

Comparing Naturopathic Doctor Certification

The two most often compared bodies for evaluating naturopathic doctors for licensure or registration are the **National Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NBNE)** and the **North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE)**.

Here is a comparison of their operating policies and history.

	NBNE	NABNE
Date established	1951	2007
Qualifying exam used	NDLEX	NPLEX
Accepts graduates of which schools?	All schools with the required number of credits	Only CNME-approved schools
Accepts bridge program training for other health care providers (MD, DO, DC, etc.)?	Yes	No
Accepts graduates of foreign schools?	Yes	No
Number of schools which have used their qualifying examination to date	62	8
Approved by the American Naturopathic Association?	Yes	No

The National Board of Naturopathic Examiners was formed as the result of a request by the President of the American Naturopathic Association in 1941 for a single standard of competency for the many states that licensed naturopathic doctors (NDs) at that time.

NBNE has been duly registered with the Department of Regulatory Affairs in Washington DC since 1951, and has, with some interruptions, weathered the decline and eventual return of naturopathic licensing in many states, and serves the profession as an impartial arbiter of competence in the budding practitioner. In the post-COVID world, NBNE has conformed with other institutions in offering online examinations for the first time in 2023.