



## Using Your Performance Feedback Report

The Performance Feedback Report is designed to help you identify areas that you may need to study in order to improve your performance on the NPTE. This guide will help you to interpret the information in the report, using a step-by-step process.

### Step 1: Look at your overall score.

Look at your overall score at the top of the “Professional Work Activity” table to see about how far you are from 600. You can get a pretty good idea of how much you will need to prepare for your next exam based on this number. This information is presented in the first line of the first table, and in the first row of the chart.

You can also look at the number in the “Retake Range” column to get an idea of how far you are away. This number represents a range of scores that you might score if you had taken a different form of the exam on the same day.

- If the highest number in the Retake Range number is over 600, you are not that far off from passing. You may not need to alter your study habits very much to get a passing score. It **does not** mean you would have passed another form, only that you might have passed another form.
- You should also look at the lowest number in the Retake Range. This number represents the low end of the likely range. It is possible that if you took another form, you could have a score around this number.
- Your expected score, if you took another form of the assessment, has a 65% chance of falling within this range.
- **More information:** These numbers are based on statistical estimates and we have no way of knowing which one is the best number for you to use. Even though the tests are of equal difficulty on average for all candidates, you may be more or less familiar with the specific content of the questions on any particular form.
- This information is represented graphically in the chart below the table. The box corresponds to your total score (middle of the box) and the high and low end of the retake range.
  - If the box is yellow, you are close to the passing score. You may still need to study substantially to pass the NPTE.
  - If your box is red, you should consider substantial remediation before retaking the NPTE. Focused studying in areas where you fall short of the passing standard may be required.
  - The bars that extend beyond the boxes are an extended retake range that covers a 95% chance that your score will fall within.



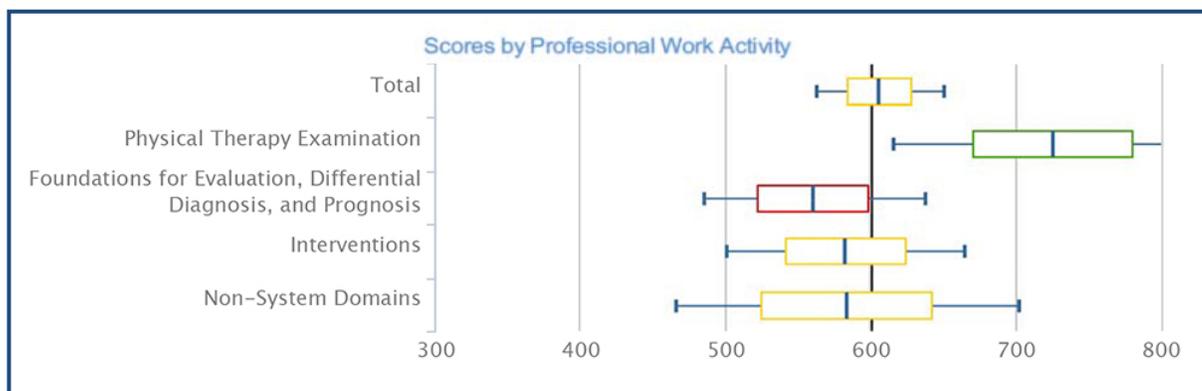
## Step 2: Look at each Professional Work Activity Score

There are four Professional Work Activity groupings on each NPTE Exam.

NPTE-PT Professional Work Activities	NPTE-PTA Professional Work Activities
Physical Therapy Examinations	Physical Therapy Data Collection
Foundations for Evaluation, Differential Diagnosis, and Prognosis	Diseases/Conditions that Impact Effective Treatment
Interventions	Interventions
Non-Systems Domains	Non-Systems Domains

You have a score for each Professional Work Activity that indicates about how well you did in each of these areas. You can use these scores to identify areas that may be preventing you from passing the NPTE. You can't pass or fail a content area, but by reviewing the scores you might be able to identify the areas where you need the most improvement.

- Look at the score for each content area. If it is below 600, this area is hurting your chances to pass the NPTE.
- Look at the Retake Range for each Professional Work Activity.
  - If the low end of the Retake Range is above 600, this is an area where you are probably studying the right amount in order to pass the NPTE. It is not a passing score.
  - If the high end of the Retake Range is below 600, this is an area where you may want to study more to improve your overall NPTE score.
  - This advice is general. You might find it easier to study by concentrating on your areas of strength, but in general it may be harder to improve your score in an area where your score is already high.
- Like with the total score, the information is presented graphically in the chart below the table.





- Professional Work Activity scores represented by a green box are areas where you can be relatively confident that your knowledge is consistent with being on track to pass. You should continue to study these areas, but you do not need to improve in these areas. For example, “Physical Therapy Examination” in the example chart is green.
- Professional Work Activity scores represented by a yellow box are areas where you might be a little above or a little below the on track to pass level. You can’t be sure whether your knowledge is consistent with a passing score or below that level of competence. You may want to continue to study these areas diligently. For example, in the example chart, “Interventions” and “Non-System Domains” are yellow, and are close to the on track to pass standard.
- Professional Work Activity represented by a red box are areas where you are well below the on track to pass standard, and substantial remediation may be necessary. In the example chart, “Foundations for Evaluation, Differential Diagnosis, and Prognosis” is below the passing standard and represented by a red box.
- The boxes represent the Retake Range, and the bars extending from the boxes represent a “95% confidence interval” around your score.
- The width of the boxes and confidence intervals is affected by the number of questions that are included in an area and the distance of the score from the passing standard. For areas with many items, the boxes will be narrower. For scores close to the passing standard, boxes will be narrower.
- If you determine that there are some areas you need to study more, you may want to look at the “On Track to Pass Score”. This number tells you the number you would need to get correct in each Professional Work Activity to have a 600 in that area.
  - In other words, this number tells you how many more questions you would need to get correct in that Professional Work Activity so that your score in that area doesn’t decrease your chances of passing.
  - The difference between your score and the On Track to Pass Score should give you an idea, in terms of the number of questions you would need to get right, of how much better you need to do in each area.
  - You may want to focus more studying in areas where there is a big difference between the number of questions you answered correctly and the number of questions required to be On Track.
- We provide both the number of items you answered correctly as well as the percentage correct.
- Because each Professional Work Activity is based on a small number of items, the average difficulty can vary across Professional Work Activities and across forms. Do not be surprised if the percentage correct required to be On Track is different for each Professional Work Activity.



- Also, since each Professional Work Activity is based on a small number of items, you should not limit your studying to those areas in which you were below the On Track to Pass Score. However, you might want to study a little more in these areas.
- Remember, you can't pass or fail a single Professional Work Activity. Passing the NPTE is based on your score across all Professional Work Activities.

### Step 3: Look Each at the Body Systems Score

There are four Body Systems on each NPTE Exam.

NPTE-PT Body Systems	NPTE-PTA Body Systems
Cardiovascular/Pulmonary & Lymphatic Systems	Cardiovascular/Pulmonary & Lymphatic Systems
Musculoskeletal System	Musculoskeletal System
Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems	Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems
Other Systems	Other Systems

Using the same process you used to look at each Professional Work Activity, review your scores on each Body System.

- Look at the score for each Body System. If it is below 600, this area is hurting your chances to pass the NPTE.
- Look at the Retake Range for each Body System, making special note of those that do not include 600.
- Also look at the graph associated with the Body Systems table to assist in your interpretation of the information.
- For those Body Systems that you determine need improvement, look at the difference between the score you earned and the On Track to Pass Score to give you an idea of how much better you need to do in that area.
- Remember:
  - Each Body System is based on a small number of items, so don't limit your studying to only those areas in which you were below the On Track to Pass Score.
  - You can't pass or fail a Body System.

### Step 4: Look at Your Section Scores

The numbers of scored items in each section of the NPTE Examinations are listed below.

NPTE-PT Sections	NPTE-PTA Sections
Section 1: 40 items	Section 1: 38 items
Section 2: 40 items	Section 2: 37 items
Section 3: 40 items	Section 3: 38 items
Section 4: 40 items	Section 4: 37 items
Section 5: 40 items	--



Using the same process you used to look at each Professional Work Activity and Body System score, review your scores on each Section.

- Look at the score for each section. If it is below 600, this area is hurting your chances to pass the NPTE.
- Look at the Retake Range for each section, making special note of those that do not include 600.
- Also look at the graph associated with the section table to assist in your interpretation of the information.
  - If your scores at the beginning of the test are lower than your scores at the end of the test, you may want to consider how you prepared just prior to taking the test. If you were rushed or didn't feel alert, you may want to prepare differently in the future.
  - If your scores were lower at the end of the test than in the beginning sections, you may want to consider ways to keep your attention focused and alert during the examination.
  - Three factors that influence test performance are rest, diet, and anxiety. Make sure you get your normal amount of rest the night before the exam. Make sure you have an adequate meal before your testing appointment, but do not overeat. Practicing items from PEAT or other study guides under exam-like circumstances (timed and with limited breaks, for example) may help reduce your anxiety on the test day, as will arriving to the Promteric site with plenty of time to check in and relax.

### **Step 5: Review the Retake Information Section**

The retake information section includes the likelihood of passing on the range of expected scores for candidates who retake the NPTE who have similar scores and number of attempts. The first row reports the score range and number of attempts, which should correspond to your approximate score and the number of times you have taken the NPTE. The next 5 rows report the score on the next attempt for the lowest 10% of candidates, lowest 25% of candidates, average (median) score, top 25% of candidates, and top 10% of candidates. The last row reports the percentage of candidates who passed the NPTE on their next attempt. This information may help you to understand the level of effort you will need to put into your next NPTE attempt in order to pass.



## RETAKE INFORMATION SECTION

For candidates scoring 570 to 579 on attempt 2...		
The lowest 10% of candidates score	553	or lower on their next attempt.
The lowest 25% of candidates score	573	or lower on their next attempt.
About half of candidates score	598	or higher on their next attempt.
The top 25% of candidates score	623	or higher on their next attempt.
The top 10% of candidates score	646	or higher on their next attempt.
49% passed the NPTE on attempt 3.		

### Step 6: Review the Study Materials Provided with the Report

There are two additional parts of the Performance Feedback Report that may help you to prepare for your next NPTE. The report contains several sample questions, with answers and rationales, to help you see what a question looks like from many of the Professional Work Activities and Body Systems. Working through these example questions might help you to determine if you are missing questions that you should get right because you are not thinking through the items thoroughly.

The Performance Feedback Reports also include a detailed description of each Professional Work Activity and Body System included on the examination. Using the Content Outline, examinees can see how many items are devoted to each Professional Work Activity and Body System combination on each test form. Following the Content Outline are detailed text descriptions of the topics that comprise each Professional Work Activity grouping and Body System.

### Step 7: Develop Your Study Plan

At this point, you should have some idea of how much you will need to study for the next NPTE in order to have a good chance at passing. You may have identified some areas that you want to devote special attention to while studying, or some other issue that prevented you from passing. It might be helpful to plan out your study activities on a calendar in preparation for the next test date. Planning your study time early may help you to maximize the time spent and effectiveness of your studying, and to avoid studying by “cramming” before the examination.