



**California State Board of Pharmacy**



# Validation of State and National Examination Programs

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- **Who is OPES?**
  - Regulations, Technical Standards, and Professional Guidelines
  - OPES Clients
  - Purpose of Licensure Examinations
- **State and National Examination Review**
  - Results
- **OPES Services Provided to CA State Board of Pharmacy**
- **Questions**

# Presentation Topics

The Office of Professional Examination Services provides:

Professional consulting services in examination validation and development to DCA's boards, bureaus, and committees

Recommendations based on regulations, professional guidelines, and technical standards related to licensure examinations

# OPES Clients

## Boards

- Accountancy
- Acupuncture
- Architects
- Barbering and Cosmetology
- Behavioral Sciences
- Chiropractors
- Contractors
- Court Reporters
- Dental
- Dental Hygiene
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Psychology
- Registered Nursing
- Speech-language Pathology
- Audiology Hearing Aid Dispensers
- Structural Pest Control
- Veterinary Medicine
- Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

## Bureaus

- Automotive Repair
- Cemetery and Funeral
- Household Goods and Services
- Professional Fiduciaries
- Security and Investigative Services

## Committees

- Landscape Architects
- Naturopathic Medicine
- Registered Dental Assistants

## External

- CA State Bar
- Nursing Home Administrators

# Regulations, Standards, and Guidelines Followed

**Business and Professions Code Section 139**

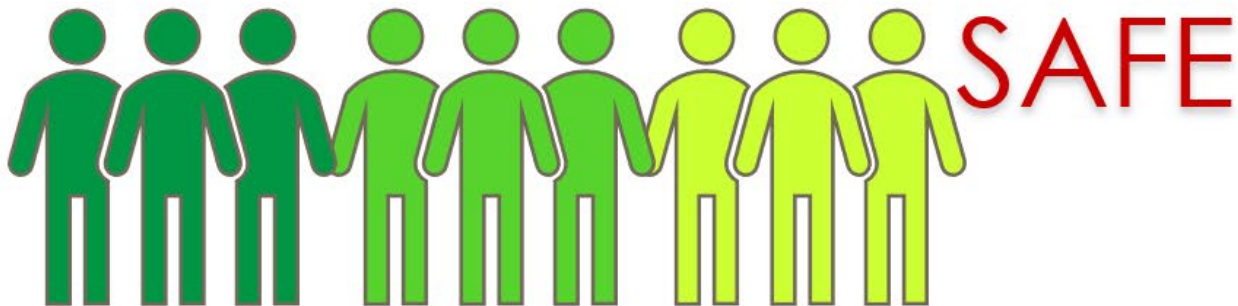
**Principles for the Validation and Use of Personnel Selection Procedures** (Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology)

**Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing** (American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, National Council on Measurement in Education)

# Licensure Examinations

Must provide a reliable method for identifying practitioners who are able to practice safely and competently

Focus on **entry-level** tasks and knowledge important for **public protection**



# Business and Professions Code section 139 Requirements for National Examination Reviews

Must meet psychometric and legal standards

California practitioners must be represented

Must be reviewed for California content

# Review of National Examinations (three parts)



Psychometric  
Evaluation



SMEs compare  
national OA  
to California  
OA



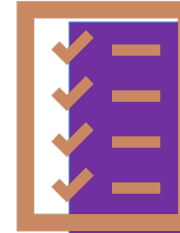
Identification  
of any critical  
entry level  
content that is  
not assessed



# Psychometric Evaluation



Evaluate occupational  
analysis



Review procedures for  
developing examination



Review procedures for  
establishing passing  
scores



Review examination  
scoring and passing  
rates



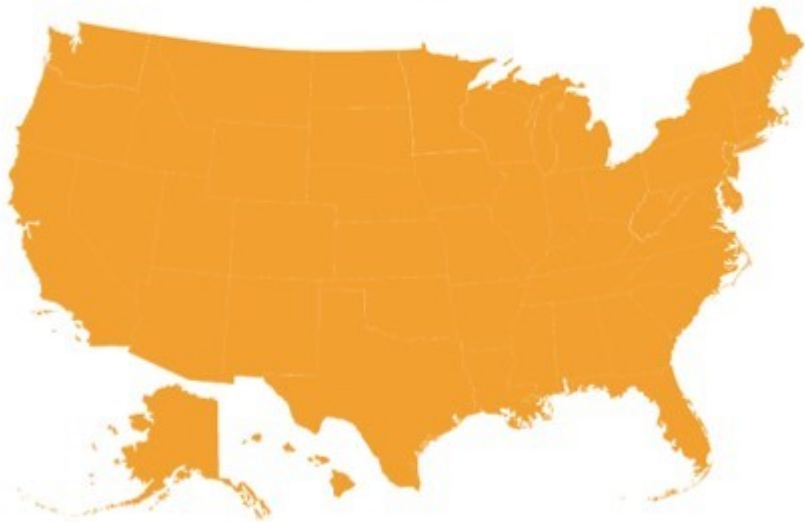
Review administration  
and security  
procedures



Review information  
available to candidates

# SMEs Compare National OA to CA OA

National examinations test core, mainstream practice.



**FULL PRACTICE**

California examinations test what is unique about practice in the state.

- **Geology**
- **Weather**
- **California health and safety laws**
- **California-specific practice areas**



# Recommendations Based on Results of OA and National Review



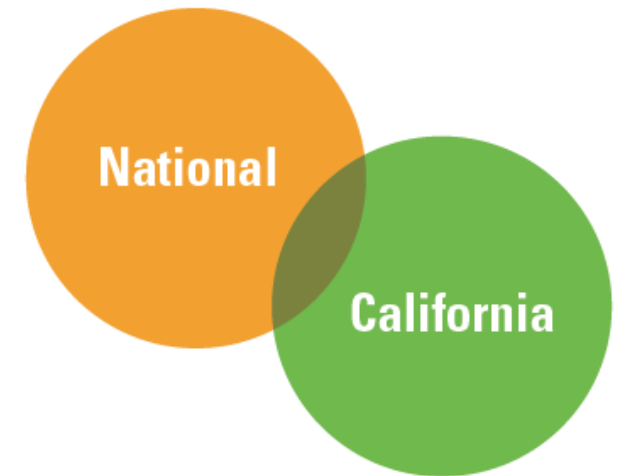
## **OPES recommendation:**

- National examination
- California law examination



## **OPES recommendation:**

- National examination
- California-specific law and practice examination



## **OPES recommendation:**

- California examination

# Recommendations for NAPB

1. Follow psychometric guidelines applicable to survey methods when developing “competency” statements that are to be used as survey items.
2. Phase out the service of faculty members and educators in the NAPLEX examination development and standard setting processes in order to minimize conflict of interest and improve test security.
3. Provide evidence to validate the decision to continue using the current passing standard for NAPLEX forms.

# Recommendations for CPJE

1. Continue to include large and diverse groups of practicing pharmacists as subject matter experts (SMEs) during all stages of examination validation—to the extent possible given examination security.
2. Rotate SMEs and regularly include new SMEs in the OA, examination development, and standard setting process—to the extent possible given examination security.
3. Work with SMEs to develop knowledge statements for the CPJE content outline to further delineate the California-specific knowledge required for safe and effective performance of the tasks.
4. Monitor different pass rates of the same candidates on the CPJE and the NAPLEX over time to evaluate changes made in response to OPES' review and other mitigating factors.

# OPES Services Provided to the CA State Board of Pharmacy

General consulting services

Oversight of the DCA's master contract for computer-based testing, including a quality assurance program

Audit of state and national examination programs

Thank you!

Any  
questions?