



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
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# Association Between School NAPLEX Rates and Student Perceived Achievement of CAPE Outcomes

School of Pharmacy  
& Health  
Professions

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## BACKGROUND

- ❖ Learning outcomes demonstrate what graduates should be able to do at the end of their PharmD program.
- ❖ These nationally recognized learning outcomes oftentimes guide writing specific program outcomes among schools and colleges of pharmacy.
- ❖ Typically, if graduates satisfactorily achieve the learning outcomes, they are expected to pass their licensing exams, specifically the NAPLEX.
- ❖ However, it is not known whether perceived achievement of the learning outcomes result in better NAPLEX performance
- ❖ Overall, student perceived achievement of CAPE outcomes at graduation could indicate confidence to test for NAPLEX and readiness to enter practice.

## OBJECTIVE

- ❖ The purpose of this research was to investigate the association between graduate students' perceived achievement of the 2013 CAPE outcomes and school first-attempt pass rates for the past 5 years.
- ❖ We hypothesized a statistically significant and positive correlation between these two variables.

## METHODS

- ❖ The study was based on a cross-sectional design that collected data from 5 consecutive cohorts of graduating students at a public pharmacy school.
- ❖ Following IRB approval, the graduating students were invited to participate in a 74-item structured survey to assess their perceived achievement of different constructs of the 2013 CAPE outcomes.
- ❖ The 5 cohorts (a total of 373 graduates) were invited over five years, starting with the 2018 cohort to and including the 2022 cohort. To maximize participation, the survey was integrated into a required Capstone course.
- ❖ An average score of perceived achievement of CAPE outcomes was computed for each class to compare with the school NAPLEX first attempt pass rate.
- ❖ Correlation analysis was conducted to investigate the association.

Year	Perceived Achievement of CAPE Outcomes	School First Attempt Pass Rate
2018	84.16%	85.14%
2019	84.81%	82.86%
2020	87.69%	85.71%
2021	87.75%	75.00%
2022	91.29%	66.67%

## RESULTS

- ❖ A total of 363 graduating students from the 5 cohorts completed the survey (response rate = 97%).
- ❖ Contrary to the hypothesis, an inverse trend was observed between the two variables. In other words, there was a trend of declining NAPLEX first attempt pass rates combined with increased perceived achievement of CAPE outcomes over the last 5 years.
- ❖ Despite a high correlation coefficient (- .853) between the two compared variables, the association analysis showed no statistical significance ( $p = .079$ ).

## CONCLUSION

- ❖ Perceived achievement of CAPE outcomes does not seem to associate with NAPLEX-readiness.
- ❖ Objective examinations near graduation are important to increase student self-awareness of NAPLEX-readiness and practice-readiness.

## REFERENCES

- ❖ List of complete references are available upon request to the authors/presenters of this poster.