PHARMACY CURRICULUM OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT POLICIES
Adopted January 26, 2016

Purpose
Outline procedures for students who either fail to take or perform poorly on the Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) Exam. The Assessment Committee will review this policy every odd-numbered year.

PCOA background
The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) requires that all P3 students in colleges and schools of pharmacy in the United States take the PCOA exam.

The PCOA is a computer-based assessment that measures student performance in the Doctor of Pharmacy program. The assessment can also be used by ACPE to compare colleges of pharmacy across the country. Assessment questions are based on ACPE outcomes and broken down into four content areas:

- Basic biomedical sciences (16% of the assessment)
- Pharmaceutical sciences (30% of the assessment)
- Social, behavioral, and administrative sciences (22% of the assessment)
- Clinical sciences (32% of the assessment)

The PCOA is a tool that can be useful to students as an indicator of areas that may require additional attention prior to taking the NAPLEX exam for licensure. As the information obtained in the exam should be used for personal development of the individual taking the exam, it is essential that students' performance accurately reflect their actual preparedness. This policy was developed to require accountability for not taking the exam and to address low performance on the exam in order to help identify students who may be struggling with the curriculum.

Remediation Policy:
1. Students are expected to sit for the PCOA and take the exam seriously. A set of practice questions are provided by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) approximately two weeks before the exam provides an indication of what the exam will be like.

   Option 1: Students absent from the exam will be required to take the Pre-NAPLEX exam at their own expense. Evidence of having taken the exam is required before beginning clerkships (http://www.nabp.net/programs/examination/pre-naplex).

   Option 2: The grade received on the PCOA will count for 5% of the course grade in (XX Course). The number of points will be based on the percentage of questions answered correctly.
2. **Students absent from the exam won’t have any points added to their course grade in (XX Course) and will be required to take the Pre-NAPLEX exam at their own expense.** Evidence of having taken the exam is required before beginning clerkships (http://www.nabp.net/programs/examination/pre-naplex).

3. Students in the lower 20% of their class will be considered to be at risk for not passing the NAPLEX exam after graduation, since approximately 15% of students across the country do not pass on their first attempt.
   a. Students will be referred to their faculty mentor, who can help identify areas for additional study.
   b. Students should take advantage of the NAPLEX study guides available in Access Pharmacy, focusing on areas identified as weaker: http://accesspharmacy.mhmedical.com
   c. Students are encouraged to create a plan for development in the areas of lower performance. Plans should include:
      i. Specific areas of difficulty (e.g. disease state/ topic area)
      ii. Reviews of applicable coursework
      iii. Taking, at their own expense, the Pre-NAPLEX examination to further identify areas of weakness (http://www.nabp.net/programs/examination/pre-naplex).