

VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

Information for Applicants for a License as a Pharmacist

1. Licensure by Examination:

Application

The application is available on the Board of Pharmacy website at www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy. Applications and fees are submitted online and received by the board the next business day.

Practical Experience Requirements

An applicant shall have accumulated a minimum of 1,500 hours of practical experience as a pharmacy intern. The applicant must have registered with the Board as a pharmacy intern prior to beginning to obtain practical experience. Credit will not be given for more than 50 hours in any one week, and not for less than an average of 20 hours per week averaged over a month. Practical experience that is gained within an ACPE-accredited school of pharmacy, that conforms to the current ACPE standards, and that allows the student to gain at least 1,500 hours of practical experience, shall meet the Board's practical experience requirements for licensure as a pharmacist. All practical experience credit gained outside of an ACPE-accredited school of pharmacy program shall only be gained after successful completion of the equivalent of at least two semesters in an ACPE-accredited school of pharmacy, or in the case of graduates of foreign colleges of pharmacy (see Guidance Document 110-17), after obtaining the FPGE and registering as a pharmacy intern. All practical experience shall be gained within the United States.

Certificates of Practical Experience

- For practical experience gained within the college experiential program, documentation should be recorded and certified under the "College Affidavit" section of the application. No further affidavits are needed for this experience.
- Affidavits of experience gained in Virginia, outside the college experiential program, must be signed by the supervising pharmacist and the original form must be sent to the board.
- Certificates or documentation of practical experience gained in another state must be certified by the board of pharmacy in that state and must be received by this Board directly from that state. This documentation must show actual dates of employment, total hours worked, place of employment and names of supervising pharmacists, and the certifying Board shall verify current, unrestricted licensure status of the supervising pharmacists. In the event that a state does not use internships to gain practical experience in pharmacy but relies on the pharmacy school to certify the hours of experience, an affidavit from the pharmacy school certifying the above information may be accepted in lieu of board certification.

Taking the NAPLEX

Applicants must directly register with and pay the required fee to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) in order to take the NAPLEX examination at www.nabp.net. NAPLEX is the competency assessment examination for initial pharmacist licensure that is accepted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. An applicant may either take NAPLEX in Virginia, or register with NABP to score transfer to Virginia. The Board will notify NABP of a candidate's eligibility once an application is approved. Applications are generally approved within one or two business days of receipt unless there are problems with the submitted application. An applicant will not be allowed to schedule taking NAPLEX until he/she has been approved by the Board. Additional details about NAPLEX are also available on the NABP website.

2. Licensure by Endorsement (Reciprocity):

Virginia does allow licensure by a process called "endorsement" in which an applicant may transfer a pharmacist license from another state, provided the applicant's credentials for licensure in the other state meet Virginia's credentialing requirements with respect to education, practical experience, and required examinations, and provided grounds do not exist to deny an application such as disciplinary action by another state or criminal convictions. Applicants will need to go through the NABP license transfer process in order to do this. Instructions and forms for this may be found at www.nabp.net. Once the preliminary application and fee is submitted to NABP, NABP will partially complete the official application for Virginia, and send it back to the applicant. Then the applicant finishes completing the form and submits it to the Virginia Board of Pharmacy. Once the application has been received by this Board and approved, the applicant will then be approved to take the law exam.

3. Pharmacy Law Examination Required for Licensure by Examination or Endorsement:

The Board will cease offering the Virginia Federal and State Drug Law Exam on June 30, 2016. Beginning July 1, 2016, examination candidates seeking pharmacist licensure in Virginia will be required to successfully pass the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) offered by NABP. Beginning May 1, 2016, candidates will have the option of scheduling to take the FSDLE prior to July 1, 2016 or scheduling with NABP to take the MPJE on or after July 1, 2016.

During this transition, the Board will continue to pre-register examination candidates for the FSDLE when the Application for Pharmacist Licensure is received and approved by the board prior to June 20, 2016. An email from the testing center, Iso Quality Testing, will be sent to the pre-registered candidate with instructions regarding payment, selection of testing center, date and time for the exam. The candidate may choose to respond to the email from Iso Quality Testing and schedule a testing of the FSDLE prior to July 1, 2016. Please note that dates and locations for scheduling the FSDLE may be limited during the month of June. Alternatively and beginning May 1, 2016, the examination candidate may choose to schedule with NABP to take the MPJE on or after July 1, 2016.

While the content on the two examinations is very similar, there are differences in the registration process, format, and cost. Additional information may be obtained at the Board's website www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy.

4. Denial of an Application for Grounds:

Grounds to deny a license may be found in §54.1-3316 of the Code of Virginia on the Board's website. If grounds exist to deny an application for licensure as a pharmacist, the application will not be approved by Board staff, and the applicant will be so notified and offered an opportunity to meet with an informal conference committee of the Board to determine if the license should be denied, issued, or issued conditionally. An applicant will not be allowed to take any required examinations if grounds exist to deny the application, until reviewed and approved by the Board.