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Title: *Assessing the impact of a pharmacy ethics course on the changes in pharmacy students' empathy*

Purpose: This study was completed to establish a baseline level of empathy in a class of first year (P1) pharmacy students and determine the impact on empathy of an ethics course.

Methods: A validated empathy assessment survey was administered on the first day of the required ethics course (baseline assessment) and repeated at the conclusion of the 7 week course to measure change. As part of the research, participants created a unique identifier to be used on future administrations of the survey. Surveys were conducted during class time with the permission of the course faculty. Faculty were not present during administration of the survey.

Results: Eighty-two students responded to the pre-survey, giving a 100% response rate. Seventy-nine students responded to the post-survey, a 96.3% response rate. Of the twenty questions administered in the survey, ten (50%) were negatively coded and were reverse-scored during analysis. The higher the mean total score on the survey, the higher the suspected level of empathy. The maximum total was 140 points. The total mean score for the pre-survey was 111 points out of 140. The total mean score for the post-survey was 113 points out of 140.

Conclusion: The administration of this survey was successful in collecting baseline empathy levels in the P1 students. Further evaluation of this cohort through the end of their education is needed to determine overall impact of education on empathy levels.