



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

Georgia State Board of Pharmacy

Pharmacy Licensure Examination

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Introduction

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy (“Board”) was created by the Georgia legislature to protect the public from incompetent professional practice. In order to achieve this goal, minimum standards and requirements were established by the Board for entry into the profession, and a licensure examination procedure was established.

BEFORE THE EXAMINATION

A. LOCATION, DATE & TIME

Each person who has been found eligible to sit for the examination will receive an admission notice. That admission notice will state the place, date, and hour of the examinations and will provide directions. Currently, examinations are held either at the University Of Georgia School Of Pharmacy in Athens, Georgia, the Mercer University College of Pharmacy in Atlanta, Georgia, or the South University School of Pharmacy in Savannah, Georgia. We recommend that you locate the examination site before your examination date. Please note that parking at the University of Georgia is difficult, so plan accordingly.

B. EXAMINATION PREPARATION

Reference materials

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy does not administer the NAPLEX/MPJE examinations developed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). Please consult the materials available on the NAPLEX that are provided by the NABP. There is no specific list of references for the Compounding Examination, Patient Care Module Examination, or Errors and Omissions Examination. The Board believes that the content of these examinations will be found in standard pharmacy curricula and references.

The references for the MPJE Examination are the laws and rules of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy.

Test taking skills

- A. Read all instructions carefully and listen carefully to all oral instructions. Be sure you understand them. Ask questions about anything that is unclear.
- B. This is not a speeded examination, and candidates should have ample time to answer to perform all work on the practical examination. You may use your wristwatch or look at the wall clocks to help you know how much time you have left in the examinations.

C. VETERANS' CREDIT

Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §§43-1-9, 43-1-10) provides that veterans meeting certain conditions are eligible for the addition of five or ten points to the scores that they receive on each section of the examination. The veteran must have served for at least one year on active duty status, 90 days of which must have been during a period of conflict or war. The law provides that you may qualify for veterans' credit if you incurred a disability (injury or illness) in the line of duty and "[your] disability is rated at less than 10 percent at the time of taking the examination." The law also provides that you may qualify for veterans' credit if you incurred a disability (injury or illness) in the line of duty and "[your] disability is rated at 10 percent or above at the time of taking the examination." To apply for veterans' credit, you must make sure that the Board office has received a copy of your DD-214 form and documentation of your disability. For more information regarding Veterans' Preference Points, you may want to review O.C.G.A. §43-1-9 through O.C.G.A. §43-1-13.

D. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES

Please notify the Board if you require wheelchair access. Qualified applicants with sensory, mental, or physical disabilities that would prevent them from taking the examination under standard conditions may request special accommodations by contacting the Board at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree St NW, 6th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303. Application materials, including information requested in the *Guidelines*, must be received by the Board by the application deadline.

AT THE EXAMINATION

A. WHAT TO BRING TO THE EXAMINATION

- ~ Your admission notice---you will not be admitted without it.
- ~ Positive identification---identification that bears both your picture and signature such as a driver's license with photograph, a passport, a state identification card, or a signed, notarized photograph.
- ~ Two #2 pencils with erasers.
- ~ 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

Only scheduled candidates, Board members, and examination administration staff will be admitted to the examination room. If you must meet relatives or friends after the examination, arrange to meet them in the lobby. You will not be permitted to visit with or

exchange messages with others during the examination. You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner during the examination. Failing to follow these rules may result in your dismissal from the examination.

- A. You may not bring books, calculators, or any reference material into the examination or use any equipment not specified in this bulletin.
- B. You may not bring cameras, tape recorders, beepers, timers, or electronic recording or transmitting devices into the examination.
- C. You may not take notes or memoranda from the examination room.
- D. The examination administration staff cannot answer any questions about the content of any examination questions. You will be permitted to comment, in writing on approved forms, on any question that you find troublesome. These comments will be evaluated. If you need a comment form and one has not been given to you, ask for one.
- E. You 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.
- F. You may be dismissed from the examination room and may be denied a license for misbehavior including, but not necessarily 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.

- **Dressing for the examination**

Dress in comfortable clothing for the examination and bring a laboratory coat for the compounding portion of the examination. We often have little control over the heat and air conditioning in the locations we use for examinations. You would be wise to dress in layers so you may adjust yourself to the room temperature.

- **Smoking policy**

Smoking is not allowed at any of the sites we use for the Pharmacy examination. They are held in smoke-free facilities.

C. VISITORS AT THE EXAMINATION SITE

Only licensure candidates and examination administration staff will be admitted to the examination room. **ABSOLUTELY NO VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE TESTING SITE.**

D. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION

There are five parts to the pharmacy examination: 1) the national examination (NAPLEX); 2) the Multi-State Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE); 3) the Georgia Compounding Examination; 4) the Patient Care Module; and 5) the Georgia Errors and Omissions Examination.

Concerning the NAPLEX/MPJE, the Board office has forwarded your registration to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). Please consult the Association for exact information on the NAPLEX examination, or visit <https://nabp.pharmacy/> .

1. The NAPLEX. As of November 1, 2016, the NAPLEX increased from 185 to 250 items, and the exam will be delivered in a computerized, fixed-form rather than using adaptive technology. Of the 250 delivered questions, 200 are operational and will be used to calculate your test score. The remaining questions are referred to as pretest questions, which are not used to calculate your test score. A majority of the questions on the NAPLEX are asked in scenario-based format (ie. patient profiles with accompanying test questions).

2. Multi-state Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE). The MPJE is a two-hour computer-adaptive examination that consists of 120 multiple-choice test questions. Of these, 100 questions will be used to calculate the test score. The remaining 20 items serve as pretest questions and will not count toward your MPJE score.

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 Compounding Examination is a practical 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 hour to complete both prescriptions. Then, each candidate meets with an examiner and is asked a series of questions about the compounded prescription. The examiner judges the quality of the filled prescription and the correctness of the procedure with which it was filled. The criteria used for judging 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) the examiner's judgment of how well the candidate presents consumer information and patient counseling about the prescription.

4. 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 you will be provided information regarding the patient profile and drug history and you will be required to counsel during your interview with an examiner.

5. The Errors and Omissions Examination is a 30-item practical examination. Candidates are presented with a copy of a prescription and a prepared prescription for two (2) minutes each. They are to judge whether an error or omission has been committed or if the prescription has been written and filled without error.

The Errors and Omissions Examination is answered directly on a customized answer sheet. Then, after the examination has ended, each candidate is given sufficient time to transfer his or her answers to a machine-scorable answer sheet. Candidates have 60 minutes of examination time plus additional administration time and time to copy over their answers. There is no penalty for guessing.

AFTER THE EXAMINATION

A. PASS/FAIL STATUS

To become licensed as a pharmacist, you must pass both the national NAPLEX/MPJE examination and the battery of Georgia state examinations. Candidates must make a minimum passing scale score of 75 on the NAPLEX/MPJE.

The three Practical state exams are:

Compounding	The Compounding Examination is graded clinically. The examiner assigns points on the various criteria, which are then weighted and converted into a percentage score. The criteria and their weights are presented on the following page.
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.

COMPOUNDING EXAMINATION

Part	Criteria	Percent
Compounding	Product appearance	10%
	Label accuracy and appearance	10%
	Compounding procedure	20%
	Compounding calculations	40%
	Prescription presentation/patient counseling	20%
Total		100%

Each of the two compounding problems (prescriptions) counts for 50% of the total compounding score so that the two compounding problems, together, account for 100% of the total compounding score.

To pass the Georgia Practical portion (the Compounding Examination, the Patient Care Module, and the Errors and Omissions Examination), candidates must obtain a minimum score of 75 on the Georgia Practical examination. The 75% is computed by averaging the percentages of the three practical tests. (Each test percentage contributes one-

third to the equation.) A score of less than 70 on any section of the Georgia practical examination invalidates all the scores from that administration of the Georgia Practical examination. Candidates who fail to achieve a minimum score of 70% 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.

Please note that the information contained in this section regarding score information and all other sections of this Candidate Bulletin are subject to change. Candidates are strongly advised to consult the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy for the most up-to-date information regarding testing requirements. The Rules and Regulations of the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy are available on the Board website: <https://gbp.georgia.gov/>. For more information, see the “Laws, Policies, and Rules” section.

B. SCORE REPORTING

Candidates will be notified by letter of the results of their examination, approximately 4-6 weeks following the examination. **Examination scores are confidential and cannot be released over the telephone.** Do not call the Examination Development and Testing Unit or the Georgia Board of Pharmacy to ask about a score.

C. STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE EXAMINATION

After each administration of the Pharmacy Examination, the EDTU conducts statistical analysis to assess the functioning of each question on the examination. This study is often referred to as an item analysis; it helps us determine if there are any questions on the examination, which are not performing well. Various indices of question performance are evaluated for each question on the examination. Also at this time, Board members review questions that have poor statistics/performance to determine whether to include each question in the scoring of the examination, or to delete it from the scoring process. Final scores are then compiled and verified by EDTU staff.

D. RE-EXAMINATION

No review is permitted of the Compounding Examination, the Errors and Omissions Examination, or the Patient Care Module. The procedures and fee requirements for hand scoring, review, and score breakdown reporting will be provided with your score report. Failing candidates who still wish to become licensed in Georgia may reapply to take the examination at the next regularly scheduled administration date. To reapply, complete the “Practical Re-examination Form” available on the Georgia Board of Pharmacy website and send the completed form and the \$100 examination fee to the Georgia Board of Pharmacy at 2 Peachtree St NW, 6th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303. The form is available under the “Applications and Forms” section of the Board website: <http://gbp.georgia.gov/documents/applications-and-forms>. Policies regarding review of the NAPLEX Examination or receiving a breakdown of NAPLEX Examination scores come from the NABP.

Licenses

Each candidate who passes all portions of the examination will receive notification of licensure via email. Decorative Wall Certificates are mailed within 8 – 10 weeks following the issuance of license. Candidates may access the Board's website at <http://gadch.mylicense.com/PocketCards/> to print a pocket card of your license. If you have further questions or concerns, you may contact the Georgia Board of Pharmacy at (404) 651-8000.

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.