

Development of an advanced pharmacy practice experience year course to prepare students for successful transition to practice

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Abstract

During the transition from student to registered pharmacist, new personal and professional situations may negatively impact the transition experience. The result can be a practitioner that is unsatisfied with their career, questions their role in the healthcare team, and delivers sub-optimal patient care^{1,2}. These ideas have been well studied in medicine and nursing, but are applicable to many other health professions. In order to better prepare pharmacy students for this transition period, a fourth-year course was designed at SIUE to both actively and passively provide resources and guidance to help students navigate the post-graduation period. This protocol describes the design and rationale of the proposed course, a sample timeline, and materials for guest speaker recruitment.

This course is a zero hour, 2-semester, pass/fail addition to the Personal and Professional Development (PPD) course series required during the first through third professional year at SIUE. This mixed-format course is intended to fill the gaps of pharmacy education where post-graduation support for new pharmacists is heavily lacking. Proactively engaging students to think about maintaining their financial, emotional, and professional wellbeing will ideally make the transition to practice easier for new pharmacists. When these new pharmacists are faced with transition-related stressors, they will be ready to navigate them without comprising excellent patient care.