

Register for the PCOA®

Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment®

What Is the PCOA?

The Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) is a comprehensive tool for schools and colleges of pharmacy to use as one measure of the application of knowledge in the curricula. Schools and colleges of pharmacy have been utilizing the assessment for this purpose since 2008, and recently the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) incorporated the PCOA into its *Accreditation Standards and Key Elements for the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (Standards 2016)*, requiring annual performance measures of students nearing the completion of the didactic curriculum.

The PCOA is made up of four main content areas (basic biomedical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, social/behavioral/administrative sciences, and clinical sciences) and 28 subtopic areas.

Register Online!

You will need to register for the PCOA with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®). NABP has developed many of the pharmacy examinations that you will take throughout your career, including the NAPLEX® and MPJE®, which are components in boards' licensing decisions.

PCOA registration requires the creation of an NABP e-Profile. You will use your NABP e-Profile account and your e-Profile ID, a unique identifier, throughout the duration of your career as a pharmacist to register for examinations and claim Continuing Pharmacy Education credits. Your school or college of pharmacy will provide you with the registration deadline.

Please note: If you miss the deadline, you will not be able to register for the PCOA.

1. To create an NABP e-Profile:

- a. Visit www.nabp.pharmacy and click on "NABP e-Profile Login" at the top of the page.
- b. Click the "Customer" tile on the dashboard.
- c. Click "Create a Login" on the login page and follow the prompts to set up your username and password. Visit nabp.pharmacy/help for login assistance.
 - **You will need to use your school/college-provided email address for your username.**
- d. After successfully creating login credentials and logging into the system, click the "Create e-Profile" tile and follow the prompts to enter your profile information:
 - **Your name must be entered exactly as it appears on your state-issued photo identification.**

A Social Security number is required to create an e-Profile. If you do not have a Social Security number, please contact NABP Customer Service, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm Central Time at 847/391-4406 or email help@nabp.pharmacy.



2 To register for the PCOA exam:

- a. Log in to your NABP e-Profile and select the “Exam Services” tile.
- b. Click the word “Register” on the PCOA tile.
- c. Follow the prompts to complete the registration process, which includes:
 - a non-disclosure agreement
 - your school or college of pharmacy information

Please note: No payment is required for registration.

What Happens After Registration?

You will receive an email confirming that you have completed the PCOA registration; please keep this email for your records. Your school or college of pharmacy will determine your eligibility to test and provide additional assessment-related information. If you have questions about the assessment dates or administration, please contact your school or college of pharmacy administrators.

NABP abides by all applicable federal and state regulations relating to the testing of eligible individuals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and amendments. If you are requesting an accommodation for the PCOA, an ADA form must be filled out. **It is strongly suggested that you start on your ADA accommodation paperwork as soon as possible.** The ADA form and instructions are available for download under the PCOA Information for Students page located in the PCOA section of www.nabp.pharmacy. All three sections of the form must be completed as directed. Please contact your school or college of pharmacy to learn the ADA request form submission deadline for your designated PCOA administration. If proper documentation is not filed by the established deadline, NABP will be unable to provide accommodations for your testing session.

Look for the Practice Examination

Approximately two weeks prior to the administration date assigned to you by your school or college of pharmacy, you will receive an email (to the email address indicated in your e-Profile) with a link to a voluntary 50-question online practice PCOA. If you do not receive the email, please check your junk mail and spam filters. If the email is still missing, please contact your school or college of pharmacy administrator.

On the Examination Day

To ensure that assessment results for all students are earned under comparable conditions and represent fair and accurate measurement of each student’s individual knowledge and skills, it is necessary to maintain a standardized and secure testing environment. All students must adhere to the following policies:

- a. No reference, study, or other materials or devices may be brought into the testing room.
- b. Prohibited items will not be allowed in the testing room; they include but are not limited to:
 - Calculators, cell phones, other electronic or digital devices, pagers, photographic devices, recording devices, backpacks, purses, or other bags. For details, visit the PCOA Information for Students page in the PCOA section of www.nabp.pharmacy.
- c. Bring your school/college-issued ID or a state-issued ID and a pencil or pen.

PCOA Results

NABP will provide your school or college of pharmacy with your Student Score Report, which your school or college of pharmacy may then provide to you. This valuable report will show your total PCOA score and national comparisons, providing feedback and insight regarding your performance. NABP cannot provide scores directly to students.

To learn more, visit the PCOA Information for Students page in the PCOA section of www.nabp.pharmacy.

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy is the independent, international, and impartial Association that assists its member boards and jurisdictions for the purpose of protecting the public health.