



Use of NAPLEX Questions During APPE Rotations to Improve NAPLEX Practice Scores

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

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BACKGROUND

- In 2022 SIUE School of Pharmacy's first time pass rate was 88.8% and the overall pass rate was 85.9%¹
- In 2024 SIUE School of Pharmacy's first time and all time pass rates dropped to 76.7% and 76.8% respectively¹
- Not passing the NAPLEX directly affects pharmacy students, employers, and the institution²

Objective

- To determine whether students who had preceptors that used practice NAPLEX questions on APPE rotations, improved students' score on practice NAPLEX exams.
- To evaluate whether those APPE preceptors were faculty or nonfaculty.

METHODS

- Study Population**
- Fourth year SIUE School of Pharmacy students.
 - P4 students at SIUE took a pre-APPE knowledge assessment during their P3 year and took the same exam in November 2024 of their P4 year.

- Survey**
- 13 question survey created via Qualtrics with a duration of 2 weeks.
 - Assessed whether P4 students had practice NAPLEX questions on their APPE rotations and if having those questions changed their scores on the practice NAPLEX.

- Data Analysis**
- Results were defined using the Likert Scale and percentages.

References

1. *Passing Rates for 2022-2024 Graduates*, nabp.pharmacy/wp-content/uploads/NAPLEX-Pass-Rates.pdf. Accessed 4 Feb. 2025.
 2. Brandon, Hope, et al. "Perceptions of pharmacy educators regarding the NAPLEX pass rate puzzle." *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, vol. 88, no. 12, Dec. 2024, p. 101336, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajpe.2024.101336>.

RESULTS

Table 1. Qualtrics Survey with student's responses shown in percentages. (n=36)

Questions	Answers				
	Yes	No			
Did you know the UWorld Pre-APPE Knowledge Assessment (PAKA) given during P3 PBA and the P4 Uworld NAPLEX assessment taken during November 2024 half-time review were the same exam?	Yes (5); (14%)	No (31); (86%)			
How much did your score change between P3 PAKA and P4 practice NAPLEX assessment?	My score Decreased (1); (3%)	Stayed the same (3); (8%)	Increased 5-15% points (22); (61%)	Increased 15-20% points (9); (25%)	Increased 25-35% points (1); (3%)
Have any of your preceptors used NAPLEX preparation questions on any of your APPE rotations?	Yes (15); (42%)	No (21); (58%)			
Were the NAPLEX preparation questions required as part of your APPE rotation?	Yes (6); (40%)	No (9); (60%)			

Table 2. Question 6 select all that apply. Standard Likert format. n=14.

	How many of your preceptors have used NAPLEX preparation questions during your rotations and how many of those preceptors were SIUE faculty? (Select all that apply)					
	APPE 1	APPE 2	APPE 3	APPE 4	APPE 5	APPE 6
Used NAPLEX preparation questions	5	2	4	3	0	6
Did not use NAPLEX preparation questions	6	8	6	8	9	3
Faculty	3	2	4	2	0	2
Nonfaculty	5	4	4	3	3	4

Table 3. Question 13 free response with themes. n=29.

Would you recommend required NAPLEX prep questions on APPE rotations? (n=29)			
Yes (n=20)	Themes		
	Reinforce studying	Would like additional accountability from preceptors	Helps the student study without realizing it
No (n=4)	Already required to do a lot of work	Prefer to learn at own pace	It is the responsibility of the student
Unsure (n=5)	Patients are complex and NAPLEX prep questions do not always fit in real world scenarios	Medicine is not black and white	May add unwanted responsibility on preceptors

Table 4. Pivot table comparing time spent on NAPLEX prep to changes in scores. n=36.

How much time outside of your APPE rotations have you spent preparing for the NAPLEX?	How much did your score change between P3 PAKA and P4 practice NAPLEX assessment?				
	Stayed the same	My score decreased	Increased 5-15% points	Increased 15-20% points	Increased 25-35% points
I have not started yet	1		7		
< 5 hours			7	3	1
5-10 hours	2	1	5	5	
10-20 hours			1		
> 20 hours			2	1	

- When asked whether students felt practice NAPLEX questions during their APPE rotations helped improve their practice NAPLEX scores, 6 out of the 10 responses were yes.
- The students who stated yes explained that NAPLEX questions during their APPE rotations were a helpful review and refreshed their memory on certain topics.

Conclusion

Although most of the SIUE School of Pharmacy P4 students did not have preceptors that used NAPLEX preparation questions during their APPE rotations, this study showed some evidence that students who did have practice NAPLEX questions during their APPE rotations felt it helped improve their practice NAPLEX scores.