PHARMACY CURRICULUM OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT POLICIES

Adopted January 26, 2016
Revised March 25, 2022

Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) Exam Expectations & Remediation

Purpose
To 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 all P3 students in colleges and schools of Pharmacy in the United States to 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.

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.

The grade received on the PCOA will be a portion of the overall grade in PhPr 811.

PCOA will be worth 60 points out of a total of 560 points in PhPr 811.

Students that score in the 90th percentile and above on the PCOA will receive 6 extra credit points if they attend the review session.
Students that do not take the exam will receive a zero, regardless of review session attendance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentile Achieved on the PCOA</th>
<th>Points Awarded in PhPr 811 for Performance</th>
<th>Points Awarded for Review Session Attendance</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>% Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 90</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>110%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
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<td>60-69</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
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<td>20-29</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remediation Policy
1. Students who receive a score of less than 20th percentile on the PCOA exam will be considered 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 are required to create a plan for development in the areas of lower performance using the form in the following link: PCOA Remediation Plan
      i. Plans should include
         1. Specific areas of difficulty (e.g., disease state/ topic area)
         2. Reviews of applicable coursework
      ii. After review and approval of the plan with the faculty mentor, students are required to forward their plan to the Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs and Assessment.
   c. Students should take advantage of the NAPLEX study guides available in Access Pharmacy, focusing on areas identified as weaker:
      http://accesspharmacy.mhmedical.com