

1. **FPGEC**- the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee operates under the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). The first step in obtaining licensure as a pharmacist in California is to submit an application for the Foreign Pharmacist Graduate Equivalency Examination (FPGEE). The FPGEC will evaluate your transcripts, diploma, and license/registration from your country of origin. Your pharmacy education must have had at least a four year curriculum if you graduated before 2003 and a five year curriculum if you graduate after 2003. You can obtain an application by contacting the NABP-FPGEC at 700 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, Illinois 60668. Telephone: (847) 698-6227. Website- www.nabp.net.
2. **Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee Certification**- The certification program documents the equivalency of your foreign pharmacy education as well as your foreign license and/or registration. In order to obtain a certification, you must pass the FPGEE exam, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Test of spoken English (TSE). The English exams must be successfully completed within two years of passing the FPGEE. They can be taken either before or after the FPGEE. The cost for the Initial Application in 2003 is \$700. This includes the evaluation of your credentials and the fee for the FPGEE examination. If you fail the exam, you must submit a new application form and pay a fee of \$500 for the examination. Currently, certification is not required by the CA State Board of Pharmacy, however, you must pass the FPGEE and the TSE exam.
3. **California State Board of Pharmacy**- Once you have passed the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination, you can complete the Foreign Graduate Application for the California Board of Pharmacy. A fee of \$165 (in 2003) must accompany the application. If you are already FPGEC certified, the board will receive copies of your certified transcripts from FPGEC. If not, you must request that your school send transcripts directly to the board. You can also submit at this time the Application for Registration as an Intern Pharmacist. A fee of \$65 must accompany the application. If the board finds that your education does not meet the requirements, they will advise you of the number of units of collegiate study that you must complete to satisfy the requirement. The address for the board is 400 R Street, Suite 4070, Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone: (916) 445-5014. Website- www.pharmacy.ca.gov.
4. **Pharmacy Internship**- Once the board verifies the information from FPGEC, they will send you an intern permit at which time you can locate your own intern position and begin to accumulate the required 1,500 hours.
5. **California Pharmacist Licensure Examination**- You must have completed a minimum of 1,000 hours of your internship experience before taking the exam. The examination last 1 ½ days and includes essay and multiple choice questions. A review guide for the pharmacist examination can be downloaded from the board of pharmacy website at www.pharmacy.ca.gov. An “Application for Pharmacist Licensure Examination” must be completed and a fee of \$155 (in 2003) must accompany the application. After you complete all 1,500 hours of your internship, pass the licensure examination and submit the initial licensing fee of \$115 you will be licensed as a pharmacist in California.

NOTE: **Pharmacy Technician**: You may want to consider applying to the California Board of Pharmacy to become a Registered Pharmacy Technician. You can qualify as a pharmacy technician if you are certified by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board. To be certified you must pass a national exam. You can go to www.ptcb.org to learn more about the certification and examination process or contact them at (202) 429-7576. Becoming registered and working as a pharmacy technician while your pursue your pharmacy license can offer you valuable experience about the profession of pharmacist in the United States.

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