



NBME ITEM-WRITING WORKSHOP

The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME®) is pleased to offer workshops to help medical school faculty and other health profession organizations enhance the quality of their multiple-choice questions (MCQs) for use on their own examinations and programs. NBME staff will plan and facilitate a workshop specific to the needs of your school or assessment body, tailoring examples and exercises to align with your healthcare discipline(s).

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Learn methods that promote versatility in MCQ writing and use
- Distinguish MCQs requiring simple recall from those requiring critical thinking and application of knowledge
- Identify and correct common MCQ flaws, including irrelevant difficulty and clues that benefit testwise examinees
- Review and write MCQs that focus on application of knowledge and cover topic areas in both clinical and foundational sciences

BENEFITS

- New writers will learn to write, review, and refine MCQs in single-best-answer formats.
- Experienced writers can utilize this as a useful refresher course as well as an opportunity to learn new skills.
- All participants will learn techniques that can improve their question-writing efficiency and increase the quality and number of questions they write.
- Participants from different disciplines and backgrounds can participate in the same workshop, promoting valuable cross-discipline and collegial exchange.
- Participants take home the NBME writing guide, *Constructing Written Questions for the Basic and Clinical Sciences*.
- Participants will be provided with examples of “optimal” and “flawed” MCQs.
- Participants will receive feedback during the workshop from peers and NBME staff.

ABOUT NBME

NBME has been developing test items (questions) and examinations for licensure and other assessment purposes since 1915. NBME staff are internationally recognized experts in the field of test development, psychometrics, and medical education research. For over 25 years, members of NBME’s professional test development staff have served as a resource to faculty at medical schools and other health profession organizations wishing to improve their item-writing techniques.