



PCOA

The Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment® (PCOA®) tool, developed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy®, is intended to be a valuable and integral component of the process that schools and colleges of pharmacy use to assess their curriculum. The data obtained from the PCOA will provide the individual colleges and schools with detailed feedback related to the subject matters covered throughout the professional pharmacy curriculum as well as provide detailed information to individual students with regard to their knowledge of pharmacy curriculum. The results from the PCOA are both formative and summative in measuring student progress and provide comparisons to a national reference group.

PCOA Facts

- The PCOA is comprised of 220 multiple-choice questions and is administered in a paper-and-pencil format.
- The PCOA, modeled after the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education *Accreditation Standards and Guidelines for the Professional Program Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (Appendix B)*, covers four major content areas:
 - Basic Biomedical Sciences;
 - Pharmaceutical Sciences;
 - Social/Behavioral/Administrative Pharmacy Sciences; and
 - Clinical Sciences.
- The PCOA is available to all United States schools and colleges of pharmacy and is appropriate for students in all four professional years.
- The PCOA is administered each spring during a designated window of time.
- The PCOA costs \$75 per student.

PCOA Development Timeline

The following activities occur annually during the development of the PCOA:

- February – Subject matter experts and pharmacy educators review and edit items written in October.
- March-April – PCOA is administered.
- August – Subject matter experts and pharmacy educators meet to review items selected for the examination.
- October – New PCOA items are written during an item-writing workshop.