

SIUE School of Pharmacy graduates board pass rate tops Illinois and Missouri

February 20 2017 4:03 PM



EDWARDSVILLE - Graduates of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's School of Pharmacy class of 2016 have exceeded both state and national averages, boasting a first-attempt board pass rate of 91.9 percent on the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam (NAPLEX). The graduates' combined score was the highest board pass rate of any program in Illinois or Missouri, and exceeded the 2016 state and national averages of 82.6 percent and 85.9 percent, respectively.

“Our graduates’ NAPLEX pass percentage is largely due to the rigorous preparation provided by our curriculum and is a testament to the excellent educational experience provided by our faculty and staff,” said Gireesh Gupchup, PhD, dean of the SIUE School of Pharmacy.

The NAPLEX is one component of the licensure process, which measures the knowledge of prospective pharmacists. According to data from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, when all eight graduating classes from SIUE (2009-2016) are considered together, SIUE graduates rank number one among the eight programs in Illinois and Missouri with a 96 percent first-attempt board pass rate.

“When the average pass rates are considered along with our high graduation rates, the SIUE pharmacy program continues to be a frontrunner in the region in preparing graduates who are practice ready,” said Mark Luer, PharmD, associate dean of Professional and Student Affairs, and professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

School of Pharmacy: Today’s pharmacists improve patients’ lives through the medication and education they provide. Dedicated to developing a community of caring pharmacists, the SIUE School of Pharmacy curriculum is nationally recognized as a model that offers students a unique combination of classroom education, research, community service and patient care. The School of Pharmacy’s areas of excellence include a drug design and discovery core; pediatric practice; chronic pain research and practice; and diabetes research and practice. As the only downstate Illinois pharmacy doctorate program, the SIUE School of Pharmacy is addressing the growing need for highly trained pharmacists in a rapidly growing field.