

# Perceptions of Pharmacy Educators Regarding the NAPLEX Pass Rate Puzzle

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## Background

NAPLEX pass rates have dropped from approximately 97% in 2012 to 78% in 2023

Current literature identifies non-modifiable factors associated with NAPLEX success

Can we identify modifiable factors for schools to consider when thinking about response to pass rates?



- Descriptive statistics
- Demographic data
- Pearson's chi-square or Fisher's exact test
- Categorical variables
- ANOVA with post-hoc test utilizing a Bonferroni correction factor
- Continuous variables

Further information and citations:



## Survey Structure

43 items  
6 question domains  
Likert scale (1-5)

**Pharmacy schools**

- Preparatory Programs
- Summative milestone examinations
- Curricular and pedagogical changes

**COVID-19 modifications**

- Online learning
- Online testing
- Online experiential learning
- Stress

**NAPLEX Testing**

- NAPLEX blueprint changes
- Delays in students being able to test
- Student choice to delay testing

**Standardized testing**

- SAT/ACT changes
- PCAT

**Applicant preparedness**

- Pre-pharmacy training
- Admission standards
- Student quality

**Students Factors**

- In-person class attendance
- Pharmacy work experience
- Technology utilization
- Study habits
- Critical thinking
- Memorization
- Priorities

## Survey Domains

## Results

726 Responses

Female (65%) White (79%)	Pharm.D. degree (80%) Residency training (58%)
Actively practicing as a licensed pharmacist (78%)	Southern United States (51%)

The recent decline in NAPLEX pass rates is a significant problem.  
Mean 3.67, SD 0.89 (scale: 1-5)

### Top 5 Influencing Factors

- Student Quality  
mean 4.07, SD 0.87
- Critical thinking skills  
mean 3.93, SD 0.94
- Pharmacy school admission standards  
mean 3.78, SD 1.08
- Online learning during COVID-19  
mean 3.67, SD 1.01
- Online experiential education  
mean 3.64, SD 1.06

### Bonferroni Comparison

- 15 questions with statistically significant differences
- Faculty vs. Mixed Clinical Faculty  
6 statistically significant differences
- Clinicians vs. Mixed Clinical Faculty  
7 statistically significant differences
- Faculty vs. Clinicians  
12 statistically significant differences

## Conclusions

Factors associated with the decline in pass rates are multifactorial.

Practice setting influences perception of influencing factors contributing to the decline in pass rates.