

1978 WL 207598 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

May 22, 1978

*1 Mr. John C. Wilkie, Jr.
Executive Secretary
The Board of Pharmaceutical Examiners
Post Office Box 11927
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

You have requested an opinion from this Office as to the meaning of the term “graduate” in the following statute: An applicant for examination as a registered pharmacist must be twenty-one years of age, of good moral character and temperate habits, a graduate from a school of pharmacy or department of pharmacy of a university which is recognized by the Board, [§ 40-53-50, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA](#), 1976. [Emphasis added.]

Although the South Carolina courts have not as yet interpreted the term “graduate,” other jurisdictions have almost unanimously construed the term to mean one who has both completed a prescribed course of study and received a degree or diploma certifying that fact. See, e.g., [Valentine v. Independent School District of Casey](#), 191 Iowa 1100, 183 N.W. 434; [Sweitzer v. Fisher](#), 172 Iowa 266, 154 N.W. 465; [People v. Eichelroff](#), 78 Cal. 141, 20 P.364. In the [Valentine](#) case, the court defined “graduate” as “one who has honorably passed through the prescribed course of study and received a diploma certifying to that effect.” In addition, Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines a “graduate” as “a holder of an academic degree or diploma.” [Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary](#) at 498 (1974). Based upon these authorities, my opinion is that an applicant for licensure as a registered pharmacist must have successfully completed a prescribed course of study leading to a degree in pharmacy and have received that degree.

With kind regards,

Karen LeCraft Henderson
Senior Assistant Attorney General

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