

Enclosed are the statistical summaries and the individual NPLEX scores from the **February 2021** exam administration. If you are not the person to whom these score reports should be sent, please see that they are given to appropriate person.

- Of the 198 students who took the examination, 111 (56%) were first time takers (FTTs). The comprehensive mastery passing rate of the FTTs was 55%, which is the lowest BSE passing rate in NPLEX history (12 year mean BSE passing rate = 75%). GEA passing rates for FTTs were 59% for Structure/Function and 69% for Disease/Dysfunction, the lowest of which set the upper limit for the comprehensive mastery passing rate. For the February 2021 exam administration, the comprehensive mastery passing rate was lower than the lowest GEA passing rate by 4 percentage points. Of 87 retakers, 27% passed. Alpha (reliability) was 0.92 (on a scale of 0-100), and the standard deviation was 22.98.
- Of the 137 candidates who took the examination, 81 (59%) were FTTs, which is a high percentage of retakers for a February administration. The comprehensive mastery passing rate of the FTTs was 81% (compared to 77% the previous February). GEA passing rates for FTTs were 91% for Diagnosis, 91% for Materia Medica, 94% for Other (Naturopathic) Modalities, and 98% for Other (Medical) Interventions. The lowest GEA passing rate (91%) set the upper limit for comprehensive mastery passing. The comprehensive mastery passing rate was lower than the lowest GEA passing rate by 10 percentage points. Alpha (reliability) was 0.93, and the standard deviation was 32.72, reflecting moderate variability in scores (range of 30%).

The first summary report provides information on the Part I - Biomedical Science Examination, and the second report provides information for the Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination and the Part II - Clinical Elective Examinations. The first numerical column indicates the number of items overall or in each GEA or SEA. The next twelve columns contain information about examinee performance as an aggregate of all naturopathic medical programs, broken out by first-time takers (1TT: including number first-time takers, average raw score, lowest score, highest score, and the percentage who passed overall and each GEA), second-time takers (2TT: including number of-second time takers and percentage passed), and three-plus-time takers (3+TT: including number of 3+ times takers, average raw score, lowest score, highest score, and the percentage who passed overall and each GEA). The next ten columns provide the same information for your program for 1TTs and all retakers. In addition to the mean raw scores for each GEA and each SEA, the report includes the mean scores for each GEA and SEA, as well as the lowest score and the highest score for each.

- Of the 111 FTTs, the mean score was 110 (i.e., on average, FTTs correctly answered 55% of 200 items), which was considerably lower than most previous years. Perhaps more informative though is the range of scores for the BSE: 59 to 171 for a range of 112 points, meaning that the *range* of scores was 56% of the items on the examination. This indicates huge variability.
- The mean score of 81 FTTs was 281 (i.e., on average, an examinee correctly answered 70% of 400 questions), with a low score of 219 (55%) and a high score of 337 (84%). This *range* of scores (337-219=118) indicates lower variability than the BSE scores demonstrated.

Review of the lowest and highest scores *within* each school serves to illustrate significant variability that is due to individual differences (e.g., knowledge at entry, motivation, etc.), not programmatic quality. The effect of individual variability on scores often gets lost when looking only at the mean score. Please refer to the enclosed document ("Reading the NPLEX Statistical Summary Report") for information on interpreting summary statistics.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [christalouise@nabne.org](mailto:christalouise@nabne.org).

Yours in health,

Christa Louise, MS, PhD  
Executive Director

Enclosures     "Reading the NPLEX Statistical Summary Report"  
February 2021 Part I - Biomedical Science Examination Summary Statistics  
February 2021 Part II – Clinical Science Summary Statistics  
February 2021 Individual Part I - Biomedical Science Examination Exam Results  
February 2021 Individual Part II - Core Clinical Science Exam Results  
February 2021 Part II - Elective Exam Results