

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.pharmacy. 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 designating Virginia as the primary state of licensure, or register with NABP to score transfer to Virginia. The Board will notify NABP of a qualifying candidate's eligibility after reviewing the application for pharmacist licensure. The review is generally completed within five to seven business days. 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.pharmacy. 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. Virginia Pharmacy Law Examination Required for Licensure by Examination or Endorsement:

As of July 1, 2016, Virginia ceased administering the Virginia Federal and State Drug Law Exam (FSDLE) and began requiring applicants for pharmacist licensure to successfully pass the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) administered by the NABP. Applicants must directly register with and pay the required fee to the NABP at www.nabp.net in order to take the MPJE. However, an applicant will not be allowed to schedule taking the MPJE until he has been approved by the Board. Approval from the Board is obtained after a review of the application for pharmacist licensure. Unless there are problems with an application, the application is generally approved within five to seven business days of receipt by the Board.

Detailed information about the MPJE, the registration process, scheduling an appointment to test, requirements on test day, and the MPJE blueprint which contains a list of competency statements that comprises the topics covered on the exam may be found at www.nabp.net

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.