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Title: Student perceptions of pharmacy practice skill abilities and APPE readiness

Abstract

Background: Performance-based assessments (PBAs) are used in pharmacy curriculum to evaluate student abilities in performing clinical practice skills and apply knowledge learned in school. PBAs also helps to prepare student for their required Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPEs). Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE) School of Pharmacy (SOP) has implemented PBAs throughout almost every semester to help students gain more experiences and practice skills to better prepare for APPEs. More frequent PBAs were introduced into the new curriculum for pharmacy students beginning with the class of 2022 during the first two years, and cumulative PBAs in the spring semester of P3 year. The objective of this study is to assess student perceptions about pharmacy practice skill development and readiness for APPEs.

Methods: An anonymous online survey was sent via school email to 84 third year pharmacy students, who are currently enrolled at SIUE SOP class of 2022. De-identified survey questions and baseline characteristic information were collected and evaluated. The survey consisted of five baseline characteristic questions and 16 opinion questions.

Results: Out of 84 students, response rate was 33.3%, however, only 27.4% of responses are included in the study analysis. Over 80% of the students strongly agreed or agreed that they feel confident in their ability to verify prescription products, collect information from an electronic health record (HER) to apply into patient care planning, and effectively communicate the treatment plan to another healthcare professional. However, only 56% of the students reported feeling confident in overall pharmacy knowledge and practice skills needed for APPEs.

Conclusion: Performance-based assessments (PBAs) are effectively used throughout the curriculum at SIUE SOP to evaluate clinical competence and application of the knowledge. The confidence level between each pharmacy practice skills varies since the students have opportunities to practices some skills more often than other skills during the curriculum.