appropriately score candidates who do not ensure a safe environment. If a candidate is stopped, they will be scored “no” on any remaining items for that skill and are not allowed to repeat the skill.

Failure to maintain a safe environment may be considered Improper Conduct under the Candidate Agreement.

CANDIDATE INCIDENT REPORTS

At the conclusion of the skills portion of the examination, the candidate will exit the room and sit at a workstation next to the exam room to submit an incident report.

- Candidates are encouraged to think through their exam and use this opportunity to document any irregularity they think may have negatively impacted their performance.
- Candidates can document concerns involving the equipment, proctors, or the candidate's performance.
- Misspellings or grammar will not impact the actions taken based on the submitted incident report.
- All incident reports will be reviewed. If action is being taken, staff will communicate appropriately before candidates are dismissed.
- **Staff may review videos or interview the proctor for more information regarding the incident report.** Additionally, staff will inspect any reported equipment malfunction.
- Staff will only discuss incidents with candidates if clarification or further information is needed. If staff discuss an incident report with a candidate in the exam room, the candidate should assume the discussion is being recorded.
- Once all incident reports have been reviewed and it is determined that there are no administrative issues or that all issues have been resolved, staff will escort candidates to the Computer Based Testing room.
- Incident reports **will not be accepted** from candidates once they have left the exam hallway.

If deemed necessary by test center staff, a candidate may be offered to redo a skill and/or station. NBEO policy dictates that this is only considered due to administrative irregularities (e.g., equipment failure, loss of electrical power, or a proctor issue) that negatively affected the candidate's performance. This is limited to the skill or station impacted by the irregularity and only administered on the day of the candidate's exam.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE PORTION

GENERAL

NCCTO staff will escort candidates to the Computer Based Testing room after completion of the clinical skills portion. Staff will set up the multiple-choice portion of the exam, and candidates will be required to enter their OE TRACKER, first name, and last name. NCCTO staff will assist with technical questions only; they are not able to provide any information to candidates regarding the content of the exam or the score required to pass. Candidates are expected to review the Content Outline for more information about the content in the multiple-choice portion.

TUTORIAL

Candidates are expected to review the Multiple-Choice Tutorial provided on the NBEO website. The tutorial provides an overview of the testing interface and its various functions. The tutorial will also be available for reference during the exam.

SCRATCH PAPER

A pencil and sheet of scratch paper will be given to each candidate during the multiple-choice portion. Candidates may not write any notes on the paper until the first exam item appears on their screen. No notes may be written down while the multiple-choice portion is being set up. The paper must be left in the exam room at the conclusion of the exam.

EAR PLUGS

NCCTO staff will provide ear plugs to candidates upon request.

CALL BUTTON

NCCTO staff will indicate the location of a call button near the computer. The call button can be pressed during their exam if the candidate experiences any technical issues or requires assistance.

COMPLETION OF MULTIPLE-CHOICE PORTION

When the candidate has completed and submitted the multiple-choice portion of the exam, they may exit the Computer Based Testing room and proceed to the front desk to check out. The computer will not display any score or results information.

ADDITIONAL EXAM INFORMATION

CANDIDATE-TO-CANDIDATE INTERACTION

Candidates may only engage in conversation with each other during the check-in and orientation time. **Once candidates are escorted to the exam hallway, candidates may NOT communicate with any other candidate until they complete their exam and exit the NCCTO.**

- Communication includes conversation, verbal statements, non-verbal cues/expressions (e.g., thumbs up/down, shaking head, high-fives), and passing notes.
- Violation of this policy may be considered Improper Conduct under the Candidate Agreement.

EXAM CONDUCT

All exams administered at the NCCTO are recorded (audio and video). All candidates sign and agree to the Candidate Agreement and Ethics Policy when registering for LSPE. Copies of the Candidate Agreement and Ethics Policy are also available on the NBEO website.

SCORING PRACTICES

NBEO uses quantitative and qualitative data analysis to evaluate examination uniformity and fairness. Candidates who achieve a score at or above the cut-off requirement receive a passing score. A score below the cut-off requirement will result in a failing score. A candidate must pass both the clinical skills portion and the multiple-choice portion to receive a passing score for the Laser Section of LSPE.

TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

NBEO will provide reasonable test accommodations to all qualified candidates in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Information on how to request medical accommodations is available on the NBEO website.

NBEO would like to extend its collective best wishes for your success.

LASER SECTION OF LSPE – CLINICAL SKILLS

CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS

August 2026 - May 2027

You will have 3 minutes of observation time followed by **40 minutes** to complete skills 1-3.

The laser skills **must** be performed in order.

SKILL 1: SELECTIVE LASER TRABECULOPLASTY

You are to properly perform SLT on a model patient using an ocular model. The model patient will already be positioned and in alignment prior to you beginning the skill. Based on a provided Case History, you should dictate a Pre-Operative Note in the same manner as you would enter it into a patient record. You should ensure that the laser is in standby mode until the proctor is in a safe position and adorning safety eye protection. You must state your findings to the proctor in the same manner as you would enter them into a patient record.

SKILL 2: PERIPHERAL IRIDOTOMY

You are to properly perform YAG Peripheral Iridotomy as prescribed by the provided Pre-Operative Note on the same model patient used for Skill 1 - SLT. The fellow eye of this model patient will contain the PI ocular model. The model patient will already be positioned and in alignment prior to you beginning the skill. You should ensure that the laser is in standby mode until the proctor is in a safe position and adorning safety eye protection. You must state your findings to the proctor in the same manner as you would enter them into a patient record.

SKILL 3: YAG CAPSULOTOMY

You are to properly perform YAG Capsulotomy on a model patient using an ocular model as prescribed by the provided Pre-Operative Note. The proctor will need to change ocular models after completion of Skill 2 - PI. Please ensure that the laser is inactive while the proctor is changing the model. The model patient will be positioned and aligned in the slit lamp by the proctor. The proctor will indicate when the model patient is in place. You should ensure that the laser is in standby mode until the proctor is in a safe position and adorning safety eye protection. You must state your findings to the proctor in the same manner as you would enter them into a patient record.

Candidates are encouraged to review the LSPE Evaluation Form for detailed information regarding the items required to be completed during the examination.