

PHARMACY CURRICULUM OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT (PCOA) POLICY

Responsible administrator: Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Strategic Initiatives

Last updated/reviewed: 8/5/2019

The Harrison School of Pharmacy, like all pharmacy schools, is required to administer the Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) Exam to all P3 students each year. Because the results of the exam can provide important diagnostic and evaluative information to individual students, to the School, and to other stakeholders, it is in the best interests of all parties to ensure students take the exam and perform to the best of their ability. The following policy is intended to facilitate the efficient administration of the PCOA exam:

- Every P3 student in the School is required to take the PCOA exam during its scheduled exam time on either Auburn or Mobile campus.
- Each student is responsible for ensuring they successfully register for the PCOA through the NABP website prior to the deadline (dashboard.nabp.pharmacy).
- Each student is responsible for ensuring their testing device and software are compatible with the technical requirements for the exam published by NABP
- Each student who wishes to request a testing accommodation is responsible for ensuring they successfully complete all the requirements and submit all necessary documentation to NABP prior to the deadline. NABP has the sole authority to approve or deny testing accommodations for the PCOA exam.

Note: Because NABP requires documentation and a letter from a health care provider, and because NABP's requirements are more stringent than the University's, students who wish to request a testing accommodation for the PCOA exam should begin the process well in advance of the deadline. Having a testing accommodation approved by Auburn University does not ensure NABP will approve an accommodation for the PCOA.

- Students who fail to register for the PCOA exam by the deadline or who fail to take the exam on the testing day will be placed on Registration Hold and will not be able to register for future courses in the Harrison School of Pharmacy until the PCOA is completed. No waivers for missing the registration deadline will be granted. The Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs & Strategic Initiatives will have the sole authority to approve waivers for failing to take the exam on testing day. Waivers will only be approved for extraordinary circumstances.
- Any student scoring in the 10th percentile nationally or lower on the overall score for PCOA exam will enter into the Re-Assessment Protocol. Their PCOA scores will be reported to their Mentor and to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs. Students in the Protocol will be required to take the Pre-NAPLEX exam at their expense and schedule a meeting to discuss their Pre-NAPLEX scores with their Mentor and the Associate Dean for Academic Programs prior to June 15th. Based upon their scores and other student performance data, the Associate Dean for Academic Programs, in consultation with the student's Mentor, the Committee on Academic Requirements and Professionalism, and others, will determine a remediation plan for the student. In exceptional cases, a student may be required to repeat the P3 year, be suspended, or be dismissed from the Doctor of Pharmacy program for poor performance on the PCOA and Pre-NAPLEX.

- Aggregated Group Scores and de-identified Individual Scores on the PCOA exam may be used for other diagnostic and programmatic purposes at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Programs or the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Strategic Initiatives.
- The Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Strategic Initiatives will be responsible for communicating, implementing, evaluating, and revising this policy as needed.