

A description of licensure exam preparation strategies among US pharmacy programs

Diana M. Sobieraj, PharmD, FCCP, University of Connecticut; Lisa Lebovitz, JD, University of Maryland; Aleda M. H. Chen, PharmD, PhD, FAPhA, Cedarville University; Jean T. Carter, PhD, PharmD, University of Montana; Michael P. Kelsch, PharmD, BCPS, North Dakota State University; Mary E. Ray, PharmD, University of Iowa; Sarah A. Spinler, FCCP, FAHA, FSHP, AACC, Binghamton University

BACKGROUND

North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE)

- To practice, pharmacy graduates must pass a licensure exam (NAPLEX) and meet state-based law requirements (typically: MPJE)¹
- Marker of curricular quality/effectiveness and may impact recruitment²

NAPLEX and MPJE Preparation Programs

- Strategies to enhance preparation:²⁻⁶

Curricular components

- Grand rounds
- Topic presentations

Vendor-based programs

- On-site reviews
- Books
- Practice questions

Practice examinations

- PCOA
- Pre-NAPLEX

- Blueprint and scoring has changed since recent publications along with declining graduate scores.¹ Thus, there is a need to update preparation program strategies.

OBJECTIVE

To describe the different strategies used to supplement North American Preparation Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) preparation in US pharmacy programs during AY 21-22.

METHODS

Survey Development

- Literature review
- Developed
- Pre-tested

Finalized Survey

- Items: 19 NAPLEX, 10 MPJE
- Content: timing, content, use of vendors, faculty involvement, and level of requirement

Survey Distribution

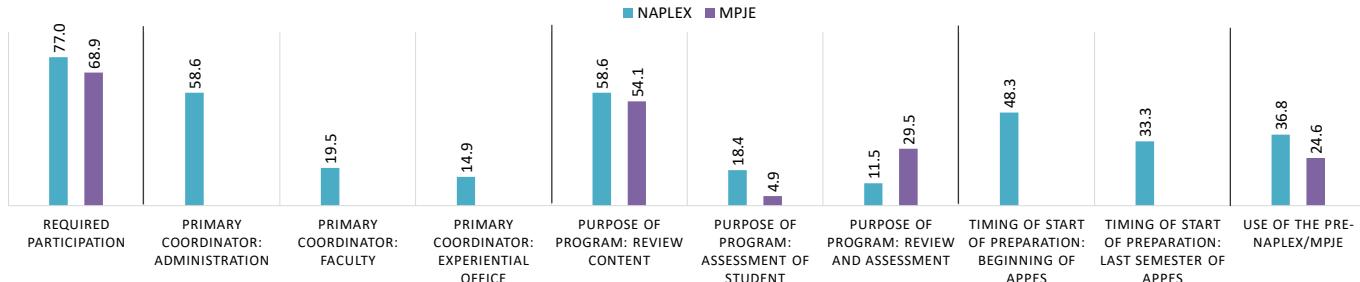
- 141 accredited pharmacy programs to NAPLEX/MPJE preparation lead or assessment / academic affairs lead
- Qualtrics with 3 reminders
- Personal follow-ups to non-respondents

Data Analysis

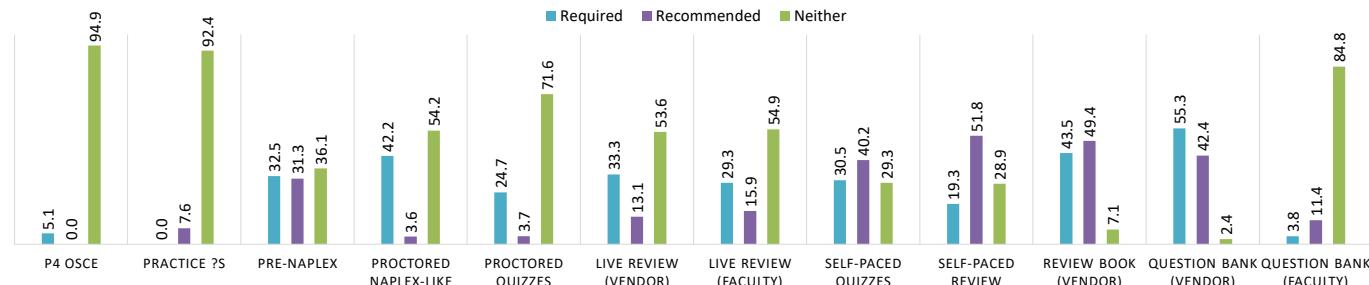
- SPSS
- Descriptive statistics
- Chi-square/t-test for program characteristic differences

RESULTS

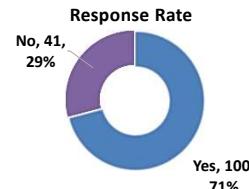
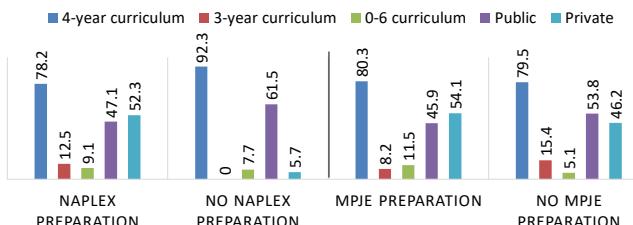
NAPLEX AND MPJE PREPARATION PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS (%), N=87



NAPLEX PREPARATION (%), N=87



SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS (%), N=100



REFERENCES

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Discussion and Conclusions

- Most pharmacy schools/colleges had required NAPLEX and MPJE preparation programs.
- It raised the question of whether the curriculum alone should fully prepare graduates for their licensing exams or if additional review and test-taking skills programs should be offered.

Limitations

- The study questionnaire was not validated but items were pretested and the instrument piloted.
- There was no measure of student engagement in the various preparatory programs.
- Impact of the pandemic on preparation program delivery is unknown.

Future Directions

- Determining the effectiveness of the various approaches used for preparing students for their licensure exams is the next step. This should include individual vendor programs, locally developed programs, and combinations.
- Another area for further inquiry is to determine how knowledge base and/or test-taking skills of students impact pass rates.