



NAPLEX

The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX®) was developed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) and is utilized by the boards of pharmacy as part of their assessment of competence to practice pharmacy. In 1971, the first standardized examination (Blue Ribbon Examination) was given, and by 1972 it was adopted in 44 states. The examination was changed to the five-part NABPLEX (National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Licensure Examination) and was offered from 1976 to 1989. In 1989, the examination changed to the integrated NAPBLEX and was offered until 1997. In March of 1997, the examination was changed to a computer-adaptive examination and the name was again changed and launched as the NAPLEX. The NAPLEX is now adopted by all 50 states, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

NAPLEX Development Timeline

The following activities occur routinely during the development of the NAPLEX:

- New NAPLEX pretest items are written during item-writing workshops.
- NAPLEX Review Committee (NRC) members review and edit items written during the item-writing workshops.
- NRC members review the calibrated pretest items to determine if they will be included as operational items.
- NRC members review the operational pool to ensure the content is still valid.

NAPLEX Facts

- The NAPLEX Review Committee consists of pharmacy professionals, practitioners, and educators charged with the task of reviewing, editing, and approving the items of the NAPLEX.
- The NAPLEX is a 185-item computer-based examination that uses adaptive test technology to deliver a mixture of selected-response and constructed-response test questions. Of the 185 delivered questions, 150 are operational and will be used to calculate your test score. The remaining 35 questions are pretest items and will not count towards your NAPLEX score. Pretest questions are included on all NAPLEX examinations and are administered to evaluate their appropriateness for possible inclusion in future examinations. The pretest questions are dispersed throughout the examination and cannot be identified by the candidate.
- The current fee for the examination is \$485.
- To pass the NAPLEX, examinees must obtain a scaled score of 75. If unsuccessful, candidates are allowed to retake the NAPLEX after 91 days, providing eligibility verification is received by the board.
- To receive a score, examinees must have completed at least 162 items on the examination.