

Part III: The Essential Clinical "Road Test" for Patient Safety

The NBEEO Part III Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS®) exam is a simulated clinical "road test" for entry into the independent practice of optometry. It is the last step in the three-part licensure examination series and is the only nationally standardized optometric assessment measuring candidates' ability to safely demonstrate essential hands-on clinical skills on real patients before they are granted a license to treat the public.



Simulated Real-World Application: The Part III exam takes place in the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry, a proctored testing center that accurately simulates real-life optometric examination rooms, with standardized equipment and a rotating group of over 90 professional patients.

Live Patient Encounters: Candidates progress through ten distinct proctored patient encounter stations where candidates interact directly with standardized patients. Candidates are scored on their ability to perform focused case histories, interpret clinical data, order appropriate ancillary tests, diagnose conditions, and generate safe management plans.



Clinical Skills: At two dedicated practical skills stations, candidates perform essential, hands-on optometric clinical skills on real patients. Proper performance of these skills is critical for doctors of optometry, as poor examination techniques can lead to failure to properly diagnose life-threatening and sight-threatening conditions.

