

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will I still be able to take the current format of the NCMHCE after the new format is published?

No, for psychometric purposes and for clarity in our data, when the new examination is published, the current format will no longer be available (this applies to anyone who may need to retake the examination as well).

2. How can I contribute to NBCC assessments?

You can contribute by joining NBCC as an item writer or narrative writer on any of our examinations. We provide a variety of trainings on:

- Bloom's Taxonomy
- writing quality multiple-choice questions
- writing narratives
- establishing item difficulty
- and more

If interested, please visit <https://www.nbcc.org/exams/itemwriting> and contact us.

3. Is the new format of the NCMHCE easier or harder than the current format?

The new format is objective. There are certain measures in place to ensure that the examination is at a moderate level of difficulty. Our goal is to be sure the new format matches the range of difficulty of the current test format.

4. Is there any process change regarding scoring or score reports?

The process of scoring and score reporting will remain the same for candidates, universities, and states.

5. Where can I get the Content Outline?

The content outline is available at <https://www.nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce>. In the "Important Info Regarding the NCMHCE" box, you will see a "Download Content Outline" in the bottom left corner. Click this box to download a PDF of the content outline.

Frequently Asked Questions Continued

6. Is the new format sensitive to the demographic diversity of MQCs (minimally qualified candidates)?

Through the strategic recruitment of narrative and item writers, subject matter expert reviews to ensure representation, as well as the formation of the Sensitivity Review Committee, NBCC is prioritizing inclusivity in all our examination contents. We understand that representation matters, and that is a priority to us.

7. Why are you adding cognitive levels to the test design?

We are adding cognitive levels to the new test form to:

- avoid recall/regurgitation-type questions.
- use action words that are associated with the Bloom's cognitive levels and make items and stems clear for our item writers and test takers.
- write items at a higher level that measure critical thinking so that we know the test taker is demonstrating sufficient mastery of the content outline to perform as a competent minimally qualified counselor.

8. Previously, the field test items were part of the test form. Why are you doing field testing differently for this format?

For credentialing examinations, the field test items are usually a part of the test form. Because the format is the same, the candidate cannot distinguish between scored and field test items while attempting the examination. For this reason, candidates put forth equal effort for both types of items, which allows us to get a score that is reliable for field test items.

9. When will this format be published?

The new format will be published in early 2022.