



## Ohio Pharmacist Licensure by Reciprocity

**Updated 3/8/2024**

This guidance document is intended to provide a comprehensive overview of obtaining an Ohio pharmacist license via reciprocity. Please review this document in its entirety.

### **Criteria for licensure by reciprocity:**

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has outlined the criteria for licensure as a pharmacist by reciprocity in [section 4729:1-2-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code, updated March 4, 2024](#).

These criteria include the following:

- An applicant seeking licensure as a pharmacist by reciprocity shall:
  - Be at least eighteen years of age.
  - Obtain a degree in pharmacy from a school of pharmacy approved by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy.
  - Have met the applicable practical experience requirements by either:
    - Successfully obtained a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) after December 31, 2006, or
    - Obtained a minimum total of 1,740 hours of documented supervised practical experience in Ohio or any other state or jurisdiction. If necessary, the Board may grant internship credit for practice as a pharmacist.
  - Hold an active license or registration to practice pharmacy, which is in good standing, in another state or jurisdiction.
  - *If the applicant is a foreign pharmacy graduate, they shall obtain a Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC) Certification as well as demonstrate proficiency in English by successfully completing the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT).*

### **Application requirements and steps to obtain a pharmacist license by reciprocity in Ohio:**

- 1. Submit a license transfer application to NABP through the electronic license transfer program (eLTP) via your [NABP e-profile](#).** Account creation instructions can be found on [NABP's website here](#). The eLTP application has a required fee of \$300 and

\$100 for additional states paid to NABP. Once your application is successfully processed, NABP electronically submits your application to the applicable board(s) of pharmacy for evaluation.

- 2. Submit an application for a pharmacist license to the Ohio Board of Pharmacy via eLicense Ohio.** Indicate the application type as Reciprocity. The reciprocity application has a required fee of \$337.50 and eLicense transaction fee of \$3.50 paid to the Board. Acceptable forms of payment include Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

The application must be submitted electronically via eLicense Ohio; paper applications will not be accepted. If you do not have an eLicense Ohio account, you will need to create one. Step-by-step instructions for account registration can be found on the Board's website [here](#). For assistance with account registration and password resets, please contact the eLicense Ohio Customer Support Center at 855-405-5514, Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.

**NOTE: An applicant's eLTP application submitted to NABP will not be reviewed until the reciprocity application and payment are received to the Board.**

- 3. Submit fingerprints for Ohio BCI&I and FBI criminal records checks.** Applicants can choose to submit their fingerprints one of two ways:
  - (1) In person at a WebCheck agency, or
  - (2) Manual inked fingerprint impressions mailed directly to Ohio BCI.

The [Criminal Records Check Information guidance document](#) provides more information and guidance on how to obtain the correct background checks.

Please be advised that the Board must receive your background check results within six (6) months from the date the application was submitted and before we can issue a license. The results of any previous background checks completed as part of your academic program or employment are not applicable.

It is strongly recommended that fingerprints be submitted the day of or prior to attendance at a reciprocity hearing (step #4).

Once an applicant attends a reciprocity hearing and background check results are received and reviewed, the applicant will be issued a license. Notification will be sent via email. An official wall certificate will be sent by mail approximately six to eight weeks after licensure is awarded.

- 4. Attend a virtual reciprocity hearing within six (6) months.** Once an application is complete and the applicant qualifies for licensure, the applicant will receive

notification to appear at an upcoming reciprocity hearing. Reciprocity hearings are offered during each regularly scheduled Board meeting. A full schedule can be found [here](#). **Please note, reciprocity hearings are presented virtually on the Tuesday of the monthly Board Meeting at 1 pm.**

**NOTICE TO VETERANS, ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND MILITARY SPOUSES:** This requirement does not apply to veterans, active-duty military personnel, and military spouses. For more information on veteran pathways to licensure, please visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PharmVet](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PharmVet) .

*Candidates who do not attend a reciprocity hearing within the six-month period must file a new application and fee for licensure by reciprocity, as the original application shall be deemed abandoned.*

*NOTE: The Board will soon implement a course that includes a scored evaluation to take the place of a monthly reciprocity hearing. This guidance and reciprocity candidates will be updated when the course is available.*

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q1) Will I be required to take the Ohio MPJE?**

A1) Effective March 4, 2024, any reciprocal applicant who has not successfully passed any state or jurisdiction's MPJE or an approved state law examination will be required to take the Ohio MPJE in lieu of completing the reciprocity course/hearing. Approved state law examinations are Arkansas, California, and Puerto Rico.

Applicants must register for the Ohio MPJE via their NABP e-Profile and pay the required fees. Applicants will be given one year of eligibility to take and pass the exam. If after one year, an applicant has not successfully passed the Ohio MPJE, the application will be abandoned, and the application fee forfeited.

### **Q2) What if I am unable to attend a virtual reciprocity hearing within six months of my application to the Board?**

A2) Your application will be abandoned and fee forfeited. You must reapply for licensure by reciprocity via eLicense Ohio and pay the required fee.

### **Q3) Do I have to hold a license or registration to practice pharmacy in another state for any period of time before I can apply for reciprocity to Ohio?**

A3) No, Ohio regulations do not have a "waiting period" before a pharmacist can apply for reciprocity.

**Q4) I am a recent graduate from a school of pharmacy and have applied to transfer my NAPLEX score to Ohio, do I have to also complete the license transfer application (eLTP) with NABP?**

A4) No, graduates who have requested a NAPLEX score transfer do not need to complete the eLTP application. Instead, the graduate shall take the Ohio MPJE exam. eLTP is only suitable for those pharmacists with an existing license.

**Q5) I have just recently submitted both my eLTP application and my reciprocity application to the Board and have not yet heard from the Board about attending a hearing. Can I attend an upcoming hearing?**

A5) Reciprocity hearings are open to the public, meaning anyone can attend. We do strongly encourage you to contact the Board's Licensing Department at [licensing@pharmacy.ohio.gov](mailto:licensing@pharmacy.ohio.gov) to indicate you will be attending the hearing. If possible, your application will be reviewed prior to the upcoming hearing date.

**Q6) I have completed all of the requirements but have not yet received my license, can I practice pharmacy in Ohio while my application is still "In Review"?**

A6) No, you may not practice as a pharmacist in Ohio unless you hold a current, active Ohio pharmacist license to practice. It is a misdemeanor of the third degree to practice pharmacy in Ohio without a current Ohio license. A monetary penalty of \$500.00 may be imposed by the Board for each day of practice without a license, and a person may also be imprisoned for not more than sixty days for each day's violation.

## **Contact Information**

- **NABP Customer Service**  
<https://nabp.pharmacy>  
Monday-Friday, 10 am to 6 pm ET  
847-391-4406  
[help@nabp.pharmacy](mailto:help@nabp.pharmacy)
- **State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy**  
[www.pharmacy.ohio.gov](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov)  
Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm ET  
614-466-4143  
[licensing@pharmacy.ohio.gov](mailto:licensing@pharmacy.ohio.gov)
- **eLicense Ohio Customer Support Center**  
Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm ET  
855-405-5514