

# APPE UPDATE



*Skaggs School of Pharmacy and College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences*

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We are at the midpoint of the last fall semester rotation! I hope this finds all going well at your current site and I hope all of you have a very Happy Thanksgiving. It doesn't look like Missoula will have snow for Thanksgiving; hopefully, we can look forward to having a white Christmas!

Gayle A. Hudgins  
Director  
Experiential Education  
Pharmacy Practice



## WHY DO GRADS FAIL TO PASS NAPLEX?

Last week, we reviewed the problems students can encounter with the national licensing exams (NAPLEX and MPJE) such as lack of preparation, test anxiety, and inadequate knowledge base. However, other issues may also impact on a student's performance on the exams. Advice from recent grads about taking the exams include:

1. Don't travel the morning of the test. Most students taking the test in Montana will have to travel as the closest Prometric testing sites are in Spokane, Helena and Billings. Unless you live in or very near one of these cities, plan to travel to the testing site the night before and get

a good night's sleep. It may cost you the price of a motel room, but that is far less expensive than the salary lost while working as an intern for several more months if you don't pass the exam on the first try.

2. Avoid taking both the NAPLEX and the MPJE on the same day. While it is tempting to do so, especially if you have to travel to the testing site, most graduates felt pretty exhausted after NAPLEX, which is usually scheduled first. If you have to travel, scheduling the tests two days in a row is a good idea, even though it may involve an extra night's lodging.

3. Be familiar with the testing format, which is computerized, timed and uses a certain style of questions. Some of the pharmacy practice instructors use this style of questions on tests so that you are somewhat familiar with it. However, you can take the Pre-NAPLEX exam on the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy website at [www.nabp.net](http://www.nabp.net). It costs \$50 to take the 50 question computerized test, under conditions similar to that of the NAPLEX exam. Visit

the NABP website for more information.

4. Don't let your future employer pressure you into taking the exams at the first possible moment, whether you are ready or not. Don't commit to an employer for at least 6 weeks after graduation, allowing 8 weeks would be even better. It can easily take 6 weeks to complete the examination process, even under the best of circumstances. We tell students to allow 2 weeks for your application to go from the Board of Pharmacy to NABP to Chauncey Group International, who issues the authorization to test (ATT). After obtaining your ATT, it may take several weeks to schedule your test dates, and take the exams. You usually find out very quickly, in a matter of days, whether or not you passed, but it still takes the State Board some time to issue your license. Keep in mind that in May, there is huge onslaught of applications as most professional programs only graduate once a year in the spring. Pharmacy graduates are not the only ones using these testing sites as many professions have gone to computerized testing.

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### Inside News

<http://www.health.umn.edu/schools/practice/current/appe newsletters.htm>

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**WHY DO GRADS FAIL TO PASS NAPLEX.....**

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In the next newsletter, we will begin reviewing the study guides and review books that are available for preparing for the pharmacy licensing exams.

**ASHP MID-YEAR CLINICAL MEETING**

The ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida, December 7-11, 2008. This is an excellent meeting to attend, not only for the continuing education and exhibits, but for the chance to obtain information on residencies, visit with residency preceptors, interview for pharmacy positions and network with practitioners from all over the country.

Student registration fee before Nov 24th is \$200 member and \$250 non-member. Pre-meeting registration closes on November 24th. Rates may increase up to \$100 for on-site registration.

The ASHP Clinical Skills Competition was held this past spring. The winners, **Christina Craft and Amanda Pokorny**, will represent the school in the annual Clinical Skills Competition that will be held on December 6th and 7th.

The dean's office will pay a portion of the early member student registration fee upon presentation of a registration receipt after the

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**APPE CALENDAR**

<b>Nov</b>			<b>26th</b> Thanksgiving Holiday
<b>Dec</b>	<b>7-11th</b> ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, Orlando, Florida	<b>12th</b> End of the fourth fall rotation	

**ASHP RESIDENCIES**

The 2008 ASHP Residency Directory is now available on the ASHP web site. This is the compilation of all of the ASHP affiliated residency programs in the country.

Log onto the following websites to find the latest information on ASHP Residencies if you are interested in doing a residency next year or in the future:

<http://www.ashp.org/rtp/index.cfm>

or

<http://www.natmatch.com/ashprmp>

The following is a checklist for residency applicants that you will find in more detail on the web.

**November:**

- finalize CV and using the preliminary PPS listing, select the residency programs for possible Interviews;

**December:**

- attend the ASHP Mid-year Clinical Meeting in Orlando, FL, Dec 7-11, 2008;
- request letters of recommendation, remembering to enclose any forms required;

- complete all paperwork for applications, including ordering transcripts;
- schedule on-site interviews;

**January:**

- on-site interviews begin;
- submit application agreement form to the National Matching Service by January 9, 2009;

**February:**

- complete interviews and narrow residency choices to programs that best meet your professional and personal needs and goals;

**March:**

- submit Rank Order Form to be received by National Matching Service, March 6;
- receive "Match" outcome on or about March 18;
- unmatched candidates resubmit application to programs with positions remaining.

**July:**

- most residencies begin July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**HOLIDAY HOUR REQUIREMENT**

We have been operating so far with the understanding that a 4-week rotation contains 160 hours of practical experience and that a student could have one day each rotation where time missed would not have to be made up. That day can be used to make up for a holiday within the rotation, for illness, for doctor's or other appointments, for interviewing, etc. It must be used within that rotation and can not be saved up for use in another rotation under normal circumstances.

**Because of the Thanksgiving holiday during the fourth rotation, we are adding a second day that does not have to be made up in that 4-week period.** Thus, in late November/December, you can have up to two days in that rotation that don't have to be made up. **However, except in an emergency, you must notify your instructor in advance and arrange to make up any assignments or tasks missed.** Any time missed beyond those two days must be made up through arrangements with the instructor. If the amount of time missed is going to be more than can be made up easily, please contact me immediately so that we can discuss the situation and attempt to find a solution. Remember, you need to return with at least 144 hours in the fourth rotation.

**REGISTRATION FOR SPRING SEMESTER**

If you need to register for your remaining rotations for spring 2009, you have received your registration form, advising number and other registration information in a recent mailing.

Please review your APPE rota-

tion schedule and contact Gayle if you have any questions. Preregistration is done through Cyber Bear starting October 22 and registration/bills will be available on Cyber Bear after December 1. Your sched-

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## SECOND WEEK CHECKPOINT

Now is the time to look over **the APPE goals and objectives, and/or the inpatient/hospital, ambulatory care, or community pharmacy care guidelines**, in your manual to see what you have done so far, and to plan with your instructor what is to be covered in the remaining time in the rotation.

If you are in an elective rotation, your instructor should have completed the **preliminary (two week) evaluation** by the end of this week or early next week. This evaluation can be given to you to return to the school or can be mailed to me at the School of Pharmacy.

You should be completing your **Experiential Log**, recording your daily hours and transferring these hours weekly to the **Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Affidavit** where your instructor will sign them. At

the conclusion of the rotation, complete your evaluation of your experience and of your instructor. You will also need to have your instructor complete the next section of the **Evaluation Summary**, the form on heavy yellow paper.

You should also be compiling your **portfolio** (a collection of the materials that you develop during the P-4 year). You should maintain a pocket for each rotation and should place in it the required materials mentioned in the inpatient/hospital, ambulatory care, and community pharmacy rotation guidelines as well as any materials you might develop in elective activities. In the elective rotations, you and the instructor should establish the activities to be included in the rotation. You should then include representative examples of your work produced in those activities.

## ASHP MID-YEAR CLINICAL MEETING.....

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meeting. The exact amount of available funding will be determined by the dean's office in the near future.

If you are in rotation during the last fall rotation period, November 17th-December 12th, you will need to negotiate with your preceptor regarding the time you would miss going to the midyear meeting. In the past we have allowed students to count the time at

the meeting (but not travel days) as APPE hours, as long as all of the rotation requirements are met. For a registration form and more information, go to: [www.ashp.org/midyear08](http://www.ashp.org/midyear08)

If you have any questions about the ASHP meeting or residency programs, please contact Kendra Keely at [Kendra.keeley@umontana.edu](mailto:Kendra.keeley@umontana.edu)

## MIDPOINT EXIT INTERVIEWS

Each student has two "exit" interviews during the APPE year in the pharmacy program. One is done at the midpoint (after four or five months of rotations); the other is done at the end of the year over the second set of rotations. Depending on student location and schedule, the midpoint exit interview may be done as early as after three months of rotations or as late as six months. The midpoint meetings are a valuable part of the school's quality assurance program for the APPE year. It also provides an opportunity to turn in your evaluations and a sample of your portfolio materials, and to finalize your internship hours on your APPE Affidavit which eventually is sent to the Board of Pharmacy.

Midpoint exit interviews have begun; you will receive a memo, a survey to complete and bring in, and

a checklist of materials in your APPE file prior to our meeting.

In Missoula, I hold the midpoint exit interviews in my office, usually in the late afternoon when you can leave your current APPE site a little early. Students leaving Missoula for an extended period of time will meet with me before their departure. For students located outside Missoula, we will meet as I visit your community during the fall semester and early spring semester. In any event, I will let you know when you are due for a midpoint exit meeting so that we can schedule it.

Please remember that we do not use the traditional Board of Pharmacy Internship Program paperwork (Internship Experience Affidavit and Evaluation of Internship Site) in the APPE year. You need to be recording your hours daily on the Experiential Log and transferring them weekly to the APPE Affidavit where your preceptor of record will sign for each week's hours. Do not send any paperwork to the Board of Pharmacy, either before or after our midpoint exit meeting. All APPE hours are reported to the Board at the end of the APPE year, when all work is complete.

Questions? Call (243-6495) or e-mail ([gayle.hudgins@umontana.edu](mailto:gayle.hudgins@umontana.edu)) me!

## REGISTRATION FOR SPRING SEMESTER..

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ule/bill must be finalized by January 16 or your preregistration will be cancelled, and you will need to start over and pay a late fee of \$40. Late registration via Cyber Bear runs January 21 to January 30; registration must be finalized by midnight February 1 to avoid a \$40 late fee. Fee payment will be via Cyber Bear with any financial aid refund mailed to you. Final registration runs from February 2 through February 13 with a \$40 late fee.

## CPR AND IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

You need to keep the school current on the status of your **health insurance**. If your provider changes, send Karen a photocopy of your new ID card. You can FAX documentation to Karen at 406-243-4353 or it can be mailed to her attention at the School of Pharmacy.

**Your CPR must be renewed annually or biennially, depending upon the provider, and your PPD must be redone annually.** We will send you reminders but it is your responsibility to renew your requirements and forward the documentation to Karen. Failure to provide renewal documentation by the end of the month of expiration will result in loss of APPE hours until the documentation has been submitted. Karen maintains this documentation and has the list of APPE students posted on the bulletin board outside SB 323/324 showing when the CPR

and PPD expire. Student ID numbers are listed in place of the student name for the purpose of confidentiality. If you are outside Missoula and need to know this information, call Karen at 243-4226.

If you are outside Missoula, check with the hospital in which you are clerking for information on renewing both the CPR and the PPD. Another source of CPR certification would be the American Red Cross. The PPD can be done at public health departments or in any physician's office.

### DIS FALL HOURS:

Monday to Thursday  
7:00am-9:00pm

Friday  
7:00am-6:00pm

Saturday  
9:00am-6:00pm

Sunday  
12:00 pm-9:00 pm

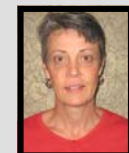
The DIS will be closed on holidays, and hours may change during Finals Week. Please check the hours posted on the doors.

For holiday access, check a key out from Shannon in the pharmacy practice office, SB316, during working hours. Keys must be returned on the next working day as there are only a limited number of keys available and others must have access.

**Dave Forbes,**  
Dean  
243-4621,  
SB 344



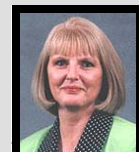
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## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**Remember that many sites require you to produce your CPR, PPD and Hep B series and titer documentation. You are to carry copies of these with you when starting a new rotation. Some sites require a copy of your MMR, too. Contact Curry Health Center if you do not have a copy of your MMR.**

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If you didn't make it to the 4th Annual Health Professions Career Fair on Oct 15, the 20th Annual Big Sky Career Fair will be held February 25, 2009. More details in a later APPE Update.

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**A reminder that APPE students should carry their Montana Board of Pharmacy internship license with them during the APPE year.** The inspector for the Board of Pharmacy visits Montana pharmacies and may ask to see your license. In order to avoid leaving the original license in one of your APPE sites, it's suggested that you photocopy

**Shannon Sivertsen**  
Pharmacy Practice  
Administrative Support  
243-4624, SB 316

your license if posting it, so that the original stays in your possession.

DIS/LSS will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26, and closed Thursday, November 27, through Sunday, November 30, for Thanksgiving. Keys are available on Wednesday, November 26, from Shannon SB 316 or Jenny, SB 340.

**"Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michaelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein."**

**...Life's Little Instruction Book, compiled by H. Jackson Brown, Jr.**