



PE Structural Exam Transition to Computer-Based Testing



November 1

- Registration opens for the CBT PE Structural Exam
- Exam prep materials available online

Components

- The exam is comprised of 2 components—vertical and lateral. Each component includes a breadth section and a depth section. Breadth and depth sections may be taken, and acceptable results obtained, separately and at different times.
- Acceptable results must be obtained on both components to pass the exam. Examinees who have received acceptable results on one component prior to the transition to computer-based testing will only have to take and achieve acceptable results on the two sections for the remaining component.

Breadth sections

- Breadth section exam appointments will be 6 hours. Each breadth section appointment will include 10 minutes for a tutorial and review of the non-disclosure agreement, a 20-minute break, and 5.5 hours of exam time.
- Breadth sections which will include 55 items—45 scored and 10 pretest. Non-scored pretest items will not count toward an examinee's results or the exam's cut score.
- Exam items will be all multiple-choice, single-response items graded via computer. Content will include both buildings and bridges.
- Breadth sections for both components will be offered year-round, similar to many other NCEES exams. Results will be available in 7–10 days.

Depth sections

- Depth section exam appointments will be 5.5 hours. Each depth section appointment will include 10 minutes for a tutorial and review of the non-disclosure agreement, a 20-minute break, and 5 hours of exam time.
- Each depth section will include 5 scenarios. Four of the scenarios will include 12 items—10 scored and 2 pretest. The fifth scenario will include 12 pretest items to develop the exam item bank. Non-scored pretest items will not count toward an examinee's results or the exam's cut score.
- Depth sections will be offered in two areas—buildings and bridges. Examinees must select and pass the same depth area (buildings or bridges) for each component.
- Depth items will be graded via computer and include alternative item types (AITs) such as multiple-correct, drag-and-drop, point-and-click, and fill-in-the-blank.
- Depth sections will be offered twice per year in testing windows. Initially, results will require standard setting evaluations and be available in 6–8 weeks. Once the item bank is sufficiently populated, results will be available in 7–10 days.

Summary of the Transition to Computer-Based Testing

	Pencil-and-paper format	Computer-based testing format
Number of Components	2 (Vertical and Lateral)	2 (Vertical and Lateral)
Breadth section for each component	Yes—administered with depth section and includes 40 MCQs	Yes—administered separately with 55 MCQs)
Depth section for Buildings (for each component)	Yes—4 constructed response questions with 5–8 requirements each	Yes—5 scenarios with 60 alternative item types (or 12 AITs each)
Depth section for Bridges (for each component)	Yes—3 constructed response questions with 5–8 requirements each	Yes—5 scenarios with 60 alternative item types (or 12 AITs each)
Sections administered separately?	No—Breadth and depth sections must be taken at the same time	Yes—Breadth and depth sections are scheduled separately
Exam makeup	Two independent components offered twice per year	Four independent sections offered year-round for breadth sections and twice per year for depth section
Results	8–10 weeks	Breadth sections 7–10 days

Benefits for Examinees

■ More flexibility in scheduling to test

- Up to three times in a 12-month period for the Breadth
- Authorization lasts for 12 months

■ Testing locations

- Offered exclusively at approved Pearson VUE test centers
- Nationwide test center locations
- Testing conditions standardized

■ Faster Results

- 7–10 days for the Breadth sections
- Eventually, 7–10 days for the Depth sections

■ Improved diagnostics for Depth sections

■ Retention of acceptable section results

Stay Up to Date

For additional information about the transition, visit nces.org/exams/cbt.
For videos relating to computer-based testing, visit youtube.com/user/ncesmedia.

