

Steps and Tips for Obtaining Licensure

1. Register for the NAPLEX online at <http://www.nabp.net/programs/examination/naplex/>
2. Register for the MPJE at <http://www.nabp.net/programs/examination/mpje/>. (Consult the website, if your state uses a law exam other than the MPJE.)
 - a. You can register for the NAPLEX and MPJE at any time and are encouraged to do so prior to graduate (i.e., March/April) in order to facilitate your chances of obtaining your desired testing date and location.
 - b. You must take the MPJE (or other appropriate exam) for each state in which you seek licensure.
3. Determine the state(s) in which you will seek licensure.
4. Obtain application for licensure by examination
 - a. Application can be obtained from the state's Board of Pharmacy.
 - b. Links for the states referenced in the table appear below.
 - <http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/Pharmacy/index.shtml>
 - <http://sos.georgia.gov/plb/pharmacy/>
 - <http://www.in.gov/pla/pharmacy.htm>
 - <http://www.pharmacy.ky.gov/>
 - <http://www.ncbop.org/>
 - <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Pharmacy/>
 - <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy/>
 - c. Links for the board in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories can be found at www.nabp.net/boards-of-pharmacy/.
5. Complete and submit application, along with the appropriate fees, to the board immediately following graduation.
 - a. Note that if you plan to seek licensure in TN, that the TN Board allows and encourages you to submit your application in March so that it will be in line for processing as soon as they receive notification from GCOP that you have graduated (which we send electronically the Monday following graduation).
 - b. You do not have to have fulfilled all experiential hours in order to be approved to take the exams; however, you will not be licensed until you have.
 - c. The board will process your application and notify NABP that you are eligible to take the exams.
 - d. NABP will send you an Authorization to Test (ATT).
6. Schedule the date and location to take licensure exams as soon as the ATT is received from NABP. Competition for dates and locations is fierce; hence, you are encouraged to schedule right away. GCOP graduates actually have a slight advantage as you graduate before any other school in TN, and most others.

Licensure in Multiple States

There are 3 ways to become licensed in multiple states.

1. **Licensure by Examination:** Complete the licensure by examination process for each state as if that is the only state in which you are going to obtain licensure. This is not recommended due to cost and time, as you would have to take the NAPLEX for each state (and pay each time).
2. **Reciprocity:** The additional states in which you desire licensure are asked to recognize the license you obtained by exam from another state and to waive the requirement that you take the NAPLEX again. (You would still have to take the MPJE or other required law exam for that state.) Note that states generally require that you work as a licensed pharmacist for a minimum period of time before it will grant reciprocity. Additionally, most states require that you maintain an active license in the state upon whose license it granted reciprocity (this would not be necessary if you Score Transfer). Finally, obtaining a license by reciprocity is typically more expensive than obtaining it by examination.
3. **Score Transfer:** Score Transfer allows you to send your NAPLEX score to multiple states; thus preventing you from having to take the NAPLEX repeatedly (and saving lots of money). You still have to take the MPJE (or other law exam) for that state. Score Transfer is still considered obtaining licensure by examination, and unlike reciprocity, Score Transfer allows you to be licensed in multiple states right away without first having to practice. The steps for this process are outlined below.
 - a. Indicate the states (other than your primary state) to which you desire to transfer your NAPLEX scores. You may be this at the time you initially register for the NAPLEX or at a later by submitting a Score Transfer form; however, all requests **MUST** be received by NAPLEX no later than 5 days prior to taking the exam.
 - b. Pay the required fee of \$75 per state.
 - c. Complete and submit an Application for Examination to these additional states.
 - i. Score Transfer does not obligate you to apply for licensure in any of those states; it simply facilitates the process should you decide to do so at a later date as that Board will already have your scores.
 - ii. Most states do impose a time limit on the use of the scores. Typically, it is 2 years but you should check with that state to be sure. If the deadline passes, you will have to take NAPLEX again or seek licensure through reciprocity.
4. Remember that holding licenses in multiple states means that you will have to pay the annual license fee for each state and meet the CE requirements for each state. As a result you are advised against doing this unless it is truly advantageous (e.g., you work for a chain and reside in an area that is geographically close to another state).