

MICHIGAN PHARMACIST LICENSING GUIDE

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1. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN MICHIGAN

OVERVIEW

This guide details what a foreign-educated pharmacist must do to become eligible for licensing as a pharmacist in Michigan. At the same time, it includes some background and tips to give you an idea of the variety of opportunities available as you work to build your career.

REGULATION OF PHARMACIST IN MICHIGAN

As a pharmacist, you must be licensed to practice pharmacy in the State of Michigan. The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) regulates the profession. LARA issues Michigan licenses to first time licensees and to pharmacist who are eligible to practice in other states (by endorsement).

The NAPLEX and MPJE are the qualifying examinations for a Michigan pharmacist license. However, this is the last step in a longer process of education and experience international pharmacists must complete to practice in Michigan.

This guide assumes you are an international pharmacist who is beginning to build your career in the U.S. This guide will include steps that come before the final state licensing process including education, tests, and completion of a 1,600 hour internship.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

This section explains important steps you must complete before you can be licensed as a pharmacist in Michigan.

STEPS FOR MICHIGAN LICENSURE

- I. Complete and submit the application for pharmacist licensure with the appropriate fee(s) and arrange for supporting documents to be sent to the Michigan Board of Pharmacy. State of Michigan licensure fees are \$60.60 for a pharmacist license and \$85.85 for a controlled substance license.
- II. Applicants for pharmacist licensure in Michigan are required to undergo a Criminal Background Check (CBC) and provide evidence of fingerprint processing from an authorized agency. Fingerprints must be taken using the Customer ID number and instructions provided in the Application Confirmation letter that will be sent when your license application and fee are processed. Do not have your fingerprints taken prior to receiving your Customer ID number.
- III. Graduates of foreign pharmacy programs that are not ACPE approved must complete the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee certification program (FPGEC) administered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). Applicants must send a signed, written request to NABP so that an official copy of the FPGEC certificate will be sent directly to the Michigan Board office. Requests should be sent to the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Education Commission, 1600 Feehanville Drive, Mount Prospect, IL 60056-6014 or by fax to (847) 391-4502.
- IV. Michigan requires 1,600 hours of internship (including externship). The Internship Training Affidavit form should be used only to report those intern hours gained in Michigan while holding an intern license. Hours gained in other states must be reported directly to this office by the Board of Pharmacy in the state where the intern hours were obtained.
- V. All applicants for pharmacist licensure must take and pass the NAPLEX (North American Pharmacist Licensing Exam) and the MPJE (Multi-state Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam).

3. TESTS

All applicants for pharmacist licensure must take and pass the NAPLEX (North American Pharmacist Licensing Exam) and the MPJE (Multi-state Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam).

Applicants for the NAPLEX and MPJE examinations must apply online at www.nabp.net. Information about content and administration of both examinations is available in the [NAPLEX/MPJE Registration Bulletin](#). You will be issued an Authorization to Test by the testing company after you have sent in your exam registration(s) and the Michigan Board of Pharmacy has made you eligible for the

exams. The Authorization to Test will contain the dates you are eligible to take the NAPLEX and MPJE.

NAPLEX

The NAPLEX, or North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination, measures a candidate's knowledge of the practice of pharmacy. It is just one component of the licensure process and is used by the boards of pharmacy as part of their assessment of a candidate's competence to practice as a pharmacist.

The 185-question exam tests a prospective pharmacist's ability to measure pharmacotherapy and therapeutic outcomes, prepare and dispense medications, and implement and evaluate information for optimal health care.

As a computer-based exam, the NAPLEX uses adaptive technology to deliver selected-response and constructed-response questions, many of which are asked in a scenario-based format. (For example, a patient profile is provided, and you must answer a series of questions related to the profile.) See the [NAPLEX/MPJE Registration Bulletin](#) for further information on the NAPLEX.

The NAPLEX competency statements (available in the NAPLEX/MPJE Registration Bulletin) provide content areas covered on the exam. Achieving a strong understanding of the exam content will aid in your preparation process.

MPJE

The MPJE, or Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination, combines federal- and state-specific questions to test the pharmacy jurisprudence knowledge of prospective pharmacists. It serves as the pharmacy law examination in participating jurisdictions.

The MPJE is a two-hour, computer-adaptive examination that consists of 90 multiple-choice test questions. The examination is administered at Pearson VUE testing centers. See the [NAPLEX/MPJE Registration Bulletin](#) for further information on the MPJE.

The MPJE tests a candidate's mastery of pharmacy law as outlined in the MPJE competency statements. Each board of pharmacy approves questions applicable in that state or jurisdiction. A thorough understanding of the MPJE competency statements (available in the NAPLEX/MPJE Registration Bulletin) will help you prepare for the test.

TEST FEES

\$505.00 per examination for the NAPLEX.

\$210.00 per examination for the MPJE.

4. TIME AND COSTS

Licensure as a pharmacist in Michigan depends on many factors including:

- The completeness of your educational and professional records
- Your performance on the NAPLEX and MPJE
- Completing an internship with 1,600 hours of training

Two sample scenarios below show some outcomes that foreign professionals may experience when they seek a pharmacist license in Michigan. Please do not consider them as minimum or maximum scenarios, only as two reference points out of many. Your experience will vary.

TWO HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIOS FOR PHARMACIST LICENSING

Step	More Efficient Scenario (Approximate Cost & Time)	Less Efficient Scenario (Approximate Cost & Time)
1 FPGEC Certification Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your five-year foreign degree qualifies you immediately for the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee Certification Program. Your foreign credentials are well-organized and in English. You complete all program requirements, including degree evaluation and passage of the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination (FPGEE) in 1½ years. • \$1,200 + 1½ years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your five-year foreign degree qualifies you for the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee Certification Program, but problems with your documents and translations add time and expense. It takes you 2 1/2 years to finish the whole process. • \$2,000 + 2½ years

Step	More Efficient Scenario (Approximate Cost & Time)	Less Efficient Scenario (Approximate Cost & Time)
2 Licensure by Examination application + CS License + Complete Internship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It takes you 6 months to put together your application and organize your 1,600-hour internship documentation. You finish your program in 1 year while working as a pharmacy technician in a retail pharmacy. \$60.60 + \$85.85 + 1½ years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It takes you a year to get your application in, find an internship, and have your training program approved. You finish your program in another year and a half by working as a pharmacy technician in a hospital pharmacy. \$60.60 + \$85.85 + 2½ years
3a NAPLEX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your skills are fresh and you've been using a self-study program throughout your internship, so you pass the NAPLEX on the first try. \$505 + 3 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your skills are not fresh and you've not been using a self-study program throughout your internship, so you fail the NAPLEX on the first try but pass on the second try. \$505 + \$505 + 6 months
3b MPJE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You pass the MPJE on the first try. Your license is received 1 month after all results are received. \$210 + 3 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You fail MPJE on the first try but pass on the second try. Your license is received 1 month after all results are received by IDFPR. \$210 + \$210 + 6 months
•	More Efficient Total \$2,061.45 & 3½ Years	Less Efficient Total \$3,576.45 & 6 Years

5. OTHER CAREERS AND CREDENTIALS

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

A pharmacy technician is an entry-level staff position in a hospital or retail pharmacy. It usually earns an hourly wage and only requires an education minimum of high school graduation. You must register as a Pharmacy Technician

by sending in an application to the State of Michigan. The cost of the application is \$55.55.

6. BEYOND LICENSING

MAINTAINING LICENSURE

Your initial Pharmacist/Pharmacy license is only good until the next expiration date of your profession. After your first renewal, your license will be valid for 2 years. You will receive a renewal application 45-60 days prior to the expiration date of your license and it will state the renewal fee required.

You cannot renew your license early. Our system is not set up to receive renewal information until the renewal time for your profession. We will mail you renewal information approximately 45-60 days before the expiration date of your current license. It is your responsibility to renew your license on time. Failure to notify us of an address change does not exempt you from renewing your license on time. You can complete an address change and renew online at www.michigan.gov/elicense. Online renewal payments require you to pay with a credit card.

The law requires that you must complete mandatory continuing education prior to renewal of your license. Submission of your renewal application is an indication that you have completed the mandatory continuing education in board approved activities. If you have not done so, please complete your continuing education before you submit your renewal.

We audit a percentage of each profession and request the licensee to document the continuing education that they completed. If you cannot provide the documentation or if you did not complete the required continuing education, an administrative complaint will be filed against your license for failure to comply with the requirements of the Public Health Code. The complaint will result in disciplinary action which can include a fine, completion of additional continuing education and probation. This will be a permanent record on your license and will be reported to Federal databanks as required by law and other states will have access to that information.

Additional information on continuing education requirements for pharmacists in Michigan can be found in the [Michigan Administrative Code](#).

LICENSING MOBILITY (RECIPROCITY)

The State of Michigan grants licensing to pharmacists either by examination (the process described in this guide) or by endorsement. A pharmacist licensed in another state who wants to practice in Michigan must independently meet all Michigan requirements for licensing. If you become licensed in Michigan and want to practice pharmacy in another state, you will need to research the legal requirements for that state.

7. IMPORTANT LINKS

LICENSING & REGULATION

- State of Michigan [Pharmacist Application](#)
- The Michigan Department of [LARA](#)
- Bureau of Professional Licensing ([BPL](#))
- [Licensing Division Website](#)
- [Michigan Board of Pharmacy Website](#)
- [Michigan Public Health Code](#) Regulating Pharmacy
- Michigan Public Health Code Regulating [Controlled Substances](#)
- [Michigan Administrative Code](#) Regulating Pharmacy
- Michigan Administrative Code Regulating [Controlled Substances](#)
- Michigan Administrative Code Regulating [Continuing Education](#)
- [Application Status](#)
- [License Verification](#)
- [Renewal Website](#)

Contact Information:

Bureau of Professional Licensing
PO Box 30670
Lansing, MI 48909

Telephone: 517-241-0650
Fax: 517-335-2044
Email: bplhelp@michigan.gov

CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATIONS

- Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee ([FPGEC](#))
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education ([ACPE](#))
- Test of English as a Foreign Language ([TOEFL](#))

TESTING

- National Association of Boards of Pharmacy ([NABP](#))
- North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination ([NAPLEX](#))
- Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination ([MPJE](#))