



# NAPLEX Advantage™

## Results Interpretation Guide



## **NAPLEX Advantage Results Interpretation Guide | 2023-2024**

### **Mission Statement of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy**

NABP is the independent, international, and impartial Association that assists its member boards in protecting public health.

### **Vision Statement**

Innovating and collaborating today for a safer public health tomorrow.

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## What is the NAPLEX Advantage?

By providing an exam-day-like experience as well as enhanced performance reports to guide study plans, the NAPLEX Advantage™ enables schools and colleges of pharmacy to both assess the readiness of and help students prepare for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX®).

- **Exam-Day Experience:** The NAPLEX Advantage practice exam is designed to be delivered on the school campus in a closed, secure testing environment.
- **Unique Practice Exam:** The NAPLEX Advantage practice exam is designed to be similar to the NAPLEX in administration method, content, and scoring, and includes practice exam questions unique to the service. Students will not encounter these questions if purchasing a Pre-NAPLEX® to complete on their own time.
- **Performance Data:** Each respective student who completes the NAPLEX Advantage practice exam at your school will receive an individual. Schools receive the individual reports and also receive a summary report that includes data for each cohort of students that sit for the NAPLEX Advantage practice exam. The report includes summaries of data by average scaled scores, expected graduation dates, and competency areas, and data sets include state and national data across the same metrics for comparison and context. A sample College of Pharmacy Summary Report is available on the NABP website.

### Contact Information

Schools and colleges of pharmacy with questions regarding score reporting or interpretation of their NAPLEX Advantage Summary Report may contact the NABP Competency Assessment department by sending an email to

[Advantage@nabp.pharmacy](mailto:Advantage@nabp.pharmacy).

### Where do the practice exam items (questions) originate?

The NAPLEX Advantage practice exam delivered to students is unique to the NAPLEX Advantage service. All items appearing on the NAPLEX Advantage practice exam were previously utilized on past NAPLEX iterations and are not included in any stand-alone



Pre-NAPLEX exams. This ensures test items remain fresh and relevant, delivering a valuable practice experience to help prepare for the actual NAPLEX.

### Can students ‘Pass’ or ‘Fail’?

Although the NAPLEX Advantage practice exam is considered a low-stakes exam, the service is designed to provide an experience that is similar to sitting for a high-stakes exam such as the NAPLEX. This is also reflected in the results students receive. Individual-level performance reports include a scaled score, a pass or fail result, and a breakdown of performance levels in each competency area based on the [NAPLEX Competency Statements](#).

### How are results determined, and what do the outcomes mean?

Just like the NAPLEX, NAPLEX Advantage practice exam results are scored using an item response theory model. This model uses characteristics of the test questions and the candidate’s correct and incorrect responses to calculate a “true score.” These scores are converted into a scaled score relative to a passing threshold (which is assigned a score of 75). It is important to understand that scaled scores are neither percentiles nor percentages of correctly answered items. Candidates who meet or exceed this threshold receive a pass result (75-150). Those below this threshold receive a fail result (0-74).

Candidate-level results also include a breakdown of performance levels in each of the six [NAPLEX competency areas](#). These performance level descriptors (PLDs) are:

- **Level 1:** Far below minimum competency threshold.
- **Level 2:** Does not meet minimum competency threshold.
- **Level 3:** Meets minimum competency threshold.
- **Level 4:** Exceeds minimum competency threshold.



## What NAPLEX Advantage practice exam data are provided to the schools (and what is excluded)?

Schools participating in the NAPLEX Advantage practice exam receive access to two types of reports. First, they receive the same individual Candidate Performance Report that their students receive. Second, the school receives a summary-level report called the NAPLEX Advantage Summary Report. Examples of both types of reports are provided on the [NABP website](#).

### Candidate Performance Report

Individual reports contain the following:

- **Candidate Information** provides basic information about the student, including their name, address, date of birth, NABP e-Profile® ID, college, and campus.
- **Examination Information** includes the student's scaled score (0-150) and the result (PASS or FAIL), as well as the Exam ID and date.
- **Performance Results by Competency Area** lists the six NAPLEX competency areas and provides an assessment of the student's relative performance in each, as represented by one of four performance levels defined above.

### Summary Report

Summary reports provided to schools contain the following:

- **Background** explains the report, including the number of students who received a scaled score. Students who do not receive a scaled score (typically the result of technical issues during the examination or the student failing to agree to the non-disclosure agreement) are excluded from the report. For summary reports, your school's results are included in all state and national data presented.



- **Results for Overall Scaled Scores** are presented in two tables.
  - **Table 1** lists the total number of scored exams, the average scaled score, and the number of scores that reached or exceeded the passing threshold at the school (by campus, if applicable), state, and national levels.
  - **Table 2** provides a breakdown of the average scaled score for students at your school, in your state, and at the national level by their expected graduation year.
- **Distribution of Scaled Scores** are provided in two figures.
  - **Figure 1** is a series of line graphs representing the distribution of scaled scores at the school, state, and national levels. A solid red line indicates the passing standard threshold.
  - **Figure 2** is a matrix of line graphs representing the distribution of scaled scores for students at the school, state, and national levels, broken down by expected graduation year.
- **Results for Competency Area Scaled Scores** include three tables and two figures.
  - **Table 3** describes each area and the approximate percentage of exam questions classified to each area.
  - **Table 4** shows the average scaled score in each competency area for students at the school, state, and national levels.
  - **Figure 3** is a matrix of box plots that display the average scaled scores, the upper and lower quartiles of scores, and the values of scores outside the interquartile ranges for each competency area for students at the school, state, and national levels.
  - **Table 5** lists the average scaled score in each competency area for students from your school, state, and nationally, broken down by expected graduation year.
  - **Figure 4** is a matrix of graphs that display the average scaled scores, the upper and lower quartiles of the scores, and the values of scores outside the interquartile ranges for each competency area for students at the school, state, and national levels.



- **Competency Area PLD Results** are listed in two tables.
  - **Table 6** provides the number of students in each competency area who achieved each PLD at the school, state, and national levels.
  - **Table 7** shows the number and percentage of students in each competency area who achieved each PLD by expected graduation year at the school, state, and national levels.
- **Competency Sub-Area Results** include two tables.
  - **Table 8** lists the proportion of students answering questions correctly in each competency sub-area at the school level. Some competency sub-areas may not be addressed on an exam; those sub-areas that do not have questions classified to them are not included in the table. In competency sub-areas where multiple questions were classified, the proportion reported is cumulative across all of them. Because each exam asks different questions and the number and difficulty related to each sub-area may vary, inferences about overall scores should not be made using these results. The results are provided only as a general indicator of sub-area performance.
  - **Table 9** lists the proportion of all students answering questions correctly in each competency sub-area at the national level.





## How can schools use the results?

Multiple administrations throughout a student's academic career can be used to track progress. For example, P1 and P2 scores are likely to have a lower average score compared to P3 and P4 students, but repeated administration at each level may help schools and students to track their progress in each competency area as students progress through the curriculum at their college.

NAPLEX Advantage practice exam results, including a scaled score and breakdown of competency areas, are provided to students who receive both PASS and FAIL results. This is more feedback than students receive when taking the NAPLEX (competency area breakdowns are only provided for students who receive a FAIL result after taking the NAPLEX).

It should be emphasized that students who receive a PASS result on the NAPLEX Advantage practice exam are not guaranteed to receive a similar result when taking the NAPLEX, but the results do help to indicate if the student is prepared. Further, the competency area performance reports can be used to help students and educators identify where efforts can be best directed while preparing and studying for the NAPLEX.

The sub-area breakdown of results provided to schools in the summary report can be used by educators to further identify potential gaps in a P-level's competency.



## What makes NAPLEX Advantage score reports different from other score reports from NABP?

While score reports from the NAPLEX Advantage practice exam, the Pre-NAPLEX, and the NAPLEX may look similar, there are a few key differences. Currently, NAPLEX Advantage is the only one of these services that provides a competency area performance report for all candidates regardless of a PASS or FAIL result.

While the Pre-NAPLEX remains an affordable and valuable resource to help students prepare for the NAPLEX, its results do not include a competency area performance report. Similarly, students who receive a PASS result on the NAPLEX will not receive a competency area performance report. The [Pre-NAPLEX](#) can still be utilized by students for further practice after participating in the NAPLEX Advantage at their school.

All NAPLEX Advantage test items have been previously used in the NAPLEX and are still relevant to current pharmacy practice. This means they are a close representation of what students can expect in the high-stakes examination. However, results on the NAPLEX Advantage practice exam do not necessarily reflect what a candidate can expect as a result when they take the NAPLEX. While scores are calculated similarly, each examination is a unique experience and may contain a different number of questions at varying difficulties related to different competency sub-areas as described in Tables 8 and 9 above.