



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK/ALBANY, NY 12234

BOARD OFFICE for PHARMACY
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Dear Colleagues:

During its August meeting, the State Board of Pharmacy discussed proposed regulations to update the licensing and continuing education requirements for pharmacists in New York.

Current regulations require New York pharmacy applicants to pass three different examinations. Two of those examinations are offered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), and the third (Part III examination) by the State Education Department (Department).

Historically, the Part III examination focused on testing candidates on safe compounding practices via an in-person, practical examination. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department shifted the Part III examination to an electronically administered, remotely proctored format. Around the same time, NABP revised its competency blueprints to better reflect the areas that are evaluated by its national licensing examinations.

To ensure that these examinations still adequately and effectively test that applicants are prepared for licensure as pharmacists, the Department, in conjunction with the State Board of Pharmacy, conducted a gap analysis. After analyzing the three current versions of the examinations, no content gaps were identified, but a number of testing competency redundancies were found. Based on these findings, the Department and the State Board of Pharmacy will propose regulatory changes for consideration by the Board of Regents that would include eliminating the Part III examination as a specific requirement for licensure in New York State.

In addition, to further protect public health, the Department and the State Board of Pharmacy are considering, and may recommend to the Board of Regents, that certain topic specific continuing education (CE) credits be included within the currently required 45-hours of formal CE during each triennial registration period.

The proposed regulatory amendments are expected to be presented to the Board of Regents at its September meeting. A final draft of the proposed regulations will be available at that time. As with all regulatory action, the proposed amendments will include a public comment period. Information about the Board of Regents' agenda can be found at <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/>. Please note that Regents' meetings are subject to last-minute change. The Part III examination scheduled for January 2022 will be canceled in anticipation of this proposed regulatory action.

Sincerely,

Dina Jazrawi, PharmD
Executive Secretary