



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR PHARMACY BOARD

Policy

Practice Experience Requirements for Registration as a Pharmacist (Canadian Graduates)

Amended June 7, 2009

Introduction

The "Studentship Program" (as referred to in the *Pharmacy Regulations*) consists of a total of 44 weeks, broken down into two components that meet the needs of both the Memorial University School of Pharmacy and the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board:

- **24 weeks** of Structured Practice Experience (SPE) required by the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree program at Memorial University School of Pharmacy and supervised by the School of Pharmacy.
- **20 additional weeks** of pharmacy practice experience required by the Pharmacy Board for registration purposes and supervised by the Board. These 20 additional weeks **may be served in blocks of no less than 4 weeks and no more than 8 weeks** (where a week is a minimum of 35 working hours on average) and are further divided into:
 - **12 weeks Supervised Studentship** served during the summers after the 1st, 2nd or 3rd year of the pharmacy program, which is intended to familiarize the pharmacy student with actual day-to-day practice of pharmacy at a level appropriate to their competency.
 - **8 weeks Supervised Final Internship** served after successful completion of the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree requirements, and pending certification of the pharmacy graduate by the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada. This Internship is *intended as a period during which the newly graduated pharmacy student assumes the role of independent practice, under the supervision and mentorship of a preceptor. It is expected that the preceptor, while supervising the intern, will encourage the intern to assume all the roles of a pharmacist in preparation for independent practice.*

For the most part, the requirements for both components of the Studentship Program are consistent. However, there are areas where the Pharmacy Board has adopted policies with respect to the 20 additional weeks of practice experience that vary from those of the School of Pharmacy SPE program. For clarity, when the requirements of each component differ, those differences are clearly pointed out.

*Note: This document was approved by the Council of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association on November 28, 2004. As a result of amendments to the **Pharmaceutical Association Act, 1994**, which came into effect December 16, 2004, the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association became the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board. References in the regulations to the "Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association" should now be read as "Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board", references to the "Joint Studentship Committee" should now be read as "Joint Committee on Structured Practice Experience", and references to the "Council" or the "Association" should be read as the "Board".*

The Pharmacy Board expects that, after completion of the Studentship Program, the newly registered pharmacist should be able to meet the competencies set out in the NLPB *Standards of Pharmacy Practice - Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists* (initially developed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA), and adopted by the Pharmacy Board). These Standards are available on the NLPB website on the Standards, Policies & Guidelines page.

Practice Experience Requirements for Registration as a Pharmacist in Newfoundland and Labrador:

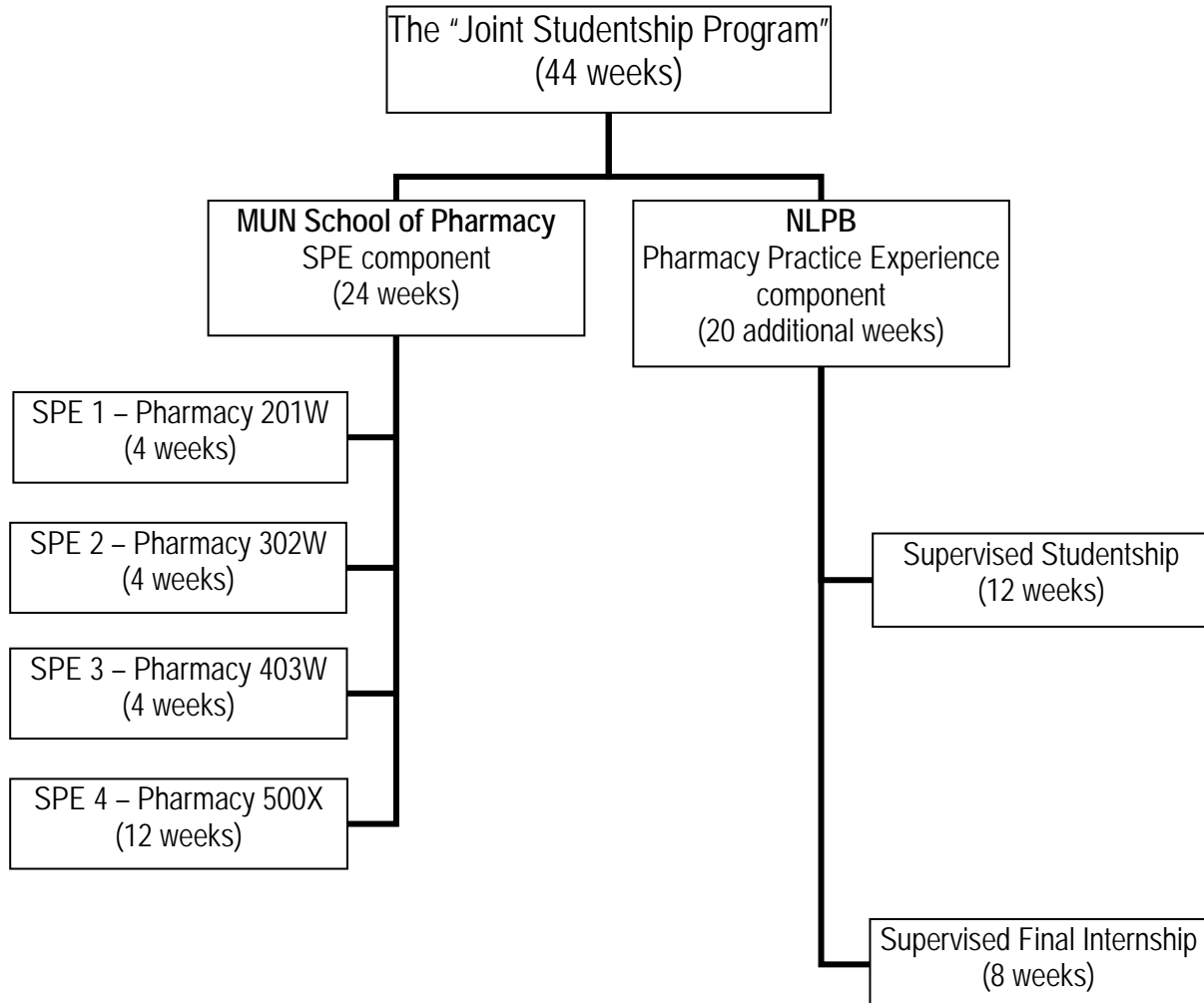
- 1) All students participating in the Studentship Program must be enrolled in the pharmacy program of Memorial University of Newfoundland or another pharmacy program recognized by the Board.
- 2) All students and interns participating in the Studentship Program must be registered with the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board as a Pharmacy Student / Intern.
- 3) Structured Practice Experience (SPE) completed at other accredited Schools of Pharmacy in Canada will be recognized by the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board towards the total of 44 weeks Pharmacy Practice Experience required for registration as a pharmacist.
- 4) Students and interns are responsible for finding their own sites and preceptors for the Supervised Studentship and Final Internship periods. (Note: This differs from the School of Pharmacy requirements.)
- 5) Contractual relationships and familial relationships prohibited under the SPE regulations are not prohibited during the Supervised Studentship and Final Internship periods. (Note: This differs from the School of Pharmacy requirements.)
- 6) Students and interns must submit the required Preceptor Acceptance Form (available on the Registration & Licensing page of the NLPB website) to the Pharmacy Board office for approval **AT LEAST ONE WEEK** prior to commencing their Supervised Studentship and Final Internship periods.
- 7) Students and interns may complete more than one period of Supervised Studentship or the Final Internship at the same pharmacy, or under the same preceptor. (Note: This differs from the School of Pharmacy requirements.)
- 8) The student or intern and preceptor must comply with all legislation, regulations and standards of practice governing the practice of pharmacy during the Supervised Studentship and Final Internship periods.
- 9) The Supervised Studentship and Final Internship periods will normally be served in a pharmacy with opportunity for direct patient care (either a community or institutional setting). A Supervised Studentship or Final Internship period may only be served in a non-patient care setting with the approval of the Joint Committee on Structured Practice Experience.
- 10) There is no requirement, or prohibition on payment to students and interns during the Supervised Studentship or Final Internship periods. (Note: This differs from the School of Pharmacy requirements.)
- 11) An evaluation of the student or intern, including a certificate of completion, will be required from the preceptor at the end of each Supervised Studentship period and Final Internship period.
- 12) No portion of the Supervised Studentship or Final Internship periods may be served during the academic year.

- 13) No time off for vacation can be counted as part of the Supervised Studentship or Final Internship periods.

Preceptor Criteria:

- 1) The preceptor must have been registered with the Board for a minimum of 21 months and have acceptable experience. (Exemptions to this requirement may be granted).
- 2) The preceptor must normally have a minimum of three months "on site" experience, to provide adequate familiarity with systems and patients.
- 3) The preceptor must be willing to accept responsibility for the student during the Supervised Studentship or Final Internship and be the pharmacist most directly involved with the student (for a least 50% of the student's hours in the pharmacy). However, other pharmacists or staff members may be designated to supervise the student to cover areas of particular expertise or specialization.
- 4) The preceptor and all other participating pharmacists at the Supervised Studentship or Final Internship site must be currently licensed and in good standing and not have restrictions placed on their practice.
- 5) The preceptor should actively participate in continuing professional development and preceptor training programs.
- 6) The preceptor must have only one student or intern under their responsibility during the Supervised Studentship or Final Internship period.
- 7) The preceptor must be willing to give an honest, open, candid and unbiased evaluation of the student's performance during the Supervised Studentship or Final Internship period.

STUDENTSHIP PROGRAM STRUCTURE
(as referred to in *Pharmacy Regulation 10.3*)



The complete Studentship Program, as referred to in the Pharmacy Regulations, will be administered by the Joint Committee on Structured Practice Experience operated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board and the School of Pharmacy. The School of Pharmacy will supervise the MUN component and the NLPB Board of Examiners will supervise the NLPB component.