



Pharmacy Law Examination Preparation Guide

*Developed by Members of the New Practitioners Forum
Practice Advancement and Advocacy Advisory Group*

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For questions regarding this document, please contact newpractitioners@ashp.org
For similar resources, please visit the [ASHP New Practitioner Resources webpage](#)

Introduction

What is the MPJE®?

MPJE stands for Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination®. A jurisprudence exam assesses a professional's knowledge of applicable laws and regulations. The [National Association of Boards of Pharmacy \(NABP\)](#) creates and maintains this exam for those seeking pharmacist licensure in most U.S. states. Each state or territory that participates in the MPJE® will have its own exam with content specific to its jurisdiction. In 2026, NABP plans to also offer a [uniform version](#) of the MPJE (UMPJE®) that states can choose to administer instead of a state-specific exam. Many health professions include, and in some cases require, jurisprudence exams in their respective licensure processes.

Do all states require the MPJE®?

Most states and territories require passing the MPJE® for licensure. However, there are several notable exceptions. Some states (e.g., Arkansas, California) have their own jurisprudence exam. Other states (e.g., Alaska, Michigan) do not require a jurisprudence exam for licensure. It is important to contact the board of pharmacy of the state you are seeking licensure in to confirm its requirements. Guidance on state adoption of the UMPJE® is actively evolving, and implementation timelines may change. For the most accurate information, please consult the NABP website and your state board of pharmacy's official websites.

Please check the NABP and your state board of pharmacy's websites regularly for updates.

What will I be tested on during the MPJE®?

The NABP provides [Competency Statements](#) that represent areas which will be covered on each MPJE®. They are as follows:

1. Licensure/Personnel
2. Pharmacist Practice
3. Dispensing Requirements
4. Pharmacy Operations

The NABP has also provided [Content Domains](#) that represent areas which will be covered on each uniform MPJE® (UMPJE®). They are as follows:

1. Pharmacy and Pharmacist Practice
2. Medication Use Process (Prescribing, Transcribing and Documenting, Dispensing, Administering, and Monitoring)
3. Regulatory Authority and Legal Obligations
4. Pharmacy Operations

How do I apply to take the MPJE[®] or other law examinations?

The application process varies slightly depending on the state you would like to practice in, as well as when and where you graduated from pharmacy school. Most states require proof of graduation/degree conferral and background checks at a minimum. Each state's board of pharmacy should have a website with information on how to apply to take pharmacy licensure exams. Your state board of pharmacy will process your initial application. Find additional details on applying for the MPJE on the [NABP webpage](#).

What is the cost associated with taking the MPJE[®]?

The total cost associated with the MPJE[®] or other pharmacy law exams varies depending on several factors, including where you wish to be licensed, how many states you wish to be licensed in, when you graduated from pharmacy school, and more. Some states offer licensing by reciprocity, which allows applicants who are licensed in one state to become licensed in another state without having to take that state's law exam. Jurisprudence exams typically include an application fee and an examination fee. There can also be costs associated with rescheduling the exam.

Exam Preparation

Exam Preparation

Creating an effective study timeline for any law exam requires planning your time carefully to cover the vast amount of material, as well as balancing other responsibilities you might have. Below is a suggested study guide timeline to help you prepare for the MPJE exam. This assumes you are studying for approximately 8 weeks leading up to the exam. If you have more or less time, you can adjust the schedule accordingly. Since NABP has not yet released study materials related to the uniform MPJE, the below timeline may or may not apply.

Learn how to apply, what to expect on test day, and when to expect your exam results on the NABP MPJE page: [Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination \(MPJE\) | NABP](#)

MPJE Sample Study Timeline (8 Weeks)

Week 1: Introduction to the MPJE and Overview of Key Topics

- Day 1-2: Understand the MPJE
 - Familiarize yourself with the format of the MPJE.
 - Review the subjects covered (Federal and State laws related to pharmacy practice, such as drug distribution, controlled substances, patient safety, etc.). The specific areas for testing and the percentage covered per category on the exam can be found on the [NABP MPJE Competency Statements page](#).
 - Review the resources you'll use to study, such as review books, online courses, practice exams, or notes as provided earlier in this document.

- Day 3-7: Federal Pharmacy Laws
 - Study the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
 - Focus on FDA regulations, the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulations, and pharmacist duties in relation to federal laws.
 - Key topics: Scheduling of controlled substances, Drug Approval Process, DEA forms, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements.
 - Review Federal Regulations for Pharmacy Practice.

Week 2: Focus on Federal Law and Controlled Substances

- Day 8-10: Controlled Substances Laws
 - Study in detail about controlled substances scheduling (Schedules I-V or VI depending on the state).
 - Review laws surrounding prescribing, dispensing, inventorying, and record-keeping for controlled substances.
- Day 11-14: Federal Regulations
 - Deep dive into pharmacy regulations (FDA, CMS, HIPAA) and pharmacist responsibilities.
 - Review requirements related to medication guides and boxed warnings.
 - Study the DEA regulations, especially the rules regarding registration, security of controlled substances, and audits. It is recommended to focus on the various DEA forms used for controlled substance documentation.

Week 3: State Pharmacy Laws

- Day 15-18: State-Specific Pharmacy Law
 - Research your state's pharmacy laws in detail (you can typically find this on your state's board of pharmacy website or in study resources). You may also use the information provided in this document for further assistance.
 - Focus on specific rules for licensure, continuing education (CE), and professional conduct.
 - Study state-level controlled substances laws (how they align or differ from federal regulations).
 - Review state-specific pharmacy practice regulations for things like prescription requirements, pharmacy operations, and licensing procedures.
- Day 19-21: Specific State Pharmacy Issues
 - Study areas such as drug recalls, dispensing rules, pharmacist-patient confidentiality, state-specific immunization laws, and the pharmacy technician's role.
 - Make sure you understand how your state handles controlled substance monitoring and reporting.

Week 4: Patient Safety and Ethics

- Day 22-25: Patient Safety
 - Study regulations related to patient safety such as medication errors, adverse drug reactions (ADRs), and proper drug labeling.
 - Focus on standards like good pharmacy practice (GPP) and the FDA's REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies).
- Day 26-28: Ethics and Professional Responsibility
 - Review ethical considerations, including professional conduct, confidentiality, and patient rights.
 - Study how pharmacists must respond to issues like drug diversion, conflict of interest, and fraud.

Week 5: Pharmacy Practice and Technician Laws

- Day 29-31: Pharmacy Operations
 - Study pharmacy operations, including dispensing, prescription requirements, and drug storage and labeling.
 - Focus on issues surrounding medication therapy management (MTM) and pharmacy compounding (sterile and non-sterile).
- Day 32-35: Pharmacy Technicians and Interns
 - Study the role of pharmacy technicians and interns and their legal responsibilities.
 - Review pharmacy technician and intern certification/license, duties, and their interactions with pharmacists and patients.
 - Make sure you understand regulations about supervising technicians and interns.

Week 6: Review and Practice Questions

- Day 36-40: Practice Exams and Review
 - Consider taking practice exams to test your knowledge and pacing.
 - Focus on areas of weakness identified during practice tests.
 - Review explanations for questions that were missed.
- Day 41-42: Mock Exams
 - Complete a full-length practice exam to simulate exam conditions.
 - Time yourself and work through the exam without interruption.
 - Review all answers and identify areas for improvement.

Week 7: Targeted Review and Weak Areas

- Day 43-45: Focus on Areas of Weakness
 - Review topics that are difficult for you or that you miss frequently in practice exams.
 - Focus on unclear state-specific laws or specific details from the federal regulations.
 - Consider additional resources like review videos or state-specific guides if necessary.
- Day 46-49: Refine Your Understanding

- Focus on patient counseling regulations, dispensing laws, and pharmacist documentation requirements.
- Review the legal definitions that are commonly tested (e.g., "practice of pharmacy," "prescriber," etc.).

Week 8: Final Review and Test Preparation

- Day 50-52: Final Review
 - Focus on reviewing key points: schedules of controlled substances, drug classifications, and roles of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns.
 - Use flashcards or mnemonic devices for easier recall of laws and regulations.
- Day 53-56: Relaxation and Stress Management
 - Allow time for relaxation and stress management. Do not cram.
 - Review a few key points casually if you want but make sure you're well-rested for exam day.
- Day 57: Exam Day Preparation
 - Make sure you have all the documents needed for the exam (e.g., ID, exam confirmation).
 - Get a good night's sleep before the test.

Additional Tips:

- *Use your network:* As you are seeking licensure in a new state, consider reaching out to colleagues in that area for advice and inquire if there are particular resources they recommend to support your preparation.
- *Daily Routine:* Consider dedicating 2-4 hours a day to studying, breaking it up into sessions. If you need more time, adjust accordingly.
- *Practice Questions:* Focus heavily on practicing questions, as this is a critical part of MPJE preparation. You can use online resources, textbooks with practice questions, or MPJE prep courses.
- *Review Key Terms:* Use flashcards or apps to review important definitions and concepts, especially regarding controlled substances and professional responsibilities.
- *Stay Consistent:* Avoid last-minute cramming. It's important to maintain a steady study pace for long-term retention.
- *What to bring:* Be sure you are aware of the items you are required to bring to the testing center, what items can be brought into the testing area (if any), and personal items that can be stored in a locker outside of the testing area. Dress accordingly, as you likely are not permitted to bring a jacket into the testing area. Refer to the specific testing center for additional specifics for the day.

Federal Law Information and Resources

Below are examples of potential resources candidates can consider utilizing to assist in their preparation for the exam. This is not an exhaustive list of available resources.

- [ASHP Federal Law Resources: Precepting Toolkit:](#)
 - o Includes links to major areas of focus:
 - Food and Drug Administration site (information on medications, vaccines, biologics, medical devices, foods, cosmetics)
 - Orange Book: Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations
 - Purple Book: Licensed Biological Products with Reference Product Exclusivity and Biosimilarity or Interchangeability Evaluations
 - Drug Enforcement Agency and Drug Enforcement Agency Diversion Control Department (focus on controlled substances)
 - AccessPharmacy Federal Law Chapter (covers Controlled Substances Act, Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act, Poison Prevention Packaging Act, Federal Law Practice Scenarios and Questions)
 - AccessPharmacy and Federal Drug Law Review e-Book (includes additional information on pharmacy law and drug regulation)
 - United State Environmental Protection Agency Management of Pharmaceutical Hazardous Waste
 - National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (information on the different boards of pharmacy and CE)
 - Health and Human Services – HIPAA
 - Guide to Federal Pharmacy Law, 9th Edition by Barry S. Reiss and Gary D. Hall
- 1. [NABP Pre-MPJE Practice Exam](#)
 - a. Practice exam comprised of questions from previous versions of the MPJE
- 2. [Dr. C's Ultimate Federal MPJE Review Federal MPJE](#) — Dr. C's Review Guides
 - a. Review of federal laws and rules that are covered in the MPJE
 - b. Includes study tips and self-assessment questions with explanatory answers
- 3. Pharmacy Law – Examination and Board Review: Federal Law by William J. Feinberg (2015)
 - a. Includes information on pharmacy related-statutes, rules, and regulations impacting pharmacy practice and a summary of federal regulations related to pharmacy law
 - b. Available on AccessPharmacy for those who have access through their school or institution [Pharmacy Law—Examination and Board Review | AccessPharmacy | McGraw Hill Medical](#)
- 4. [Pharmacy Federal Rules and Regulations - StatPearls - NCBI Bookshelf](#) (June 2023)
 - a. Brief overview of significant legislation and regulations pertaining to pharmacy
 - b. Includes free multiple-choice questions (requires account creation/sign in to StatPearls)
- 5. Exam Master MPJE – Federal Law Review [Pharmacy Jurisprudence Federal Law Review - Study Test Review - Exam Master](#) (2023)
 - a. Includes federal law review, high yield MPJE practice questions, summary of all federal drug law, statutes, and regulations

State Law Information and Resources

A good place to start looking for state specific materials is the board of pharmacy or a professional regulation website in the state where you are pursuing licensure. If the state provides a checklist of items it needs to be licensed, make sure you have everything you need to complete the checklist and submit all items. Often you can find statutes, rules, acts or administrative code pertaining to pharmacy on the board's website. This is testable material, but it can seem overwhelming. You can check with local and state pharmacy organizations as well for resources to direct your study efforts. For example, Indiana Pharmacy Association is a state-based organization that provides a course on passing the Indiana MPJE. See Appendix A of this document for state-specific resources.

Additional Tips

For Students:

- If you are completing residency in a different state than where you completed pharmacy school, reach out to the current residents and ask if they have any study resources they recommend
- Consider requesting time off from your internship/job to dedicate time for studying
- Download any presentation slides or notes from your school's learning management system (i.e. Canvas, Blackboard, etc.) in case you lose access after graduation
- Find the actual laws pertaining to pharmacy practice within your state's administrative code and read them
- Consider where you want your primary state of licensure to be when applying for exams
 - Several states have reciprocity that allows you to become licensed in that state without taking their law exam; however, you must keep your primary license active to maintain your reciprocated license
 - For example, if you become licensed in state A and then apply for licensure through reciprocity in state B, you will be able to practice in both states, but you cannot renew your license in state B without also renewing your license in state A, which may be costly on an annual basis

For Licensed Pharmacists:

- Focus on the differences in the exam topics between the state(s) you are licensed in and the state(s) you are testing for
- Check the state's board of pharmacy website for specific requirements on time in practice, as some states require 1 year of licensure before they will accept an application for license transfer

For Foreign Graduates:

- Review the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy site for Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Certification and complete certification prior to taking state exams ([Foreign Pharmacy Certification | NABP](#))
- Review the board of pharmacy website for additional requirements that may need to be met prior to taking the MPJE as they may vary by state
- As of 2024, all 50 U.S. states allow foreign pharmacy graduates to become licensed upon passing the FPGE

Appendix A

Law Resources by State (not all-inclusive):

State	Resources
Alabama	PHARMACIST - Alabama Board Of Pharmacy STATUTES & RULES - Alabama Board Of Pharmacy
Alaska	No MPJE required Alabama Board of Pharmacy
Arizona	Pharmacist License Information State Board of Pharmacy
Arkansas	Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy - Arkansas Department of Health
California	California State Board of Pharmacy
Colorado	Colorado Pharmacy Law Review Colorado Division of Professions and Occupations Online Services
Connecticut	Business and Occupational Licenses, Permits, and Registration Forms.
Delaware	Board of Pharmacy - Division of Professional Regulation - State of Delaware Delaware Code Online
Florida	Florida Board of Pharmacy- Licensing, Renewals & Information
Georgia	Georgia Board of Pharmacy
Hawaii	Professional & Vocational Licensing Division
Idaho	No MPJE required Idaho Board of Pharmacy
Illinois	Exam Study Materials – PharmacyLaw.net IDFPR Pharmacy IL_Pharmacist_Licensure_-_New_Resident_Guide.pdf
Indiana	PLA: Indiana Board of Pharmacy Indiana Pharmacy Association MPJE Review
Iowa	Board of Pharmacy Department of Inspections, Appeals, & Licensing Iowa Pharmacy Association MPJE Study Guide
Kansas	Kansas Board of Pharmacy Licensing and Registration
Kentucky	Kentucky Board of Pharmacy
Louisiana	Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
Maine	Maine Board of Pharmacy
Maryland	Maryland Board of Pharmacy
Massachusetts	Guide to the Massachusetts MPJE: A Pharmacy Law Study Guide Updated 2024: Avalone PharmD, Dr Gina Elaine: 9798872963653: Amazon.com: Books Massachusetts Board of Pharmacy
Michigan	No MPJE required Michigan Board of Pharmacy
Minnesota	Minnesota Board of Pharmacy
Mississippi	Mississippi Board of Pharmacy
Missouri	Missouri Board of Pharmacy Missouri Board of Pharmacy 2023 Pharmacy Practice Guide

Montana	Montana Board of Pharmacy
Nebraska	Nebraska Board of Pharmacy
Nevada	Nevada Board of Pharmacy
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy
New Jersey	New Jersey Board of Pharmacy
New Mexico	New Mexico Board of Pharmacy
New York	New York Board of Pharmacy
North Carolina	North Carolina MPJE Preparation Resources North Carolina Board of Pharmacy
North Dakota	North Dakota Board of Pharmacy
Ohio	Donnie Sullivan's Law Review for the Ohio Law Exam Ohio Board of Pharmacy
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Board of Pharmacy
Oregon	Oregon Board of Pharmacy
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Board of Pharmacy
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Board of Pharmacy
South Carolina	South Carolina Board of Pharmacy
South Dakota	South Dakota Board of Pharmacy
Tennessee	Tennessee Board of Pharmacy
Texas	Texas Board of Pharmacy
Utah	Utah Board of Pharmacy
Vermont	No MPJE required Vermont Board of Pharmacy
Virginia	Virginia Board of Pharmacy
Washington	Washington Board of Pharmacy
West Virginia	West Virginia Board of Pharmacy
Wisconsin	DSPS Pharmacy Examining Board MPJE Law Review Medical College of Wisconsin
Wyoming	Wyoming Board of Pharmacy
Washington DC	Washington DC Board of Pharmacy

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