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STATE AND CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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Report on the Requirement that Candidates Failing the
California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for
Pharmacists (CPJE)
Four Times Must Obtain Additional Education in Pharmacy

Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 4200.1, the California State Board of Pharmacy is pleased to provide the following report detailing the impact of requiring candidates for pharmacist licensure who fail the licensure examination four times to take remedial education before they can retake the licensure examination.

The board is required to submit this report for examinations taken between January 1, 2004, and July 1, 2008, inclusive.

Summary

Between January 1, 2004, and July 1, 2008, 7,578 candidates took California's pharmacist licensure examination. The pass rate during this period was 79.3 percent. There were 41 candidates who failed the exam four times. There were 21 candidates who requalified to retake the California pharmacist licensure examination who retook 16 units of pharmacy coursework. Of these 21, 11 passed the exam (52 percent).

Background

Since 1999, candidates for the California pharmacist licensure examination who fail the examination four or more times have been required to take 16 units of education in pharmacy from a school of pharmacy approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. This provision was set to be repealed January 1, 2005. However, subsequent legislation enacted in 2004 (Senate Bill 1913, Senate Business and Professions Committee, Chapter 695) extended the sunset date for this provision until January 1, 2008. Additional legislation enacted in 2006 (Senate Bill 1476, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee, Chapter 658) extended the sunset date for this provision until January 1, 2010.

The board sponsored the initial requirement for candidates to take remedial education after four attempts at passing the pharmacist licensure examination for various reasons. One reason was to remove a number of applicants from the licensure examination who had repeatedly failed the examination. For example, there were several applicants who had taken the examination more than 25 times (the examination was given twice a year until January 2004). A major concern was that these individuals were taking the examination only to memorize questions that could be provided to preparation course providers.

The requirement to take remedial education took effect July 1, 1998. To implement the statutory provisions, the board adopted a regulation that took effect November 4, 1998 (California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 1725). This regulation specifies that the remedial education of 16 units must be taken in a school of pharmacy approved by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (which in 2003 became known as the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education - ACPE) or a school recognized by the board. The ACPE accredits schools of pharmacy in the United States. The Board of Pharmacy never separately recognized any school.

From July 1, 1998, until January 1, 2004, the board gave 10 examinations (January and June, 1999-2003). Each of these examinations was written and graded exclusively for California by the California State Board of Pharmacy. The examination was developed by a team of 22 subject matter experts, under the guidance of a psychometric consulting firm selected to assure that the examination met all required components for job relevancy and validity.

In January 2004, there was a substantial change in the California pharmacist licensure examination made by SB 361 (Figueroa, Chapter 539, Statutes 2003). The new provisions require the use of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy examination called NAPLEX and a second, California-specific and jurisprudence examination initially called the California Pharmacist Jurisprudence Exam and later renamed California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for Pharmacists (or CPJE). Both are multiple-choice examinations and are given via computer, six days per week at testing centers nationwide. Testing began under the new format in late March 2004.

Data:

The board is required to report on three components. Each of these components is individually discussed below. For each of presentation the required component appears in bold.

1. The number of applicants taking the examination and the number who fail the examination for the fourth time.

[Business and Professions Code, Section 4200.1 (f) (1)]

Year	Candidates	Failed 4 th Time	Percent
2004	1733	11	0.63
2005	1804	10	0.55
2006	1613	9	0.56
2007	1665	3	0.18
2008	763	8	1.05
Total	7578	41	0.54

2. The number of applicants who, after failing the examination for the fourth time, complete a pharmacy studies program in California or another state to satisfy the requirements of this section and who apply to take the licensure examination required by Section 4200.

[Business and Professions Code, Section 4200.1 (f) (2)]

Year	Candidates	Requalified	Percent
2004	1733	3	0.17
2005	1804	1	0.06
2006	1613	1	0.06
2007	1665	13	0.78
2008	763	3	0.39
Total	7578	21	0.28

Of the 21 candidates that requalified to take the CPJE, 11 of the 21 passed (a pass rate of 52 percent).

3. To the extent possible, the school from which the applicant graduated and the school's location and the pass/fail rates on the examination for each school.

[Business and Professions Code, Section 4200.1 (f) (3)]

Schools with Candidates Failing 4 Times¹				
1/1/04-7/1/08				
Pharmacy Schools and Locations	Number of Candidates Failing their 4 th Time	All Candidates		
		Total	Pass (Percent)	Fail (Percent)
University of Arizona Tucson, AZ	1	39	82.05	17.95
University of the Pacific Stockton, CA	1	896	93.19	6.81
University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA	1	810	93.09	6.91
Howard University Washington, DC	1	32	53.13	46.88
Mercer University Atlanta, GA	1	23	56.52	43.48
University of Georgia Athens, GA	3	49	69.39	30.61
Xavier University of Louisiana New Orleans, LA	1	36	75.00	25.00
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy-Boston Boston, MA	4	535	71.59	28.41
Wayne State University Detroit, MI	1	22	54.55	45.45
St. Louis College of Pharmacy St. Louis, MO	1	60	48.33	51.67
Creighton University Omaha, NE	1	180	73.33	26.67
Western University Pomona, CA	1	491	93.89	6.11
Long Island University Brooklyn, NY	1	124	66.13	33.87
Ohio Northern University Ada, OH	1	19	68.42	31.58
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA	2	85	70.59	29.41
Wilkes University Wilkes-Barre, PA	1	15	73.33	26.67
Midwestern University-Glendale Glendale, AZ	1	74	70.27	29.73
University of Southern Nevada Henderson, NV	2	234	76.92	23.08
Foreign Graduates Various countries	16	1315	63.35	36.65
CPJE	41	7578	79.29	20.71

¹ As candidates may take the examination multiple times, statistics are based on each examination attempt by each candidate.

Schools with Candidates Requalifying After Completed Remedial Education¹ 1/1/04-7/1/08				
Pharmacy Schools and Locations	Number of Candidates Failing their 4 th Time	All Candidates		
		Total	Pass (Percent)	Fail (Percent)
University of Arizona Tucson, AZ	1	39	82.05	17.95
University of the Pacific Stockton, CA	2	896	93.19	6.81
University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA	1	810	93.09	6.91
Xavier University of Louisiana New Orleans, LA	1	36	75.00	25.00
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy-Boston Boston, MA	1	535	71.59	28.41
Long Island University Brooklyn, NY	3	124	66.13	33.87
University of Puerto Rico San Juan, PR	1	5	20.00	80.00
Midwestern University-Glendale Glendale, AZ	1	74	70.27	29.73
University of Southern Nevada Henderson, NV	1	234	76.92	23.08
Foreign Graduates Various countries	9	1315	63.35	36.65
CPJE	21	7578	79.29	20.71

¹ As candidates may take the examination multiple times, statistics are based on each examination attempt by each candidate.