

## pScore delivery options

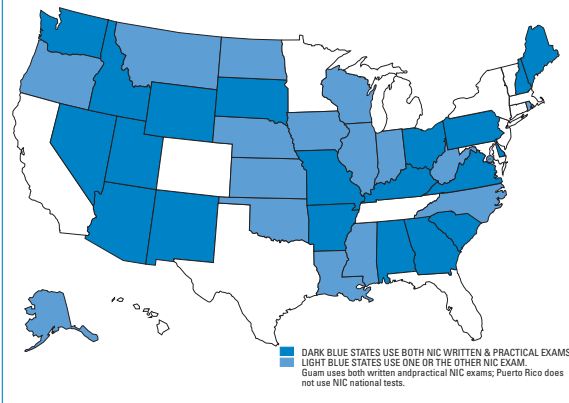
Scores can be delivered overnight, faxed, e-mailed, or downloaded from the internet.

## Computer-based exam option

Instant results, highest security, many testing sites, non-stop tech support, and immediate delivery—these are the advantages of NIC's computer-based testing.

### The NIC National Test: Simply the best!

Thirty-six states, the District of Columbia, and Guam now use NIC National Tests. Highly defensible and based on an industry job analyses, National Tests can make state-to-state reciprocity a reality.



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# NIC Testing: Providing a National Standard

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*The NIC Testing Program was established to create a national standard, to ensure consistency in the profession, and enhance reciprocity among the states.*

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Advantages of participation in the NIC Testing Program include national support for state boards, relevance to current practice, opportunity for state-to-state endorsement, integrity and security, validity and reliability, cost-effectiveness, board participation, and compliance with industry testing standards.

## Sole-source test provider

NIC offers a test that's truly national—and owned by the state licensing agencies. The NIC national examination is a single source for both written and practical exams.

## Written and practical examinations

Written and practical examinations, NIC provides both—along with statistical reporting, examiner training, and other services.

## Reliable, valid, and standardized

Does your examination yield the same results today that it will yield tomorrow? Does the examination adequately measure what it is intended to measure?

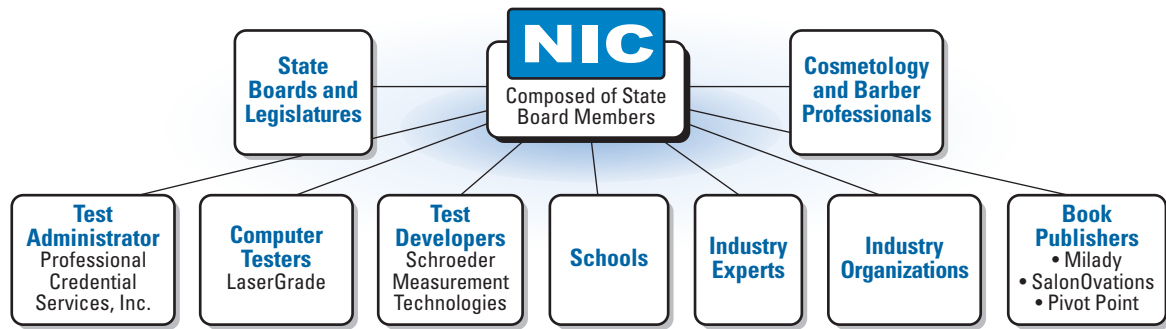
Is the administration identical in all geographical locations? If the answer is “yes” to these questions, you're already participating in the NIC Testing Program. For an examination to be reliable, valid, and standardized, it must be continually monitored throughout the test development process. Ongoing item-writing, item review, and test analysis are conducted to ensure validity and reliability.

## Item response theory utilized

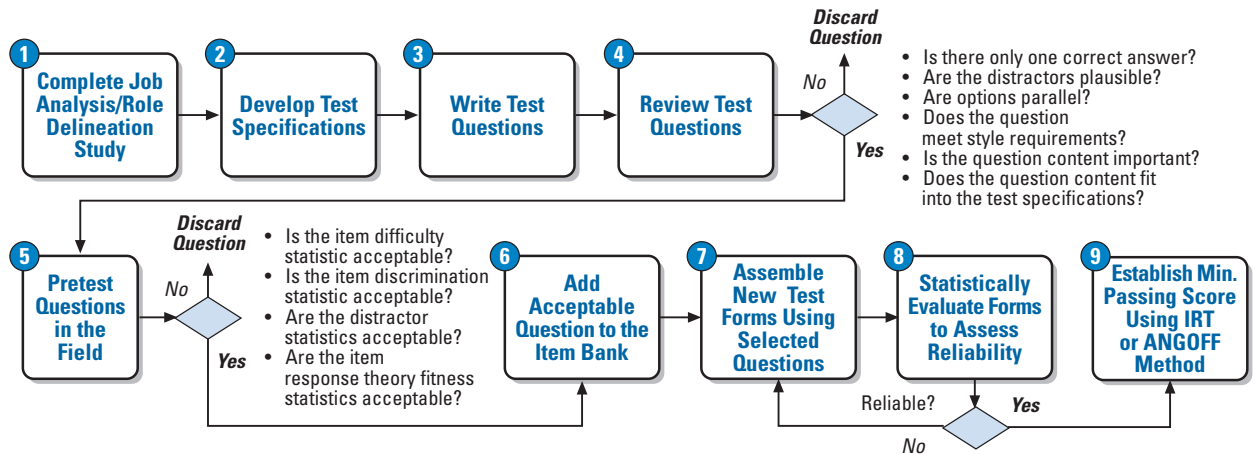
NIC examinations are developed using item response theory, which provides better solutions to test construction and scoring issues than previous methods.

Imagine two history students, one who is in middle school (11–13 years old) and one who is in college (18–22 years old). Both students received scores of 80 percent on their most recent history examination. Although their scores are the same, it would be inferred that the college student knows more about history than the middle school student, because the college examination was undoubtedly more comprehensive. However, without knowing the relationship between the difficulty of the questions on the two examinations, it can't be known how much more knowledge of history the college student possesses.

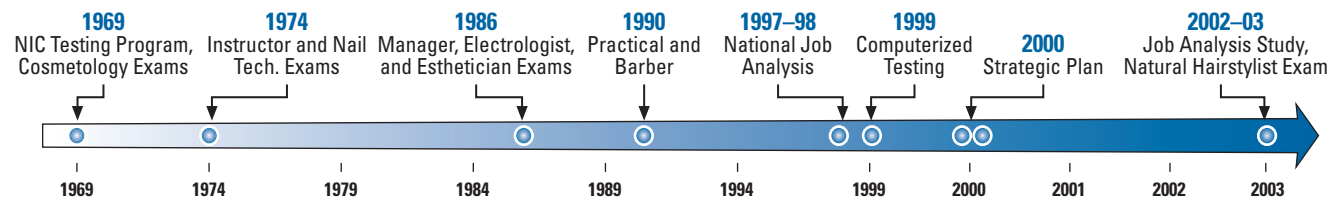
This is where item response theory comes into play. It allows test-takers who receive different questions to be placed on a common proficiency scale. The questions each test-taker receives can differ in difficulty because the statistical characteristics of the questions are taken into account by IRT models when scoring the test-takers. In the example above, if the two history tests had been scored on a common item response theory scale, the college student would have received a higher score than the middle school stu-



**NIC—AT THE CENTER OF THE INDUSTRY.** The NIC Testing Program is national in scope and focus. Cooperation and partnerships allow NIC to deliver the most comprehensive and reliable examination services to state boards and agencies. Every state that is a member of NIC shares ownership of the examinations. .



**NIC TEST DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.** For an examination to be reliable, valid, and standardized, it must be continually monitored throughout the test development process. Ongoing item-writing, item review, and test analysis are carried out to ensure defensibility. Every written and practical test item is directly linked to a role delineation study. Ongoing item-writing, item review, and test analysis are conducted to ensure exam validity. .



**NIC TESTING: FROM ITS BEGINNINGS IN 1969 AND INTO THE FUTURE.** The NIC Testing Program was established to create a national standard, to ensure consistency in the profession, and enhance reciprocity among the states.