

The Importance of Valid, Fair, and Standardized Testing

To Students, Colleges, and State Boards



Tamara Sterling
Vice President of Administration



Why is Testing a Requirement of Licensure?



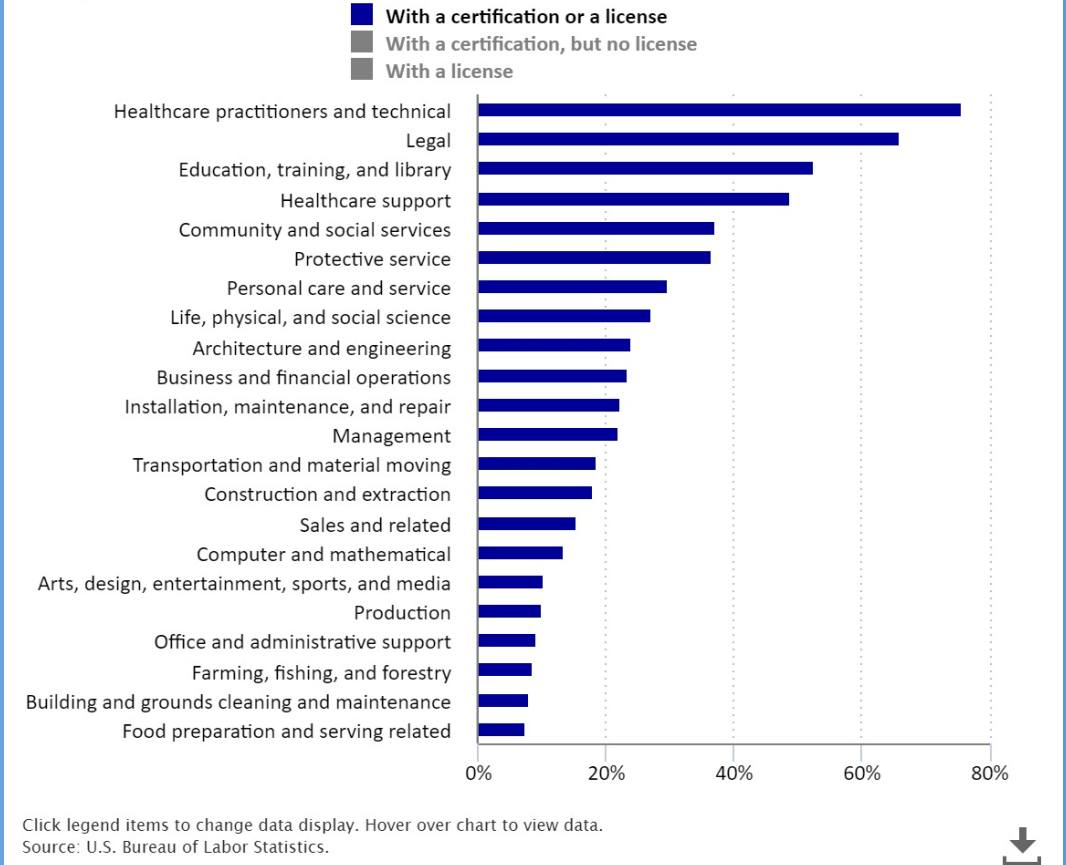
Regulatory Models

<https://chiromt.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12998-019-0255-x#Tab3>

U.S. Regulatory Model

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2019/article/professional-certifications-and-occupational-licenses.htm>

Figure 3. Percentage of employed people with a certification or license, by occupation, 2018 annual averages



Trends in US Regulation

<https://www.ncsl.org/labor-and-employment/the-national-occupational-licensing-database>

Over the last 60 years, the number of jobs requiring an occupational license, or government approval to practice a profession, has grown from about **1-in-20** to almost **1-in-4**. Licensing laws are implemented with the intention of *protecting the health and safety of consumers* by creating barriers to employment—through testing, training, and fees—in professions determined to be sufficiently dangerous.

Testing of the Professions

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6759012/>

- We find evidence of testing for professional qualification as early as 3rd century BCE.
- Ramped up in World War I to assist in professional assignment.
- Focus on minimum competency and connected to a “job analysis”.
- Standard in healthcare professions.



Importance to Students

How the NBCE benefits you

Convenience

Imagine a profession without national standardized testing

1. What would be the steps to licensure?
2. What if you wanted to move to another state?
3. What if you were denied licensure?



Credibility of the Profession

Our exams assist in maintaining uniform high standards across the profession.

- By passing the NBCE exams, chiropractors are demonstrating a baseline of knowledge and skills.
- The public can expect that a licensed chiropractor has demonstrated this baseline through a commonly accepted method such as standardized testing.
- Prospective chiropractors that were not able to successfully demonstrate this baseline knowledge were not allowed to advance to licensure.





Importance to Colleges

How the NBCE works with chiropractic colleges

Accreditation

Provides evidence of a program's effectiveness

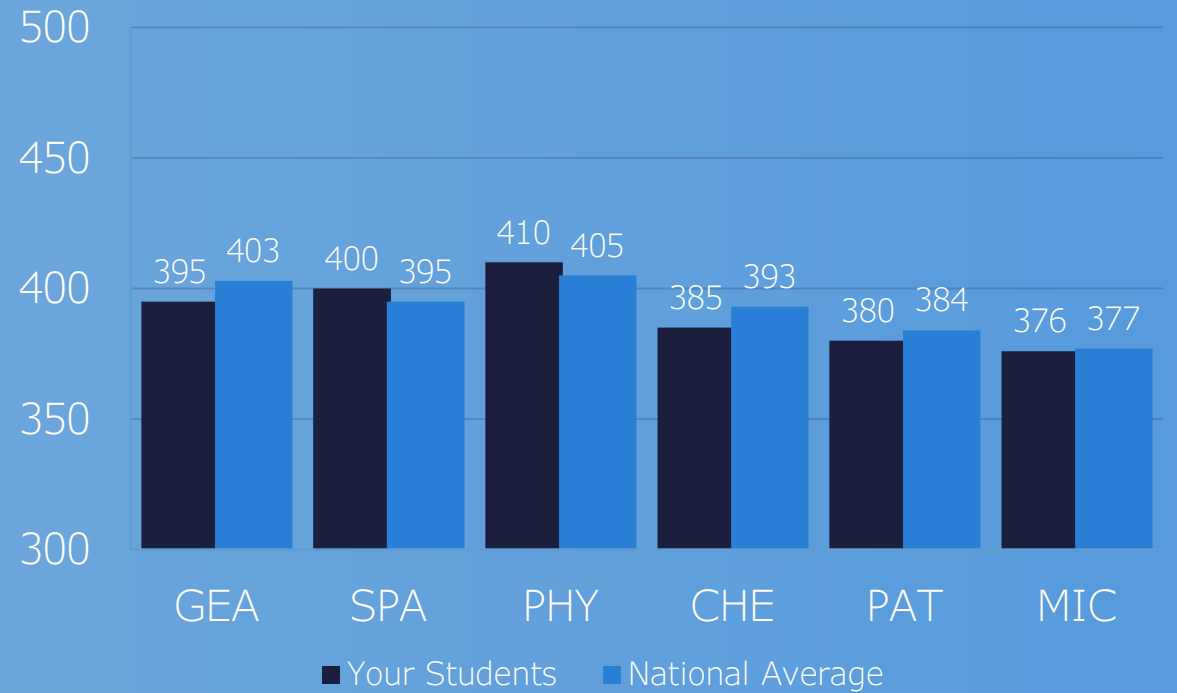
From the Council on Chiropractic Education's "Manual of Policies"

July 2023

U.S. Program Licensing Success: The overall weighted average of the four (4) most recent years' licensing exam success or licensure rates must not be less than 80%.

Performance Feedback

Objective evidence to improve courses





Importance to State Boards

How the NBCE works for State Boards

Efficiency

Producing one exam for all state boards allows the NBCE to experience an “economy of scale”

- Centralized staff, facilities, expertise.
- Vendor contracts.
- Exam development cost dispersed across a greater number.



Legally Defensible

The national testing model prevents accusations of bias or unreasonable burden

- Standardized administrations and content prevent the possibility of regulator bias.
- Consistency in licensing requirements from one state to another strengthens the state board's position.
- The test plans are developed by either what is being taught in schools, or what is experienced in practice.



Summary

1 Testing is required by the U.S. regulatory model

2 National Testing Benefits Students

- Convenience
- Credibility

3 Results Data Assists Colleges

- Accreditation
- Performance Feedback

4 State Boards Utilize NBCE Exams

- Efficiency
- Legally Defensible

Tamara Sterling

Vice President of Administration

Phone

(800)964-6223 ext.
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Email

tsterling@nbce.org

