NAPLEX Content-Area Scores: Reference Information

The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX®) is scored using an item response theory model. The model uses characteristics of the test questions and the candidate's pattern of correct and incorrect responses to calculate a true score (also called "theta") on the ability continuum. Each theta score is transformed to a scaled score, which is reported to candidates and other stakeholders. Overall NAPLEX scaled scores range from 0 to 150 and are rounded to the nearest integer for the official score record. Candidates must achieve a score of 75 or greater to pass the NAPLEX.

All test questions on the NAPLEX map to two primary content areas:

- **Area 1** – Ensure Safe and Effective Pharmacotherapy and Health Outcomes, and
- **Area 2** – Safe and Accurate Preparation, Compounding, Dispensing, and Administration of Medications and Provision of Health Care Products.

Scores are generated for each of the two content areas. Performance on all test questions within each area is used to compute a theta score for that content area. Each content area theta score is then transformed to a scaled score for reporting purposes. NAPLEX content area scaled scores range from 6 to 18, with 6 being the lowest score attainable in either area and 18 being the highest score. Content area scores are reported to candidates when they do not pass the NAPLEX. The table below is included in the score report for these candidates.

Table 1: *Average Area 1 and Area 2 Scores at Various Intervals on the Overall (Total) Score Range*

Comparison Information		
Total Scaled Score Range	**Area 1**	**Area 2**
0-24	8	7
25-49	9	9
50-74	11	11
75-99	12	12
100-124	13	13
125-150	15	15
This table shows average area scores for candidates who scored within the specified total score ranges. Data in this table reflects average area scores for all candidates testing between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016. Only the total scaled score is considered when determining candidates' NAPLEX Pass/Fail status. However, the area score information may be useful in future efforts to prepare for the NAPLEX.		

This table indicates, for example, that both Area 1 and Area 2 scaled scores average 12 points among all candidates who passed the NAPLEX with a narrow margin (those with an overall score between 75 and 99). Average content area scaled scores are very similar between Area 1 and Area 2; however, a candidate's scores in each area may not always be similar. Differences between a candidate's content area scores indicate areas of relative strength or weakness. For example, a candidate who failed the NAPLEX could have an Area 1 score of 9 (the average Area 1 score for candidates with a low overall exam score) and an Area 2 score of 13 (the average Area 2 score for candidates who passed the exam with a high overall score). Such a test result indicates that the candidate should focus study efforts on content from Area 1. More details regarding the content covered within Area 1 and Area 2 can be found in the *NAPLEX/MPJE Candidate Registration Bulletin* in the NAPLEX Competency Statements section.

The table above is for informational purposes only. **Specific area scores do not ensure receiving the corresponding overall score.**