

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS DIVISION

Georgia State Board of Pharmacy

Pharmacy Licensure Examination



Examination Development and Testing Unit

This bulletin has been prepared by the Examination Development and Testing Unit (EDTU) of the Professional Licensing Boards. Please review this bulletin carefully. It provides you with information about your licensing examination.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....

BEFORE THE EXAMINATION

A. LOCATION, DATE & TIME.....

B. EXAMINATION PREPARATION.....

C. VETERANS PREFERENCE POINTS

D. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES.....

AT THE EXAMINATION

A. WHAT TO BRING TO THE WRITTEN EXAMINATION.....

B. CONDUCT DURING THE EXAMINATION.....

C. VISITORS AT THE EXAMINATION.....

D. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION PROCEDURE.....

AFTER THE EXAMINATION

A. PASS/FAIL STATUS

B. SCORE REPORTING

C. STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE EXAMINATION.....

D. RE-EXAMINATION

Introduction

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy was created by the Georgia legislature to protect, promote and preserve the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Georgia. In order to achieve this goal, minimum standards and requirements were established by the Board for entry into the profession, and a licensure examination was developed. Passing the Georgia Pharmacy examination is only one requirement for licensure.

BEFORE THE EXAMINATION

A. LOCATION, DATE & TIME

Currently, The Georgia Board of Pharmacy Examinations is held at either the University Of Georgia School Of Pharmacy in Athens, Georgia, or the Mercer Southern School of Pharmacy in Atlanta, Georgia. Please refer to the examination notice for the location, date, and time of the examination. We recommend that candidates locate the examination site before the examination date. Please note that parking at the University of Georgia is difficult, so plan accordingly. Candidates will not be admitted late to the examination.

B. EXAMINATION PREPARATION

Reference materials

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy and the Examination Development and Testing Unit do not administer the NAPLEX/MPJE examinations developed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). Please refer to the materials available regarding the NAPLEX/MPJE at www.nabp.net.

There is no specific list of references for the Georgia Board of Pharmacy Practical Examination. However, the Board believes that the content of these examinations will be found in standard pharmacy curriculums and references.

Test taking tips

- Read all instructions carefully.
- Mark an answer for all questions. There is no penalty for guessing, scores are based upon the total number of questions answered correctly.
- For each question, select the *BEST* answer of the options listed. More than one choice may be partially correct, but for each question there should be only one best answer.
- Mark answers on the answer sheets provided. No credit will be given for any answers marked in examination booklet.

C. VETERANS PREFERENCE POINTS

Georgia law (General Provisions Volume 30, Title 43-1-9.(1)(2)(3) provides that veterans meeting certain conditions are eligible for the addition of five or ten percentage points to their examination scores. To qualify, veterans must have served for one year in active duty, of which 90 days must have been during a period of conflict or war.

To apply for veterans' preference points, candidate must submit a copy of their DD 214 Form, and documentation of disability, if applicable to the Board office at the time of application.

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy must approve all applicants who wish to sit for the Pharmacy Examination. Persons wishing to sit for the examination must contact the Georgia Board of Pharmacy directly at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA 31217. The telephone number is 478-207-1660.

D. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy wants to ensure that all qualified individuals with a disability have the opportunity to take the Georgia Board of Pharmacy Examination.

Wheelchair accessibility is available at the testing site. Please notify the Board office in advance if wheelchair access is needed.

Qualified applicants with sensory, mental, or physical disabilities that would prevent taking the examination under standard conditions may request special accommodations. Candidates should contact the Board office at the address below, to obtain a "*Disability Accommodation Guidelines*". Application materials, including information requested in the *Guidelines* must be received by the Board by the application deadline.

Professional Licensing Boards Division
Attn: Georgia State Board of Pharmacy
237 Coliseum Dr.
Macon, GA 31217

AT THE EXAMINATION

A. WHAT TO BRING TO THE EXAMINATION

- **Admission notice**--- contains date, time and location of the examination.
- **Identification**--- the primary acceptable identification is a current driver's license, bearing the candidates picture and signature. Secondary acceptable identification is a current state identification card, passport and alien card, or INS Work Permit.

Candidates will not be admitted into the examination without proper identification

- **Two #2 pencils with erasers**. NO MECHANICAL LEAD PENCILS
- **Laboratory coat**. Please remove all school or work identification from your laboratory coat or cover it so that it can't be read.

B. CONDUCT DURING THE EXAMINATION

- *Smoking policy*

Smoking is NOT permitted on the examination site.

- *No Food or Drinks are allowed in the examination room.*
- *Dressing for the examination*

Dress in comfortable clothing for the examination. A Laboratory coat for is required for the compounding portion of the examination.

The examination staffs often have little control over the heat and air conditioning. Candidates are advised to dress in layers to adjust to the room temperature.

Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner during the examination. Failing to follow these rules may result in dismissal from the examination.

- Candidates may not bring books, calculators, or any reference material into the examination or use any equipment not specified in this bulletin.
- Candidates may not bring cameras, cell-phones, tape recorders, beepers, timers, or electronic recording or transmitting devices into the examination. **If you do bring one of these devices, you will have to leave it outside the exam room, unattended, and the state will not assume responsibility for it. IF YOU ARE FOUND IN THE EXAM ROOM WITH ONE OF THESE DEVICES, YOU WILL BE DISMISSED FROM THE TEST.**
- Candidates may not take notes or memoranda from the examination room.

- The examination administration staff cannot answer any questions about the content of any examination questions. Candidates will be permitted to comment, in writing on the Question/Comment Form.
- Candidates may not leave the examination room except with the examination supervisor's expressed permission. Candidates who are permitted to leave and return will not be granted any extra time to complete their examination.
- Candidates may be dismissed from the examination room and may be denied a license for irregularities including, but not limited to:
 1. talking, signaling, or disrupting other candidates in any way;
 2. attempting to copy answers from another candidate;
 3. allowing your answers to be copied;
 4. failing to follow the examination administration staff's instructions
 5. bringing electronic recording or transmitting devices such as tape recorders, phones, beepers, etc. into the exam.

C. VISITORS AT THE EXAMINATION SITE

Only examination candidates, board members and examination administration staff will be admitted to the examination room. **ABSOLUTELY, NO VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE TESTING SITE.** Candidates will not be permitted to visit with or exchange messages with others during the examination.

D. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION

For licensure, candidates must pass the **NAPLEX, MPJE** and the **Georgia Practical Examination.**

1. NAPLEX, a computer-adaptive examination that consists of 185 multiple-choice test questions. Of these, 150 questions will be used to calculate your test score. The remaining 35 items will serve as pretest questions, which will not affect your score. A majority of the questions on the NAPLEX are asked in scenario-based format (ie. patient profiles with accompanying test questions).

2. (MPJE). The MPJE is a two-hour computer-adaptive examination that consists of 90 multiple-choice test questions. Of these, 60 questions will be used to calculate the test score. The remaining 30 items serve as pretest questions.

Information concerning the NAPLEX/MPJE, contact the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), 700 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, IL, 60068.

Sample Questions:

Laws and Rules Sample Question 1.

The Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency is the enforcement agency of the

- A. Georgia Board of Pharmacy.
- B. Georgia Board of Health.
- C. Georgia Bureau of Investigations.
- D. Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Law and Rules Sample Question 2.

Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and Georgia Drug and Narcotics Agency (GDNA) rules require with regard to handling each Schedule II prescription that

- A. the pharmacist date stamp each prescription at the time it is filled.
- B. the pharmacist sign and date each prescription when it is filled.
- C. the pharmacist attach a preprinted sticker with the name and license number of the pharmacist to the prescription.
- D. such prescriptions not be handled any differently than other prescriptions in order to avoid calling attention to them.

Law and Rules Sample Question 3.

Mepergan mixed with aspirin and placed in a capsule is on Schedule

- A. 2.
- B. 3.
- C. 4.
- D. 5

3. The Georgia Practical Examination: Consist of 3 Parts

- **The Compounding Examination---** Candidates are presented with two prescriptions, which may or may not contain errors. They are given the materials with which to compound and fill the prescription. They are required to note any errors with the prescription as written, although they are required to fill it as written. Candidates are required to write down the calculations they used in filling the prescriptions. Candidates have one and one-half hours to complete both prescriptions. Then, each candidate meets with an examiner and is asked a series of questions about the compounded prescription. The criteria used for scoring the compounding process include: 1) the appearance of the product, 2) the accuracy and appearance of the label, 3) the correctness of the procedure, 4) the correctness of the calculations, and 5) consumer information and patient counseling about the prescription.

- **The Patient Care Module** is a counseling/communications form of the exam that mimics the actual day-to-day practice of pharmacy. Included in the Patient Care Module candidates will be provided information regarding the patient profile and drug history, they are required to counsel during the interview with an examiner.

- **The Errors and Omissions Examination** is a 30-item practical examination. Candidates are presented with a copy of a prescription and a prepared product for two (2) minutes each. They are to judge that one of following errors or omissions have been committed, or that the prescription has been written and filled without error. The errors and omissions are:
 - A. You need to contact the physician regarding an error in the prescription as written, or, there is insufficient information to fill the prescription.

 - B. Prescription is filled with the wrong drug or the wrong strength of the correct drug.

 - C. Error or omission by the pharmacist on computer-generated label.

 - D. Controlled substance prescription does not meet legal requirements (assume a 2-compartment filing system).

 - E. The pharmacist has attempted an improper substitution based on Georgia's drug product substitution law and regulations.

And, if there is no error, the sixth choice is:

- F. None of the above problems exist.

The Errors and Omissions Examination is answered directly on a customized-temporary answer sheet. After the examination has ended, each candidate is given sufficient time to transfer his or her answers to a machine-scanned answer sheet. **Only the machine-scanned answer sheet will be scored.** There is no penalty for guessing.

AFTER THE EXAMINATION

A. PASS/FAIL STATUS

Candidates must pass the NAPLEX, MPJE and the Georgia Practical with a minimum passing score of 75 on each exam. Candidates are required to obtain a minimum of 60 on each section of the Georgia Practical. Any scores less than 60 on each section invalidate all the scores from that administration of the Georgia Practical.

The Practical Exams Grading Criteria

- Compounding - The Compounding Examination is graded clinically. The criteria and weight for each prescription are listed below.

Criteria	Percent
Product appearance	10%
Label accuracy and appearance	10%
Compounding procedure	20%
Compounding calculations	40%
Prescription presentation/patient counseling	20%

Each of the two prescriptions counts for 50% of the compounding portion of the exam, so that the two compounding prescriptions together, total 100%.

PLEASE NOTE: The calculations and the total outcome must be accurate to receive credit for the calculation portion.

- **Patient Care Module** -The Patient Care Module is scored by counting the number of questions correctly answered and converting that number to a percentage score. There is no penalty for guessing.
- **Errors and Omissions** - The Errors and Omissions examination is also scored by counting the number of questions correctly answered and converting that number to a percentage correct score. There also is no penalty for guessing.

To pass the Georgia Practical portion (the Compounding Examination, the Patient Care Module, and the Errors and Omissions Examination), candidates must achieve scores of 60% or greater on each portion and must average 75% on the overall examination. (The 75% is computed by averaging the percentages of the three practical tests. Each test percentage contributes one-third to the equation.) Candidates who fail to achieve a minimum score of 60% on any of those three parts or who fail to obtain an average score of 75% or greater on the combined Compounding Examination, Patient Care Module, and Errors and Omissions Examination, must re-take all three parts of the examination.

B. SCORE REPORTING

Candidate's results are mailed, approximately 4-6 weeks following the examination. Scores are confidential and cannot be released over the telephone please do not call the Examination Development and Testing Unit or the Georgia Board of Pharmacy for this

purpose. Candidate's who fail the exam will receive a breakdown of their areas of weakness. This breakdown provides a synopsis of the performance for that administration.

C. STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE EXAMINATION

After each administration of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy Examination, a statistical analysis and candidate's comments are reviewed. This analysis assures the validity and reliability of the examination.

D. RE-EXAMINATION

NO Review is permitted of the Georgia Practical Examination: Compounding, Errors and Omissions Examination, and Patient Care Module.

Candidates who fail the examination may request a hand-score within 30 days of the result notice. Please note that if your score was within five points of passing, your answer sheet has already been hand scored.

To request a hand-score, send a cashier's check or money order for \$20 payable to the Secretary of State to the following address: Professional Licensing Boards Division, Attn: Examination Development and Testing Unit, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon GA 31214.

To reapply, contact the Georgia Board of Pharmacy at 237 Coliseum Dr., Macon, GA, 31217, or call at (478) 207-1640. Policies regarding review of the NAPLEX Examination or receiving a breakdown of NAPLEX Examination scores come from the NABP.

E. LICENSES

Candidate who successfully passes all portions of the examinations will be mailed a license to practice. However, until the license arrives in the mail, Candidates may access the Boards website at www.sos.state.ga.us/pbl/pharmacy for licensure status by entering your name, and performing a licensure search. If your license has been issued, you may print this screen until such time your license arrives in the mail. Or you may contact the Georgia Board of Pharmacy, at (478) 207-1640.

The Examination Development and Testing Unit gratefully acknowledges the assistance of other state licensing programs in our development of this candidate information bulletin. Portions of this bulletin were based on bulletins of other states.