### What Is the PCOA?

The 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.



You will need to register for the PCOA with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy<sup>®</sup> (NABP<sup>®</sup>). NABP has developed many of the pharmacy examinations that you will take throughout your career, including the NAPLEX<sup>®</sup> and MPJE<sup>®</sup>, 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, through the duration of your career as a pharmacist to register for examinations and claim CPE.

Your school/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.

To create an NABP e-Profile and register for the PCOA, click on the e-Profile Login and ID Quick Search icon in top right corner of the NABP website's home page: www.nabp.net.

### 1. To create an NABP e-Profile -

- a. Click the Create an e-Profile button.
- b. Read and agree to the Terms of Service.
- c. Select PCOA from the list of products and services.
- d. Begin creating your e-Profile by entering your personal information\* and contact information:
  - i. Your name must be entered exactly as it appears on your stateissued photo identification.
  - ii. You will need to use your school-provided email address.
- e. Choose security questions and provide answers.

Please note: e-Profile creation must be completed to register for the PCOA.

\*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 custsery@NABP.net.











## 2. To register for the PCOA -

- a. When you are brought to the My e-Profile Dashboard after completing the creation of your e-Profile:
  - i. Choose PCOA under the Programs and Services section in the center of the page (or click on Exam Services in the navigation on the left) and choose Register for PCOA.
- b. Move through the rest of the registration process, which includes:
  - i. a non-disclosure agreement,
  - ii. your school/college of pharmacy information,
  - iii. an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) testing accommodations request (please see the What Happens After Registration? section below for details), and
  - iv. a confirmation page.

Please note: No payment is required for registration.

# **What Happens After Registration?**

You will receive an email confirming that you have completed PCOA registration; please keep this email for your records. Your school/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/college of pharmacy administrators.

NABP abides by all applicable federal and state regulations relating to the testing of eligible individuals under the ADA and amendments. If you are requesting an accommodation for the PCOA, an ADA form must be filled out. The ADA form and instructions are available for download and can be found on NABP's PCOA for Students website: <a href="http://www.nabp.net/programs/assessment/pcoa-for-students">http://www.nabp.net/programs/assessment/pcoa-for-students</a>. All three sections of the form must be completed as directed. Please contact your school/college of pharmacy to learn the ADA request form submission deadline for your designated PCOA administration. If proper documentation is not filed within the established deadline NABP will be unable to provide accommodations for your testing session.

### **Look for the Practice Examination**

Two weeks prior to the administration date assigned to you by your school/college of pharmacy, you will receive an email with a link to a voluntary 50-question online practice PCOA.

### 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:
  - i. Calculators, cell phones, other electronic or digital devices, pagers, photographic devices, recording devices, backpacks, purses, or other bags.

## **PCOA Results**

NABP will provide your school/college of pharmacy with your Student Score Report, which your school/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 about the PCOA, please visit http://www.nabp.net/programs/assessment/pcoa-for-students.

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.