



## FPGEC Certification

In the early 1980s, state boards of pharmacy solicited assistance from National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) to develop a mechanism to license individuals who had received their pharmacy education and training outside of the United States. In 1982, the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee™ (FPGEC®) was established. Within a year, the FPGEC Certification Program was developed, and, in 1984, the program was implemented as the primary means of assisting the boards of pharmacy in assessing the educational equivalence of a foreign pharmacy education, as well as the license and/or registration. A foreign-educated pharmacist awarded FPGEC Certification is considered to have partially fulfilled eligibility requirements for licensure in those states that accept the Certification. Currently, the FPGEC Certification Program is accepted by boards of pharmacy in 50 states and the District of Columbia.

### NABP Partners with ECE

In April 2006, NABP partnered with Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc (ECE), a nonprofit public service organization, for the foreign educational credential evaluation of new applicants to the FPGEC Certification Program.

- ECE evaluates the transcript and degree documentation while NABP staff evaluates the application and license/registration documents.
- ECE does not determine applicant eligibility for FPGEC.

### In a tripartite process of certification, candidates must:

- Provide official documentation of:
  - educational background;<sup>1</sup> and
  - proof of pharmacist license and/or registration.
- Pass the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination® (FPGEE®) with a scaled score of 75.
- Demonstrate English language proficiency by:
  - obtaining a minimum total score of 550 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or a score of 213 on the computer-based TOEFL; and
  - obtaining a total score of 50 on the Test of Spoken English (TSE); or
  - obtaining minimum scores on the TOEFL Internet-based Test of 21 in Reading, 18 in Listening, 26 in Speaking, and 24 in Writing on one official score report.

### The fees for the FPGEC Certification Program include:

- \$600 examination fee
- \$200 NABP application and license/registration document evaluation fee
- \$85 ECE educational document evaluation fee

<sup>1</sup>To be consistent with the revised standards of US pharmacy schools, applicants graduating on or after January 1, 2003, must have completed at least a five-year pharmacy curriculum at the time of graduation.