



**NCPA**<sup>®</sup>  
NATIONAL COMMUNITY  
PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

# Student *Membership* Guide

the ***voice*** of the  
community pharmacist,  
and the ***professional***  
***home*** for student  
pharmacists interested in  
independent pharmacy,  
advocacy, innovative  
practice, and leadership



# About Us and Our Members

Founded in 1898, the **National Community Pharmacists Association** is the voice for independent pharmacy, representing over 18,900 pharmacies that employ more than 235,000 individuals nationwide. **Independent pharmacy is a \$103 billion marketplace.** Community pharmacists are local health care problem-solvers who can customize solutions to local health challenges for groups and employers. They are rooted in the communities where they are located and **are America's most accessible health care providers.** Likewise, they are community leaders actively involved in community-oriented public health, civic, and volunteer projects. Many hold local elected offices; others serve as state legislators.

## Membership Benefits

When you join NCPA, you're investing in your future and opening yourself up to unparalleled growth, learning, and professional development opportunities at your school, throughout your community, and across the country.

### *Professional Development*

- Access free **pharmacy ownership resources**, clinical services training, **entrepreneurship toolkits**, and business how-to guides designed to strengthen your professional foundation.
- Compete in the **Business Plan Competition**—the first and only national competition of its kind—to earn **cash prizes**, win a scholarship to attend NCPA's Multiple Locations Conference, and **gain real-world experience in pharmacy business development.**
- Participate in free **Learning Hour and Business Booster webinars** to learn directly from nationally recognized experts, educators, and innovators.

### *Community and Networking*

- Meet fellow student pharmacists, industry innovators, and independent pharmacy leaders at **NCPA's Annual Convention & Expo.**
- Connect with inspiring guest speakers, successful business owners, and practicing pharmacists through **your local chapter's meetings and events.**
- Engage with **student leaders from across the country** through NCPA's dedicated communication platforms and collaborative communities.

## *Industry News and Insights*

- Receive **exclusive access to qAM**, NCPA's daily news brief, to stay informed on the most important updates, trends, and policy developments in pharmacy.
- Access our **monthly student e-newsletter** packed with residency and fellowship opportunities, CV-building programs, and other professional development resources.
- Read **America's Pharmacist**, NCPA's monthly magazine reaching more than 18,000 independent pharmacies nationwide, and stay connected to the pulse of the profession.

## *Leadership and Career Advancement*

- Strengthen your CV and leadership skills by running for an **officer position** in your chapter.
- Serve on NCPA's **Student Leadership Council** to help shape national programming, expand chapter engagement, and elevate the student experience.
- Work at NCPA Headquarters in Alexandria, VA, through a **paid summer internship** that offers hands-on experience in advocacy, communications, and association leadership.
- Complete a **NCPA APPE rotation** or apply to our **Executive Residency** program to launch a career in association management, public policy, or independent pharmacy practice.

## *Policy, Advocacy and Professional Impact*

- Attend NCPA's annual **Congressional Pharmacy Fly-In** in Washington, D.C., to meet with policymakers and advocate for your profession, your patients, and your future.
- Have **your interests represented** by a full-time team of NCPA policy, legislative, and political affairs professionals working to secure meaningful reforms for independent pharmacy.
- Receive **action alerts, advocacy tools, and step-by-step guidance** on how to champion independent pharmacy at the local, state, and national levels.

## *Scholarships and Awards*

- Apply for more than **\$10,000 in scholarships** available exclusively to NCPA student members, and take advantage of **member-only conference registration discounts**.
- Get involved to earn recognition through the **Chapter Member Excellence Award** or help your chapter claim the prestigious **Chapter of the Year Award**.
- Earn a **graduation cord** and **lapel pin** in recognition of your active participation in chapter and national NCPA activities.

# Why Independent Pharmacy?

Independent pharmacy offers a unique and rewarding career path that allows pharmacists to **blend clinical expertise, business acumen, leadership, and community service** in a way no other pharmacy setting can. Independent pharmacists are the **backbone of community care**—highly accessible, deeply trusted, and exceptionally well-positioned to address pharmacist shortages in rural and underserved areas.



Independent pharmacists consistently report **greater flexibility, autonomy, and career satisfaction** compared with other practice environments. They share an **entrepreneurial and innovative spirit**, often considering themselves full-service clinicians who provide far more than medication dispensing. In fact, the majority of NCPA members offer **specialized, value-added services** such as point-of-care testing, compounding, immunizations, medication synchronization, and many other patient-centered clinical offerings.

# Join NCPA Today!

If you're passionate about building meaningful patient relationships, delivering advanced clinical services, or exploring the path to independent pharmacy ownership, there is no better time to invest in your future. Becoming an NCPA member is a small step with a big payoff—putting you in the driver's seat as you work toward your ideal career destination. Join today and unlock the tools, connections, and opportunities that will help you thrive.

## *How to Become a Member*

- Visit [ncpa.org/membership](https://ncpa.org/membership) to become a member—creating an account takes just a few minutes, and you'll unlock all the resources and opportunities waiting for you.
- Explore student-specific benefits, exclusive opportunities, and additional resources for NCPA members at [ncpa.org/student-resources](https://ncpa.org/student-resources).

## *Annual Membership Dues*

- National dues for student members are **\$35 per year**, providing full access to all benefits and opportunities highlighted in this brochure.
- **Save with a multi-year membership:** lock in your benefits at a discounted rate—\$60 for 2 years, \$80 for 3 years, or \$100 for all 4 years of pharmacy school.

## *Contact Us*

- If you have questions about membership or any NCPA services, visit [ncpa.org/contact](https://ncpa.org/contact) to chat with us live, or email us anytime at [studentaffairs@ncpa.org](mailto:studentaffairs@ncpa.org).
- Your **chapter's student leaders** are also great resources—they can answer questions, discuss member benefits, and help connect you with an SLC member or NCPA staff.

## *Follow Us*

@commpharmacy

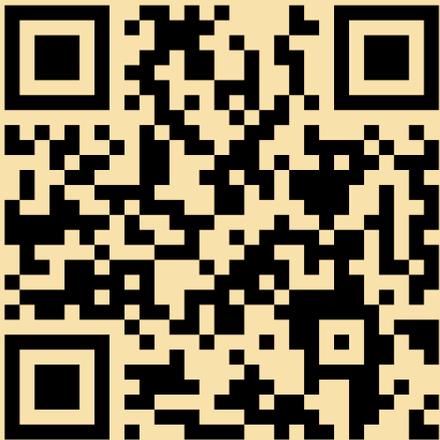
@ncpastudents

## *Learn More*

ncpa.org



## *Join NCPA Today*



ncpa.org/membership

## *Fun Fact!*

Did you know that the oldest known prescriptions date back to ancient Mesopotamia, when records were etched onto clay tablets in cuneiform writing? We're no archeologists, but we're pretty sure at least one of them translates to "renew one NCPA membership per year for professional success."