

Cody Rettinghouse

Mentor: Casey Reed

Title: *Assessment and Implementation of a Dual PharmD/MBA Degree Mentorship Program*

Abstract

Objective: This study was conducted to measure and assess current student perspectives of a mentorship program for a dual Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)/Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. The feedback provided will be used to develop a dual PharmD/MBA mentorship program. The goal of such a mentorship program would be to help bridge the two separate degrees and provide guidance to students on the complementation of both degrees in the workforce.

Methods: After a preliminary literature search of existing dual PharmD/MBA programs or similar programs yielded no results, an electronic survey was sent to all students currently enrolled in the dual PharmD/MBA program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy (SIUE SOP). Characteristics obtained included preferences and fields of interest related to the structure of a dual degree mentorship program.

Results: Forty-eight students currently enrolled in the dual PharmD/MBA program at SIUE SOP were included in the study and asked to complete an electronic survey, and 25 (52%) students responded. Twenty-four students (96%) stated a utility or preference of the availability for the mentorship program. Among fields of interest surveyed, the exploration of career options and networking opportunities were identified as the most preferred focuses.

Conclusions: This study provides novel information about the perceptions and potential role of a dual PharmD/MBA mentorship program. This information will be of use in the implementation of a mentorship program for dual PharmD/MBA students. This information may be useful to institutions interested in implementing or modifying a similar type of program.