

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy
Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) Exam
INFORMATION

The Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) is a criterion-referenced exam. The PCOA assesses students' overall performance based their class level of pharmacy curriculum.

The PCOA is a tool to assist with curriculum development and review. It measures performance and provides a comparison to national schools of pharmacy. The exam can provide documentation of improvement following curriculum modifications. The PCOA assesses student knowledge in 4 key content areas and 28 subtopics. The key content areas are 1) Basic Biomedical Sciences; 2) Pharmaceutical Sciences; 3) Social, Behavioral, and Administrative Sciences; 4) Clinical Sciences. The report from this exam allows tracking of student scores as they progress through their pharmacy curriculum.

The PCOA is a national exam developed and administered by National Association of Board of Pharmacy (NABP). The NABP is an organization responsible for administering NAPLEX, which is one of the components for pharmacist licensure. At Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy PCOA exam is conducted annually in the month of January.

It is a mandatory exam for P3 and P4 students at the TTUHSC, Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy. A typical PCOA exam consists of 225 multiple choice questions. The result of PCOA exam is provided in three different formats: 1) Percentile score, 2) % correct, and 3) Scale score. The result also provides comparison to the National average. The result of the exam is reviewed by the Assessment of Student Learning Committee (ASLC). After approval of Executive Committee results are communicated to students.