

VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

Instructions for Graduates of Foreign Schools of Pharmacy

Each step of the following requirements must be completed in the order listed to be eligible for a pharmacist license in Virginia:

1. FPGEC Certification Program

Graduates of foreign colleges of pharmacy must first obtain the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Committee (“FPGEC”) certification from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (“NABP”). No alternative exists in Virginia to this process for certifying the equivalency of pharmacy education and proficiency in written and spoken English. The FPGEC certification shows the following:

- a. That the person is a graduate of a foreign college of pharmacy and that the educational and licensure credentials have been evaluated and found to be valid and substantively equivalent to those in the United States;
- b. That the person has successfully completed the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination (“FPGEE”);
- c. That the person has successfully completed the written and oral communication ability tests of English as provided on the Internet Based Test of English as a Foreign Language (“TOEFL iBT”) or any alternative examination accepted by NABP.

2. Practical Experience Requirement

An applicant must obtain at least **1500 hours** of practical experience within the United States. **Prior to** gaining practical experience in Virginia for credit, the applicant must register with the Virginia Board of Pharmacy as a **pharmacy intern**. The online application for registration as a pharmacy intern may be found on the Board of Pharmacy’s website at <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Pharmacy/PractitionerResources/FormsandApplications/>.

Pursuant to regulation, the applicant must submit the application, pay the required fee, and provide the Virginia pharmacy location where the experience is to be gained as well as the name of the supervising pharmacist. Once the practical experience has been obtained, the pharmacy intern must submit an affidavit to the Board documenting the practical experience. These hours must meet the following requirements:

- a. Credit will not be given for more than 50 hours in any one week or for less than an average of 20 hours a week averaged over a month.

- b. A pharmacy intern shall be supervised by a pharmacist who holds a current, unrestricted license and assumes full responsibility for the training, supervision, and conduct of the intern.
- c. Practical experience gained in another state within the U.S. must be certified by that state's board of pharmacy and may require registration as a pharmacy intern with that state board.
- d. A temporary intern registration may be issued without a social security number **for 90 days only** pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-116.

3. **A Completed Application**

Once the requirements of sections 1 and 2, above, are completed, an applicant may submit an application for licensure as a pharmacist. The applicant should also apply to take the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination ("NAPLEX") (if applying for initial licensure by examination) and the Uniform Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination ("UMPJE") offered by NABP. If the applicant is approved, authorization to test will be granted. Detailed information about the NAPLEX and UMPJE, the registration process, scheduling an appointment to test, requirements for test day, and both the NAPLEX and UMPJE blueprints which contain a list of competency statements that comprise the topics covered on the exams may be found at www.nabp.pharmacy.

- a. If applying for initial licensure in Virginia by examination, an applicant must apply online and submit the required fee. The applicant may omit the college affidavit section.
- b. If applying to transfer a pharmacist's license from another state within the United States (licensure by endorsement), an applicant must go through NABP's license transfer process. In order to be eligible to transfer a license from another state, an applicant must also have met the requirements of sections 1 and 2, above.

All forms required are available on the Board of Pharmacy website at <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Pharmacy/>. FPGE, NAPLEX, and UMPJE information can be found at www.nabp.pharmacy.