

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Touro University California Pharmacy, Physician Assistant Graduates Excel in Exams Among All California Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Jesús Mena: W: (707) 638-5272

C: (707) 704-6101

(Vallejo, CA - October 28, 2010) Touro University California students who graduated with Doctors of Pharmacy and Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies scored among the highest in their certifying and licensure exams among California graduate students.

In the 2010 California Practice Standards and Jurisprudence Examination for Pharmacists (CPJE), Touro pharmacy graduates ranked first among the seven Doctor of Pharmacy programs in the state. Touro graduates scored above University of Southern California, University of California San Francisco, University of California San Diego, Western University of Health Sciences, Loma Linda University and University of the Pacific. In the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX), 97.1 percent of Touro pharmacy graduates passed the licensure testing, placing Touro fifth among California university pharmacy programs.

Pharmacy students must pass both tests to receive licenses to practice as pharmacists. The pharmacy classes are very diverse with over 90% of students speaking another language besides English.

In 2008 and 2009, 100 percent of the Touro Physician Assistant Studies Program graduates passed the first time they took the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE). Along with Samuel Merritt University, Touro University ranked at the top in first-time pass rate of the examination compared to other California universities with similar programs, including Stanford, Loma Linda, UC-Davis, Loma Linda and Western universities.

The Physician Assistant Program is particularly proud of the diversity of its student population. Currently, 57 percent of Touro University's 123 students enrolled in the program speak 81 non-English languages, including 40 who speak Spanish.

"These figures attest to the academic prowess of Touro University," said Provost and Chief Operations Officer Marilyn Hopkins. "These graduates are receiving the best education there is in the state. A large percentage of them are going on to serve this region and the state as a whole."

Dean of the College of Pharmacy Katherine Knapp said she was particularly pleased with this last graduating program.

"We have developed very strong standards and a very unique approach to teaching our pharmacy students," she said. "Our program provides students with two years of course work coupled with two years of clinical training to better qualify them for real practice in caring for patients. Graduates must also pass comprehensive open-book, closed-book and practice skills tests before they can progress to their third year clinical training."

Director of the Physician Assistant Program Grace Landel, said the curriculum, along with the diversity of Touro's student body, leaves them better prepared to serve the medically underserved communities.

"Our PA program is the only one in the country where all graduates receive a Master of Public Health as well as a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies," she said. "The combined curriculum prepares graduates to better understand the link between an individual's health and their environment."

She is working to ensure that more of the students enter primary care upon graduating; an average of 39 percent of Touro physician assistant graduates have entered primary care over the last five years.

"We are pleased that our students have done so well on their certifying exams," she said. "Our major goal is to encourage more of our students to go into primary care, which is a vital need in this country."

Attached are the scores of the tests as presented by as presented in the California State Board of Pharmacy and the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

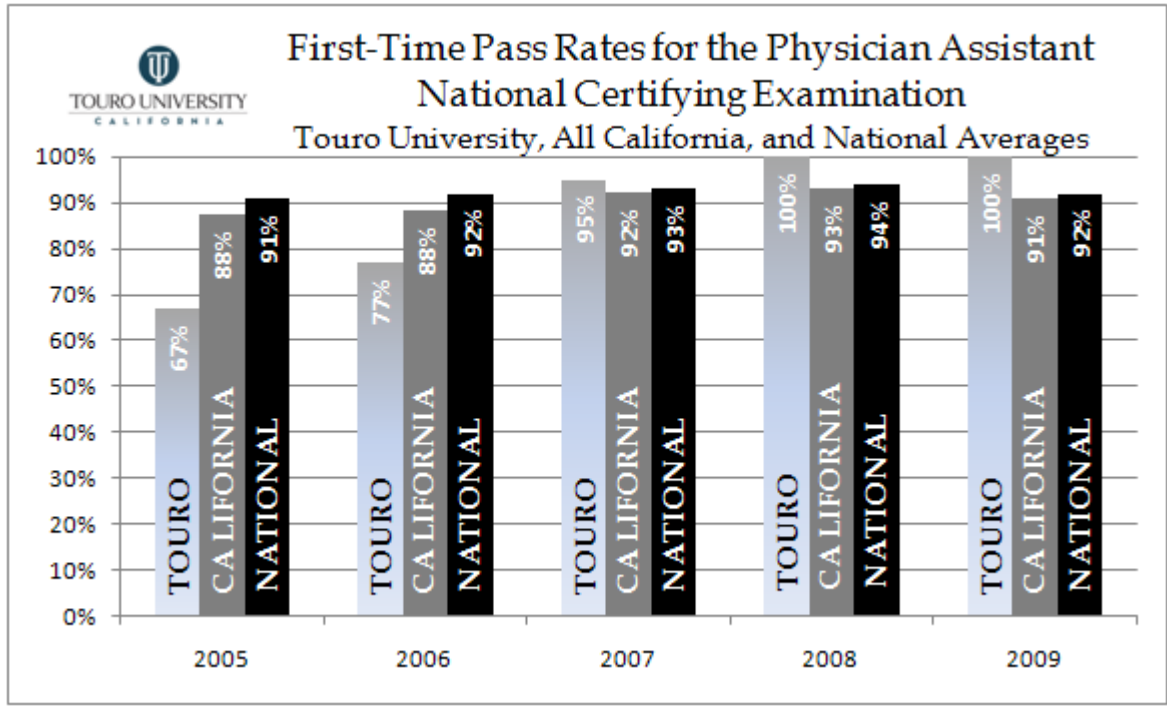
Touro is a system of Jewish-sponsored non-profit institutions of higher and professional education. Touro College was established in 1971 primarily to enrich the Jewish heritage, and to serve the larger American community. More than 18,000 students are currently enrolled in its various schools and divisions. Touro College has branch campuses, locations and instructional sites in the New York area, as well as branch campuses and programs in Berlin, Jerusalem, Moscow, Paris, and Florida. Touro University California and its Nevada branch campus, as well as Touro College Los Angeles, are separately accredited institutions governed in common by the same Board of Trustees as Touro College. For further information on Touro College, please go to: <http://www.touro.edu/media/>.

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**California State Board of Pharmacy
CPJE Statistics 4/1/10 – 9/30/10**

California Schools

			JPE pass fail status		JPE Total	NAPLEX pass fail status		NAPLEX Total
			Fail	Pass		Fail	Pass	
school	UCSF	Count	8	100	108	0	107	107
		% within school	7.4	92.6	100.0	0	100.0	100.0
	UOP	Count	19	167	186	5	180	185
		% within school	10.2	89.8	100.0	2.7	97.3	100.0
	USC	Count	8	156	164	2	162	164
		% within school	4.9	95.1	100.0	1.2	98.8	100.0
	Western	Count	11	104	115	6	108	114
		% within school	9.6	90.4	100.0	5.3	94.7	100.0
	Loma Linda	Count	7	45	52	2	49	51
		% within school	13.5	86.5	100.0	3.9	96.1	100.0
	UCSD	Count	6	41	47	0	46	46
		% within school	12.8	87.2	100.0	0	100.0	100.0
	Touro U	Count	3	66	69	2	66	68
		% within school	4.3	95.7	100.0	2.9	97.1	100.0
Total		Count	62	679	741	17	718	735
		% within school	8.4	91.6	100.0	2.3	97.7	100.0



Comparing the PANCE first-pass rate with other universities:

	2007	2008	2009
Samuel	100%	97%	
Merritt			100%
Stanford	89%	98%	89%
SJVC	78%	76%	80%
Keck	100%	97%	88%
Loma Linda	90%	92%	90%
UC Davis	94%	93%	98%
Riverside	90%	90%	
Western	95%	93%	89%
Touro	95%	100%	100%
CA Average	92%	93%	91%
National			
Average	93%	94%	92%