
Charlotte, NC – January 15, 2026 -- The National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO®) celebrates the close of 2025 and extends appreciation to candidates, state boards of optometry, and the broader profession for their ongoing collaboration in protecting the public through licensure assessment. As the independent, objective provider of optometric licensure examinations, NBEO supports state boards in making informed decisions regarding those applying to enter the independent practice of optometry.

Passing the NBEO exams is a defining milestone in a new optometrist's career. It represents years of education, training, and sacrifice validated by an objective, independent measurement of competency. Candidates who succeed have demonstrated that they can safely apply their knowledge and skills in real-world clinical settings. That shared achievement unites our profession and strengthens public confidence in every license granted by a state board of optometry.

In 2025, NBEO completed construction and relocation of the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry, creating a more accessible, candidate-centric testing environment. The new facility enhances flexibility for candidates, and offers a calm, candidate-friendly setting that supports optimal performance. The center also includes a dedicated testing suite for the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE®) and Injections Skill Examination (ISE®), improving accessibility and efficiency for these examinations.

As part of our modernization efforts, NBEO also implemented a plan to double the Part III PEPS® testing capacity, helping to meet growing candidate demand and supporting timely progression from education to licensure. NBEO upgraded the candidate management system to simplify exam registration, scoring and publishing. In addition, NBEO advanced its strategic planning efforts in 2025, focusing on how best to align examination programs, operations, and stakeholder communication with evolving needs.

Looking ahead to 2026, the beginning of NBEO's 75th year of service, NBEO will continue to work diligently on examination development to ensure that its assessments reflect the current scope of practice and public protection needs. Plans for the 75th anniversary will be shared throughout the year, highlighting the profession's longstanding commitment to competence and patient safety. Also, NBEO will launch a new secure data portal for schools and state boards to make it easier for them to access examination scores.



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NBEO's unwavering commitment to national competency standards benefits the optometry profession by upholding uniform excellence, preventing variances that could undermine both patient safety and professional credibility nationwide.

NBEO invites you to join us in celebrating these milestones and anticipating the advancements to come.

About the National Board of Examiners in Optometry

Established in 1951, NBEO is an independent, non-governmental, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose examinations are universally accepted for optometric licensure in the United States. The mission of NBEO is to protect the public through competence assessment.

