

Virginia Board of Pharmacy

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF FOREIGN SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY

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

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). Virginia has no alternative 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 follows:
 - **Beginning March 1, 2014, all new candidates for FPGEC Certification must complete** the Internet Based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) with a minimum passing score for each component as follows: Writing 24, Speaking 26, Listening 21, and Reading 22
 - **Between April 1, 2010 and February 28, 2014, all new candidates for FPGEC Certification must complete** the Internet Based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) with a minimum passing score for each component as follows: Writing 24, Speaking 26, Listening 18, and Reading 21; scores for this exam will no longer be accepted from an international Educational Testing Service (ETS) test site location. These candidates who are unsuccessful in meeting all requirements for certification prior to June 1, 2014, must meet the new minimum score requirements of the TOEFL iBT in order to obtain certification.

2. Practical Experience Requirement

One must obtain at least **1500 hours** practical experience within the United States. **Prior to** gaining practical experience in Virginia for credit, a person must register with this Board as a "**pharmacy intern**". The online application for registration as a pharmacy intern may be found at www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy/pharmacy_forms. 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**.

3. A Completed Application

Once the requirements of sections 1 and 2 above are completed, one may submit an application for licensure as a pharmacist. If the application is approved, the applicant will be authorized to take NAPLEX (if applying for initial licensure by examination) and the law examination.

Note: The Board will cease offering the Virginia Federal and State Drug Law Exam (FSDLE) on June 30, 2016. Beginning July 1, 2016, examination candidates seeking pharmacist licensure in Virginia will be required to successfully pass the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) offered by NABP. Beginning May 1, 2016, candidates will have the option of scheduling to take the FSDLE prior to July 1, 2016 or scheduling with NABP to take the MPJE on or after July 1, 2016.

During this transition, the Board will continue to pre-register examination candidates for the FSDLE when the Application for Pharmacist License is received and approved by the Board prior to June 20, 2016. An email from the testing center, Iso Quality Testing, will be sent to the pre-registered candidate with instructions regarding payment, selection of testing center, date and time for the exam. The candidate may choose to respond to the email from Iso Quality Testing and schedule a testing of the FSDLE prior to July 1, 2016. Please note that dates and locations for scheduling the FSDLE may be limited during the month of June. Alternatively and beginning May 1, 2016, the examination candidate may choose to schedule with NABP to take the MPJE on or after July 1, 2016.

While the content of the two examinations is very similar, there are differences in the registration process, format and cost. Additional information may be obtained on the Board's website www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy.

- a. If applying for initial licensure in Virginia by examination, an applicant must submit the required fee with an "Application for Licensure As a Pharmacist by Examination". The applicant may omit the college affidavit section on page 3.

- 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 and, once the process is complete, submit NABP's "Official Application for Transfer of Pharmaceutic License". 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 under Forms and Applications at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy/default.htm>. FPGEC, NAPLEX and MPJE information may be found at www.nabp.net.