

Professional Development
'Best Practices for Comprehensive Review'
November 17, 2020 (2:00 PM ET)

ABFSE Program Committee presented a Zoom conference to discuss 'Best Practices for Comprehensive Review' on November 17, 2020.

72 individuals registered representing 41 schools, including 3 candidate programs. Eighteen programs had more than 1 participant.

Discussion was led by Tony Moore (Northampton Community College), a member of the Program Committee.

The polling feature of Zoom was used to provide some context for the discussion.

Questions:

Does your program include a comprehensive review?

- 35 respondents said that they have some kind of review.

If yes, what kind of comprehensive review is utilized?

- 74% said that their review is both preparation for NBE and graduation
- 14% preparation for NBE
- 9% preparation for graduation
- 3% said 'other'

Those who responded 'other' shared their perspective.

- Require the students to take the PNBE prior to graduation and prepare a reflective paper on the experience. Feedback from students has been extremely helpful to the program as it prepares students for graduation.
- Purchase vouchers for the PNBE and the students are encouraged to take the test in the middle of their semester as well as at the end. By taking the PNBE in the middle of the semester, students get insight into the areas in which they need to improve. After they take it at the end of the semester, they must register for the NBE and show proof of registration before they are certified for graduation.

ICFSEB representatives reminded that vouchers to take the PNBE are available. Specific questions regarding vouchers can be emailed to the ICFSEB.

S. Gill said that PNBE vouchers could be purchased through the Pearson-Vue website and can then be distributed to the students. The student will receive a 'coupon code' to take the exam.

ICFSEB Executive Director, D. Paull expressed appreciation for those educators who participated in NBE item writing. As a result, two versions of the PNBE exam are now available.

Second set of poll questions:

How would you categorize your comprehensive review?

Subject matter review &/or discussion, Testing on subject matter, Combination of both?

Responses:

Testing on subject matter 24%

Combination of both subject matter review and testing 76%

What are some of the resources that you are using for the comprehensive review?

- 76% NBE Study Guide
- 57% Funeral Service Compend
- 57% 'Prepare to Succeed' (UMSEA publication)
- 36% test simulation software
- 43% PNBE
- 12% 'other'
 - Kahoots
 - Exam questions using Blackboard and/or Canvas
 - PowerPoint with questions.
 - Review questions with polls.
 - Jeopardy style quizzes

D. Penepent explained his testing software 'Death Education Assessment Drills' (D.E.A.D.) and shared that a 4 day NBE review is available.

Final set of polling questions:

Question: Are students in your program exposed to computer based testing while they are enrolled in school? 98% Yes; 2% No

Question: Is comprehensive review available for your graduates only or can others participate?

79% is for their students only

21% others may participate

ABFSE office often receives calls from individuals looking for NBE review courses. R. Smith encouraged programs to contact the ABFSE office if they are willing to have outside participants so that information can then be shared.

- Miami Dade, FINE and SUNY-Canton (Penepent) indicated that others may participate in their review.
- National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association (NFDMA) conducts review sessions for unsuccessful candidates at their Atlanta headquarters.

Other suggestions, discussion and concerns.

M. LuBrant (U of Minnesota) described how their NBE preparation includes walking students through The Conference website so the students become familiar with all of the resources that are available. The Conference study guide handbook is also reviewed with students at the beginning of the last semester. This helps both students and faculty be familiar with expectations for the NBE.

In response to a comment that some NBE questions appear to be ambiguous, D. Paull reminded that students have an opportunity to comment on questions that while they are taking the NBE.

R. Reilly (Eastwick College) raised a concern that some students are experiencing test anxiety as a result of their experience at the NBE testing site.

D. Paull encouraged that students become familiar with ICFSEB handbook. NBE is considered a 'high stakes' exam because it is necessary for licensure and descriptions of the protocols in place at the testing site are included in the handbook. Candidates are encouraged to contact The Conference office with any testing center issues and program directors can also contact The Conference with concerns.

A. Sparkman stated that candidates take a survey at the end of the NBE that asks specifically about their testing center experience.

S. Gill offered that a YouTube video that walks the student through the process used at the testing site is available via The Conference website.

D. Paull wanted the participants to be aware of the ADA handbook that is available from The Conference.

Participants are reminded that the next Town Hall meeting will be December 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. (ET).