

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 FPGEC and registering as a pharmacy intern. All practical experience shall be gained within the United States.

Certificates of Practical Experience

- For graduates of an ACPE-approved school of pharmacy, a “college Affidavit” form no longer needs to be submitted to the Board to document practical experience gained within the college experiential program. Graduation from an ACPE-approved school of pharmacy indicates that the student has obtained the required hours of practical experience. Confirmation of compliance with the practical experience requirement will be assessed prior to allowing the applicant to schedule for NAPLEX or the Uniform Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (UMPJE).
- 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 outside of an ACPE-approved school of pharmacy experiential program 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.

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 and NABP has received a college transcript indicating the date of graduation. 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 applying for licensure through endorsement should complete the following steps:

1. Follow NABP's instructions at www.nabp.pharmacy for submitting the application for licensure by endorsement to NABP. NABP will provide the board with relevant information regarding the applicant's licensure status, any criminal convictions, and any disciplinary action taken against the applicant.
2. Submit to the Virginia Board of Pharmacy the Application for Pharmacist License by Endorsement found at http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy/pharmacy_forms.htm along with the required fee.
3. Follow NABP's instructions at www.nabp.pharmacy for submitting the application to take the UMPJE.

Once all steps have been completed and the board receives from NABP the applicant's relevant information for consideration, the board will notify NABP of the applicant's eligibility to take the UMPJE.

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. As of October 1, 2026, Virginia requires successful passage of the UMPJE and will recognize scores from attempts made prior to October 1, 2026. Virginia will no longer require pharmacist applicants to pass the MPJE beginning October 1, 2026. Applicants must directly register with and pay the required fee to the NABP at www.nabp.pharmacy in order to take the UMPJE. However, an applicant will not be allowed to schedule taking the UMPJE 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 UMPJE, the registration process, scheduling an appointment to test, requirements on test day, and the UMPJE blueprint, which contains a list of competency statements that comprises the topics covered on the exam, may be found at www.nabp.pharmacy.

4. Denial Of An Application For Grounds:

Grounds to deny a license may be found in [Virginia Code § 54.1-3316](#).

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.