



PURPOSE

This guide is designed to provide Illinois pharmacist licensure applicants with information that may assist in navigating the licensure process. If you have further questions or licensure concerns, contact the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation (IDFPR) and/or your Residency Program Director (RPD).

GETTING STARTED

It is crucial to the success of your training to be licensed at the beginning of your residency year. It does not matter if you are about to start your PGY1 or PGY2 residency, the process of getting licensed in the state you will be practicing in can be unexpectedly complicated and long. **Do not delay in starting the steps outlined below.**

NEW GRADUATES

Step 1: Apply through Continental Testing Service (CTS) at <http://continentaltestinginc.com/product/illinois-051-registered-pharmacist/>.

- a. Complete the online licensure/examination application.
- b. Pay required fee(s).
- c. Have your school submit a completed ED-PHM form showing proof of graduation/expected graduation.

Step 2: Complete the online exam eligibility application with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) at www.nabp.pharmacy.

- a. Create an account on NABP, and apply for exam eligibility through the “Examination Services” tab in your e-Profile.
- b. Pay the required fee(s).
- c. Register for the following:
 - i. **NAPLEX:** <https://nabp.pharmacy/programs/naplex/>
 - ii. **MPJE:** <https://nabp.pharmacy/programs/mpje/>
- d. Additional information can be found on [The Candidate Application Bulletin](#).

Step 3: Receive your Authorization to Test (ATT) from Pearson Professional Assessments (formerly known as Pearson Vue).

- a. After you have been determined to be eligible to test, you will receive your ATT.
- b. After you receive your ATT, schedule your exam(s) with Pearson Professional Assessments as soon as possible, following the instructions provided and paying the required fee(s).

Step 4: After passing the exams

- a. Once you successfully pass your tests, you will receive an Official Results letter from CTS with instructions on how to apply for licensure with IDFPR.
- a. Apply for licensure through IDFPR here: [eLicense Online Application](#)
 - i. If needed, register for a new account with IDFPR here: [eLicense Online Account Registration](#)

Important: DO NOT apply for licensure with IDFPR before receiving your Official Results Letter from CTS.

LICENSE TRANSFER OPTIONS

Step 1: There are two pathways for obtaining an Illinois pharmacist license if you are not initially licensed in Illinois.

- a. Pathway 1: NAPLEX score transfer (New Graduates)
 - i. Request score transfer BEFORE taking the NAPLEX. During your NABP application, select Illinois as a score transfer state.
 - ii. Complete the standard license process: apply through CTS, apply through NABP, take both MPJE and NAPLEX.
 - iii. Your NAPLEX score will be automatically transferred to Illinois, allowing you to proceed with licensure.
- b. Pathway 2: License transfer (Already Licensed in Another State)
 - i. Apply for Licensure Transfer through the NABP Electronic Licensure Transfer Program (e-LTP) <https://nabp.pharmacy/programs/licensure-transfer/>. This process verifies your existing license(s), background check and screening through the NABP Clearinghouse.
 - i. Pay the Electronic Licensure Transfer Program (e-LTP) application and examination fee(s).

Step 2: Apply through IDFPR

- a. Set up an account with IDFPR <https://ilesonline.idfpr.illinois.gov/DFPR/Default.aspx>
 - i. Once your application with NABP is approved, they will send you an email with a PDF application for licensure.
 - ii. Complete the online application for licensure through the IDFPR site and upload the PDF application from NABP.
 - iii. Pay the required fee(s).

Step 3: Take the MPJE

- a. Once the State Board of Pharmacy provides you with your Authorization to Test (ATT):
 - i. Purchase your MPJE exam through NABP and pay the required fee(s).



- ii. Schedule your MPJE exam with Pearson Professional Assessments (<https://home.pearsonvue.com/>).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1. When should I apply for my Illinois Pharmacist License?

You should plan to be licensed before your first day of residency. Therefore, you should apply for and schedule your NAPLEX and MPJE exams as early as possible. You can take your exams in your home state prior to arriving in Illinois to help expedite the licensure process.

2. What is an Illinois Pharmacist License?

It is a certificate of registration granted by the IDFPR that allows you to legally practice as a pharmacist in the state of Illinois. Confirm with your residency program regarding the licensure requirements:

- Deadline to become licensed
- Accepted forms of licensure (official registration certificate vs successful examination notice)

3. I need help studying for the MPJE! What resources are available to me?

It is very important to read the Illinois Pharmacy Practice Act and associated administrative code/rules when preparing for the IL MPJE, even if it seems boring. The examination questions are based on the law and rules.

- **Illinois Pharmacy Practice Act 225 ILCS 85**
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1318&ChapterID=24>
- **Illinois Pharmacy Practice Act Administrative Code/Rules**
<https://ilga.gov/agencies/JCAR/Sections?PartID=06801330&TitleDescription=TITLE%2068:%20%20PROFESSIONS%20AND%20OCCUPATIONS>
 - The rules provide detailed guidance on how to comply with the Pharmacy Practice Act
- **Illinois Controlled Substance Act**
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ILCS/details?MajorTopic=RIGHTS%20AND%20REMEDIES&Chapter=CRIMINAL%20OFFENSES&ActName=Illinois%20Controlled%20Substances%20Act.&ActID=1941&ChapterID=53&ChapAct=720+ILCS+570%2F&SeqStart=2700000&SeqEnd=5400000>

Other resources that may be helpful in preparing for the IL MPJE (ICHP does not endorse or recommend any particular resource):

- **Illinois Pharmacy Law and Regulations Book from LexisNexis in collaboration with the Illinois Pharmacists Association**
https://store.lexisnexis.com/en-us/products/illinois-pharmacy-laws-and-regulations-grpsku23975.html?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=13449778207&gbraid=0AAAAADtOJyMzKMR_QGyS-PxoPYXcg_spxm&gclid=CjwKCAjw46HPBhAMEiwASZpLRGa9cEDIO7Sa7-dl718LXGlgBOVakCnhGPFkEYtw6RPG6syntzB8TRoCC9oQAvD_BwE
- **NABP practice exam:**

<https://nabp.pharmacy/programs/examinations/mpje/practice-exam/>

- **Online practice exam:**
<https://www.pharmacyexam.com/index.cfm/category/11/mpjecpje.cfm>
offers practice exams with detailed correct answers and additional study materials.

If you previously failed the MPJE, consider professional tutors, such as:

- **Varsity Tutors:**
<https://www.varsitytutors.com/mpje-tutors>
- **Law offices of Joseph Bogdan LLC**
<https://www.ijblawoffice.com/mpje-pharmacy-exam-remediation-tutor>

4. Which forms must be submitted by my pharmacy school for licensure?

Your college of pharmacy must submit the ED-PHM (Certification of Education) form showing proof of graduation/expected graduation. We encourage pharmacy schools to submit these form(s) as soon as possible after graduation to prevent licensure delays.

Some colleges of pharmacy may be able to issue this form before the anticipated graduation, so check with your school. If issued early, make sure you re-submit the ED-PHM form after the graduation, so there are no licensure delays.

In addition, all applicants must provide proof of graduation to NABP before being able to purchase an exam. Your official transcript must be sent directly from your college of pharmacy to NABP (transcripts@nabp.pharmacy).

5. I received my authorization to test (ATT) for the MPJE and/or NAPLEX, but I cannot find an exam date near me! What can I do?

If you cannot find a testing location close to you, consider other testing centers in Illinois or surrounding states such as Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, or Michigan. If you cannot find a testing location with an open date within the next six weeks, contact CTS to ask about last-minute cancellations that you can take or additional availability.

- **CTS Contact Information:** (800) 359-1313; mkwak@continentaltesting.net
 - **Missy Kwak:** (708) 354-9911, Ext: 106
- **NABP Contact Information:** (847) 391-4406; help@nabp.pharmacy

6. How much should I budget for the entire licensing process?

New graduates should budget approximately \$1510 for the entire licensing process (as of April 2026).

- CTS application fee(s):** \$214 (\$107 for each exam)
- NABP eligibility application fee(s):** \$200 (\$100 for each exam)
- NABP NAPLEX examination fee(s):** \$520
- NABP MPJE examination fee(s):** \$170
- IDFPR licensing fee(s):** \$400



License Transfers

- i. **eLTP Application Fee(s):** \$300 per application
- i. **eLTP Transfer Fee(s):** \$100 per jurisdiction
- i. **NABP MPJE Examination Fee(s):** \$170
- i. **IDFPR Licensing Fee(s):** \$400

7. What happens after taking the exam?

According to CTS, official examination results are usually released within 7-10 business days following the exam. An Official Results Letter with instructions on how to apply for licensure will be mailed to you by CTS after the grades have been reviewed. Make sure your current mailing address and email address are up to date with CTS before taking your exam. If you do not receive this document within 7 days of seeing your passed results online, call CTS contact person Missy Kwak: (708) 354-9911, Ext: 106.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Pharmacy Practice Act (Section 1330.330(d) <https://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/068/068013300C03300R.html>), an applicant may be permitted to work as a registered pharmacist prior to the issuance of your pharmacist license upon receipt from the IDFPR that the examination requirement for licensure has been successfully completed. **Your organization may or may not allow this, so check with your RPD.**

- **License Variance for Temporary License:**
<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/forms/covid19/2024-pharmacy-variance.pdf>

8. How do I check the status of my application?

Application status is available online at www.continentaltesting.net/OnlineStatus/Login.aspx. You can check your status under Application Status and Test Results.

Once you have submitted your documents and payment to IDFPR, check your IDFPR Online Services Portal account for updates and issuance of the license. From there, you can download a PDF of the license to give to your RPD and employer. [eLicense Online](#)

9. What should I do if I fail the NAPLEX and/or MPJE examination?

- Notify your Residency Program Director immediately. DO NOT DELAY!
- NABP mandatory waiting period for retakes is 30 days for MPJE and 45 days for NAPLEX.
- You must reapply for the exam with CTS and pay their application fee(s).
- You must reapply for exam eligibility with NABP and pay the required fee(s).
- After eligibility is granted, purchase your exam(s) with NABP and pay the appropriate examination fee(s).
- Once you receive an ATT, schedule the exam(s) with Pearson Vue following the instructions provided as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT: Applicants are allowed three attempts to pass each exam (NAPLEX and MPJE) before remediation is required for additional attempts.

- **Example:** An applicant passes the NAPLEX on the second attempt but fails the MPJE three separate times. The applicant will be required to complete a remediation course prior to taking the MPJE again.



IL Board of Pharmacy must approve the remediation plan before you begin the remediation. You may contact the IDFPR Call Center at (800) 560-6420 to request a remediation packet or contact the Department in writing. Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Pharmacist Remediation, 320 W. Washington St. 3rd Floor, Springfield, Illinois, 62786.

10. What are some common reasons for licensure delays?

Several avoidable things can lead to delays in the licensure process. Some common examples are: your exact name does not match across all documents, address changes, lost mail (if sending documents via mail, ensure having a tracking receipt for delivery) and typos when filling out forms. Also, note the agency listed turnaround times so that you can plan accordingly.

11. I am experiencing licensure issues or experiencing a delay in the licensure process. What can I do?

For issues regarding licensure delays, please contact the IDFPR Licensing Assistance Unit at 1-800-560-6420 (option Health Service Professional Licensing #4). Alert your Residency Program Director if you encounter or anticipate any significant delays in licensure.

If you are contacting any agency for any issue, be sure to keep track of who you spoke with, date/time, and case number, if provided. This might be helpful for follow-up communications.

If you wish for your RPD or other designee to be able to inquire about the status of your application, you will need to complete and submit a Limited Power of Attorney form found here: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/forms/dpr/f2523.pdf>

12. What happens if I don't get licensed on-time?

Per ASHP Accreditation Standards for Postgraduate Pharmacy Residency Programs, residents are required to be licensed pharmacists prior to or within 120 days after the program start date. However, programs may choose a required licensure date that is sooner than 120 days. If resident is not licensed within the required time, the program may either extend the licensure timeframe or dismiss the resident from the program. **You should check your program's policies or with your RPD.**

Other consequences of delayed licensure include interruptions in staffing and/or on-call training, inability to take certain rotations (if licensure is required), and inability to participate in other residency-related commitments.

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