

What is an *entry-level practitioner*, and why should I compare my student to a pharmacy graduate?

An entry-level practitioner has the competencies required to practice safely and independently as a newly-licensed pharmacist. The entry-level practitioner demonstrates ability to perform at or above a minimum standard of performance. Each student is expected to demonstrate this level of skill prior to graduation for each of the required ability based outcomes (ABOs). Many students may exceed in specific areas at various times in their development. Thus, the grading scale is centered by this standard and allows preceptors to identify areas in which the student is exceeding or has yet to demonstrate this level of practice.

Contrasting performance with an agreed upon standard allows the student to have a greater understanding of individual needs for improvement. With greater self-awareness of current performance, students are more empowered to engage deliberately to improve future performance based on preceptor feedback.