



NBME Frequently Asked Questions

~ REGISTRATION ~

Why do I have to register for the exam so far in advance?

Availability at Prometric Centers is very limited and appointments often fill up months in advance. Registration deadlines are set several weeks prior to the testing period to ensure students will receive their scheduling permit with enough time to schedule an appointment during the testing period.

Why can't I change my testing period after the deadline?

After the deadline, SJSM purchases the exam through NBME for each student that registered. When the exam is purchased, the chosen dates are given to NBME and NBME does not allow this to be changed or extended. NBME creates a scheduling permit for each student which locks the student into these dates. **Even if a student registers for a different testing window, they cannot receive a new scheduling permit with new dates until the original testing window ends.**

Why do the comprehensive exams have to be taken at a Prometric Center?

The NBME comprehensive self-assessment exams that can be taken at home are only meant to be used as a diagnostic tool. The SJSM Examinations Committee has approved the use of the proctored comprehensive subject exams for prequalification purposes since they are intended to assess the educational achievement of individuals in specific subject areas. A proctored exam also ensures the integrity of the results and provides an environment which more closely resembles that which the student will encounter during the USMLE.

~ SCHEDULING ~

I received my scheduling permit but my name is not correct. What should I do?

The scheduling permit must match your government-issued ID exactly or you will not be allowed to take the exam when you arrive at the testing center. **The only acceptable differences are variations in capitalization; the presence of a middle name, middle initial or suffix on one document and its absence on the other; or the presence of a middle name on one and middle initial on the other.** If the difference is acceptable, you will be able to use the scheduling permit as is.

If there is an unacceptable error, the permit needs to be updated. First, schedule your appointment with Prometric using the original scheduling permit; you do not need to wait until it has been corrected. Next, email examssupport@mail.sjsm.org with the correct spelling of your name at least ten days prior to the appointment. SJSM will make the correction and NBME will email an updated permit.

There are no available appointments near my house. What are my options?

Unfortunately the **only option** is to widen the search and locate the closest center, even if it involves traveling. As stated above, once an exam is purchased for a student the dates available to the student cannot be changed for any reason.



According to Prometric, I can reschedule my exam. Why does the school not allow this?

Signing up for the NBME is a multiple step process. The first step of selecting the testing period and being registered with NBME is separate from scheduling the appointment with Prometric during the testing period. The rescheduling and cancelation policies provided by Prometric are specific to scheduled appointments. Prometric will allow you to reschedule/ cancel an appointment with varying fees depending on how close you are to the date of the appointment. However, you can only reschedule within the testing period you have been approved for. The only way to schedule an appointment for a date outside of the approved testing period is to register for a new testing period. You will be charged for both registrations.

~ SCORE REPORTS ~

When will I receive my score?

Scores are not available to the school until 2-3 days after the closing of the testing period. Score reports will be emailed to all students 1-2 days after they become available to the school.

Will I be able to see what version I took and what questions I got wrong?

NBME does not release the version of the exam taken or specific questions that were answered incorrectly. The score report will include the score achieved on the exam as well as a Performance Profile which will indicate areas of relative strength and weaknesses. The topics and content areas provided on the score report vary based on exam. The report also has a Score Interpretation Guide to help understand the information provided.

~ FEES ~

Why do I still have to pay an examination fee if I do not take the exam?

After the deadline, SJSM purchases the exam through NBME for each student that registered. The school is immediately charged a fee for each examinee that must be paid in advance and will not be refunded if the student does not take the exam. When the student registers for another testing period, the fee is charged again for that registration.

Why are we being charged \$250? The NBME website shows cheaper options available. Why can't I just take one of these on my own instead of scheduling with the school?

NBME offers many different exams. The exams used by SJSM are the comprehensive and subject exams; not self-assessments or practices exams that may be taken at home or scheduled by the student at Prometric on their own. Schools can administer these exams for a much lower cost if they have been approved to proctor NBME exams at their local campus. SJSM is approved to proctor NBME exams in Anguilla and St. Vincent, but we do not have a local site and students may be located across the US and Canada. Therefore, the required exams must be taken at Prometric Centers at the higher rate and students must be approved and registered by the school.

For additional questions please email
examsupport@mail.sjsm.org