

EXAM MASTER CORPORATION

Didactic/Pharmacy Curriculum Outcome Assessment (PCOA) Exams

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Exam Master's updated PCOA Benchmark Exam Version 4 is organized based on the NABP's blueprint for the actual PCOA. Table 1 displays the number of test items for each of the content areas, weighted similarly to the actual blueprint.

Table 1: PCOA Benchmark Exam Topic Breakdown v4

Content Area – PCOA Version 4	Number of Questions
Basic Biomedical Sciences	23
Physiology	12
Biochemistry	6
Microbiology	2
Immunology	3
Pharmaceutical Sciences	74
Medicinal Chemistry	24
Pharmacology & Toxicology	15
Pharmacognosy	6
Pharmaceutics	5
Pharmacokinetics	8
Pharmacogenomics/Genetics	4
Compounding	12
Social/Behavioral/Administrative Sciences	50
Health Care Delivery Systems	4
Population-Based Care	3
Economic/Humanistic Outcomes	1
Pharmacy Practice Management	10
Pharmacy Law	4
Biostatistics/Research Design	5
Ethical Decision Making	1
Professional Communication	6
Social/Behavioral Aspects	11
Medication Dispensing	5
Clinical Sciences	78
Evidence-Based Practice	11
Clinical Pathophysiology	3
Clinical Pharmacokinetics	7
Clinical Pharmacogenomics	4
Disease Prevention	7
Patient Assessment	26
Clinical Pharmacology	20
Total Questions	225

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the number of questions in the PCOA Benchmark Exam by Bloom's Taxonomy cognitive levels. Many items are designed to test examinees' ability to apply their basic science knowledge to pharmaceutical, social, behavioral, administrative, and clinical science scenarios.

Table 2: Cognitive Breakdown of PCOA Benchmark Exam v4

Cognitive Level – PCOA Version 4	%	Number of Questions
Knowledge	28%	63
Comprehension	26%	58
Application	37%	84
Analysis	9%	20

Pre-Built Didactic/PCOA Exams

Exam Master also has developed four additional pre-built Didactic/PCOA exams that can be used to help identify individual student and/or cohort weaknesses in the following specific topical areas: Basic Biomedical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, and Social/Behavioral/Administrative Sciences.

All questions in the Didactic/PCOA Question Bank and Exams contain detailed explanations and rationales. The following Tables (3 to 6) provide the topic and cognitive level breakdown for each Didactic/PCOA exam with question counts.

Table 3: Basic Biomedical Sciences Exam Subject & Cognitive Level Breakdown

Basic Biomedical Sciences	
Subject	Number of Questions
Physiology	23
Microbiology Related to Human Disease	5
Immunology	8
Biochemistry	14
Subject Total	50
Cognitive Level	Number of Questions
Knowledge	19
Comprehension	21
Application	9
Analysis	1
Cognitive Level Total	50

Table 4: Pharmaceutical Sciences Exam Subject & Cognitive Level Breakdown

Pharmaceutical Sciences	
Subject	Number of Questions
Pharmacokinetics	5
Pharmacognosy and Alternative and Complementary Treatments	6
Pharmacology and Toxicology	11
Sterile and Nonsterile Compounding	8
Pharmacogenomics and Genetics	3
Medicinal Chemistry	9
Pharmaceutics/Biopharmaceutics	8
Subject Total	50
Cognitive Level	Number of Questions
Knowledge	17
Comprehension	16
Application	13
Analysis	2
Synthesis	1
Evaluation	1
Cognitive Level Total	50

Table 5: Clinical Sciences Exam Subject & Cognitive Level Breakdown

Clinical Sciences	
Subject	Number of Questions
Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutic Decision Making	13
Disease Prevention and Population Health	6
Evidence-Based Practice	11
Patient Assessment	12
Clinical Pharmacokinetics	4
Clinical Pathophysiology	2
Clinical Pharmacogenomics	2
Subject Total	50
Cognitive Level	Number of Questions
Knowledge	16
Comprehension	7
Application	19
Analysis	6
Synthesis	0
Evaluation	2
Cognitive Level Total	50

Table 6: Social/Behavioral/Administrative Sciences Exam Subject & Cognitive Level Breakdown

Social/Behavioral/Administrative Sciences	
Subject	Number of Questions
Social and Behavioral Aspects Encountered in Practice	5
Medication Dispensing and Distribution Systems	3
Health Care Delivery Systems and Public Health	8
Population-Based Care and Pharmacoepidemiology	4
Pharmacy Law and Regulatory Affairs	6
Professional Communication	4
Ethical Decision Making	2
Biostatistics and Research Design	4
Pharmacy Practice Management	12
Economic and Humanistic Outcomes of Health Care Delivery	2
Subject Total	50
Cognitive Level	Number of Questions
Knowledge	20
Comprehension	12
Application	15
Analysis	2
Synthesis	0
Evaluation	1
Cognitive Level Total	50

After students take any of these four 50-Question topical exams or the 225-Question PCOA Benchmark Exam and weaknesses are identified, a Didactic/Pharmacy Curriculum Outcome Assessment (PCOA) question bank of over 650 questions can be used for additional remediation. Questions can be reviewed in study and learning modes. All questions contain detailed explanations and rationales and have been carefully reviewed and vetted by pharmacy educators.

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Note: Exam Master has no affiliation with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and this resource is not endorsed by the NABP.