

NAPLEX Passing Rates at One College of Pharmacy and Their Relationship with Test Preparation

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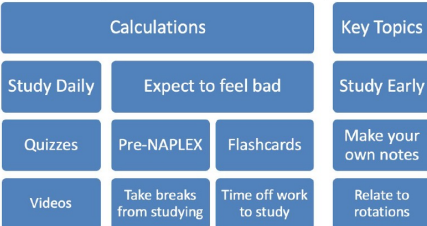
Introduction

- NAPLEX pass rates are a key performance indicator for pharmacy schools and are publicly posted by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP).¹
- Schools design curricula to improve student performance on licensing exams, such as tailoring clinical rotations and providing test preparation resources.²

Objectives

- Assess relationship between formal preparation and NAPLEX pass rates.
- Assess relationship between formal preparation and student perception of exam preparedness.

Figure 1. Participants' advice for future students (n=30)



*Block size denotes frequency of response

RxPrep is effective for NAPLEX preparation

Survey Item	2019 Cohort n (%)	2020 Cohort n (%)	P value
Self-reported first-time pass rate – study participant responses 2019 (n = 9); 2020 (n = 21)	8 (89)	21 (100)	0.120
NABP reported first-time pass rate – public published data 2019 (n = 115); 2020 (n = 97)	99 (86)	92 (95)	0.033

Survey Item	Strongly Agree		Disagree		P value
	2019 n (%)	2020 n (%)	2019 n (%)	2020 n (%)	
Confidence BEFORE RxPrep: 2019 (2020)	0 (0)	2 (22)	4 (44)	3 (33)	0.983
Confidence AFTER RxPrep: 2019 (2020)	5 (56)	3 (33)	1 (11)	0 (0)	0.680
2019: BEFORE RxPrep: n (%)	0 (0)	2 (22)	4 (44)	3 (33)	0.019
AFTER RxPrep: n (%)	5 (56)	3 (33)	1 (11)	0 (0)	
2020: BEFORE RxPrep: n (%)	0 (0)	6 (29)	8 (38)	7 (33)	< 0.001
AFTER RxPrep: n (%)	7 (33)	12 (57)	2 (10)	0 (0)	

*North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination

Subgroup	n (%)
Graduating Class	
2019	9 (30)
2020	21 (70)
Age range	
< 30	22 (73)
> 30	8 (27)
Employed in pharmacy*	
Yes	28 (93)
No	2 (7)

*Employed as pharmacy intern or tech during school

Survey Item	range (median)
Highest NAPLEX* Score	78-130 (93)
Number of months studied before NAPLEX*	0.5-15 (2)
Number of hours studied per week	4-70 (25)
Pharmacy school grade point average	3.00-4.00 (3.60)

*North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination

Methods

- Descriptive cross-sectional study using electronic questionnaires administered to students from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy 2019 and 2020 cohorts.
- 2019 cohort was offered optional use of RxPrep; 2020 cohort was required to use RxPrep for a course grade.
- Questions collected data on student RxPrep use, study habits, perceived exam preparedness, and advice for future students.

Limitations

- Study results are limited by small sample size and sampling from a single pharmacy school.
- Survey response rate was low, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Study may benefit from repeat in future years and at other pharmacy schools to increase sample size.

References

- NAPLEX National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. National Association of Boards of Pharmacy website. <https://nabp.pharmacy/programs/naplex>. Mar 31, 2020.
- Ried D. Length of advanced pharmacy practice experience and first-time NAPLEX pass rate of US pharmacy programs. *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*. 2020;12(1):14-19. www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877129718303952. doi: 10.1016/j.cptl.2019.10.009.