

From Student Pharmacist to Professional Practice Transition Checklist

As graduation draws near, the transition from Student Pharmacist to practicing professional is right around the corner. Now is the time to stay focused, organized, and intentional about the steps ahead. To support you in this exciting season, we've created a Student Pharmacist to Professional Practice Transition Checklist. Your guide to making sure nothing slips through the cracks as you prepare for new responsibilities. Pair it with the [CEimpact Planner](#) for your planning home base, and you'll have the tools you need to stay on track and step confidently into your career.

Academic & Clinical Responsibilities

- Complete all APPE (Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences) requirements.
- Ask for feedback from preceptors to strengthen clinical skills.
- Maintain a professional portfolio with case logs, projects, and presentations. (See the Professional Portfolio Guide for additional information)
- Request strong letters of recommendation from preceptors or faculty. (Use the Letter of Recommendation Checklist as a guide.)

Licensure Preparation

- Register for MPJE exams in advance.
- Create a structured study plan (set daily/weekly goals). (CEimpact's Student Journal is a great resource to help you with this.)
- Use CEimpact or other trusted resources for prep and review.
- Schedule exam dates and confirm testing sites.

Career Development

- Update CV/resume with clinical experiences, leadership roles, and accomplishments. (see below for an example.)
- Create a polished LinkedIn profile (include professional photo).
- Practice mock interviews with mentors or peers.
- Research and apply for residencies, fellowships, or jobs.
- Prepare a list of questions to ask employers during interviews.

Professional Networking

- Join pharmacy organizations (APhA, ASHP, state associations).
- Attend professional conferences (Midyear, state meetings, CEimpact events).
- Connect with peers, alumni, and faculty on LinkedIn.
- Identify mentors for career and personal development.

Financial & Life Planning

- Review student loan repayment options and deadlines.
- Create a realistic post-graduation budget.
- Explore relocation considerations (housing, licensure transfer).
- Secure professional liability insurance (if applicable).

Professional Mindset & Growth

- Set short-term (1–2 years) and long-term (5+ years) career goals.
- Commit to lifelong learning with CEimpact CE packages.
- Develop habits for time management, resilience, and self-care.
- Celebrate milestones—rotation completion, Match, graduation!