

## BACKGROUND

- Pharmacy job market is becoming more competitive for graduating pharmacists
- A dual degree may distinguish a new pharmacist
- Few studies have examined factors that led students to enroll in a dual degree, or which dual degrees interest students the most

## OBJECTIVES

- To determine which factors drove pharmacy students to enroll, or not enroll, in a dual degree
- To identify which dual degrees pharmacy students would be most interested in

## METHODS

### Study Design:

- Cross-sectional survey

### Data Source:

- 12-question, anonymous online survey
- Distributed via Qualtrics
- Multiple choice, Likert scale, and ranking-type questions were used.

### Study Population:

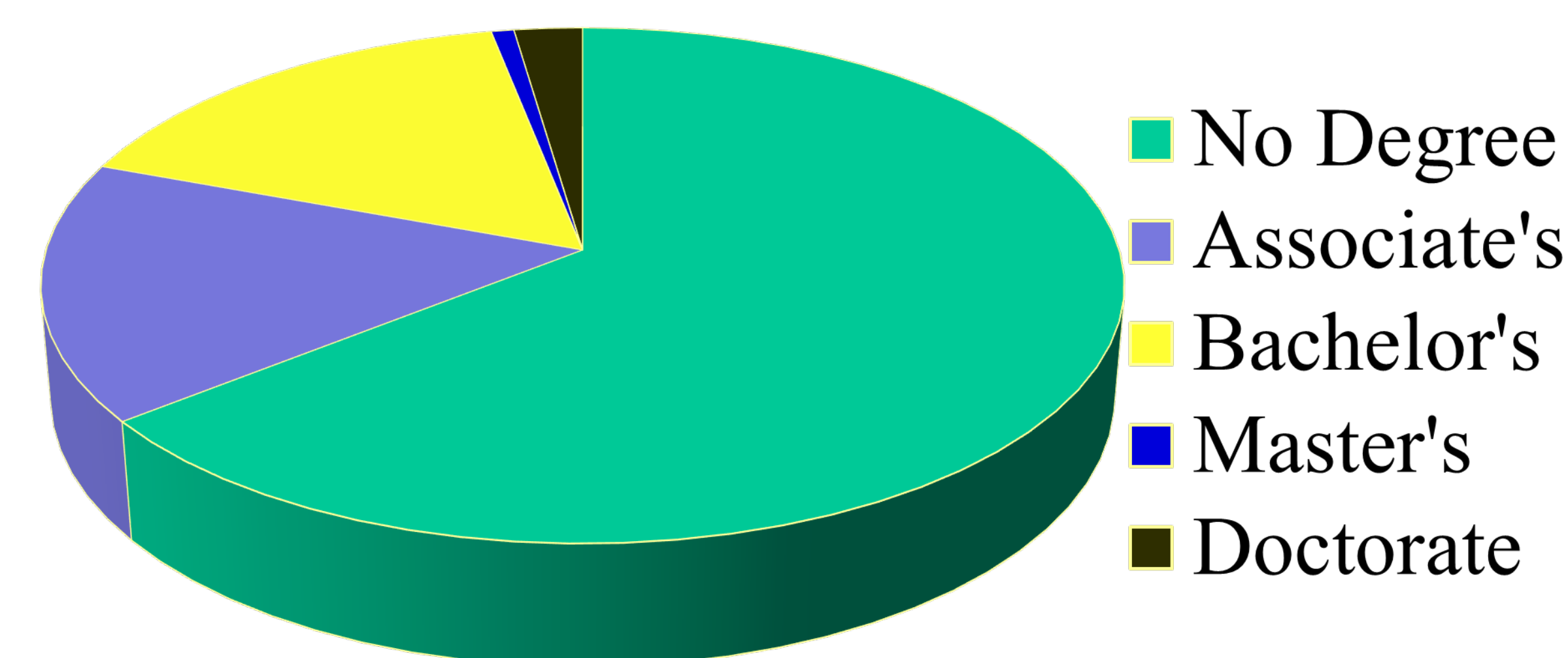
- Students enrolled at SIUE School of Pharmacy in the 2019-2020 school year

## RESULTS

Sample: N=129 Students  
Response rate: 129/323 (40%)  
Similar response rate between classes P1-P4

### Background Characteristics

#### Degree Obtained Prior to Pharm School



Aware of SIUE dual degree programs, N, (%) = 127 (98%)

Attended dual degree informational meeting during P1 year, N, (%) = 60 (47%)  
➤ Meeting positively influenced your decision to enroll, N, (%) = 43 (72%)

Enrolled in PharmD/MBA Program, N, (%) = 22 (17%)

Enrolled in PharmD/MS Healthcare Informatics, N, (%) = 6 (5%)

Interested in PharmD/MBA program upon first hearing about it, N, (%) = 82 (66%)

Felt like had enough information to make informed decision to enroll or not, N, (%) = 105 (83%)

## RESULTS

### Reasons for Not Enrolling in Dual Degree: N(%)

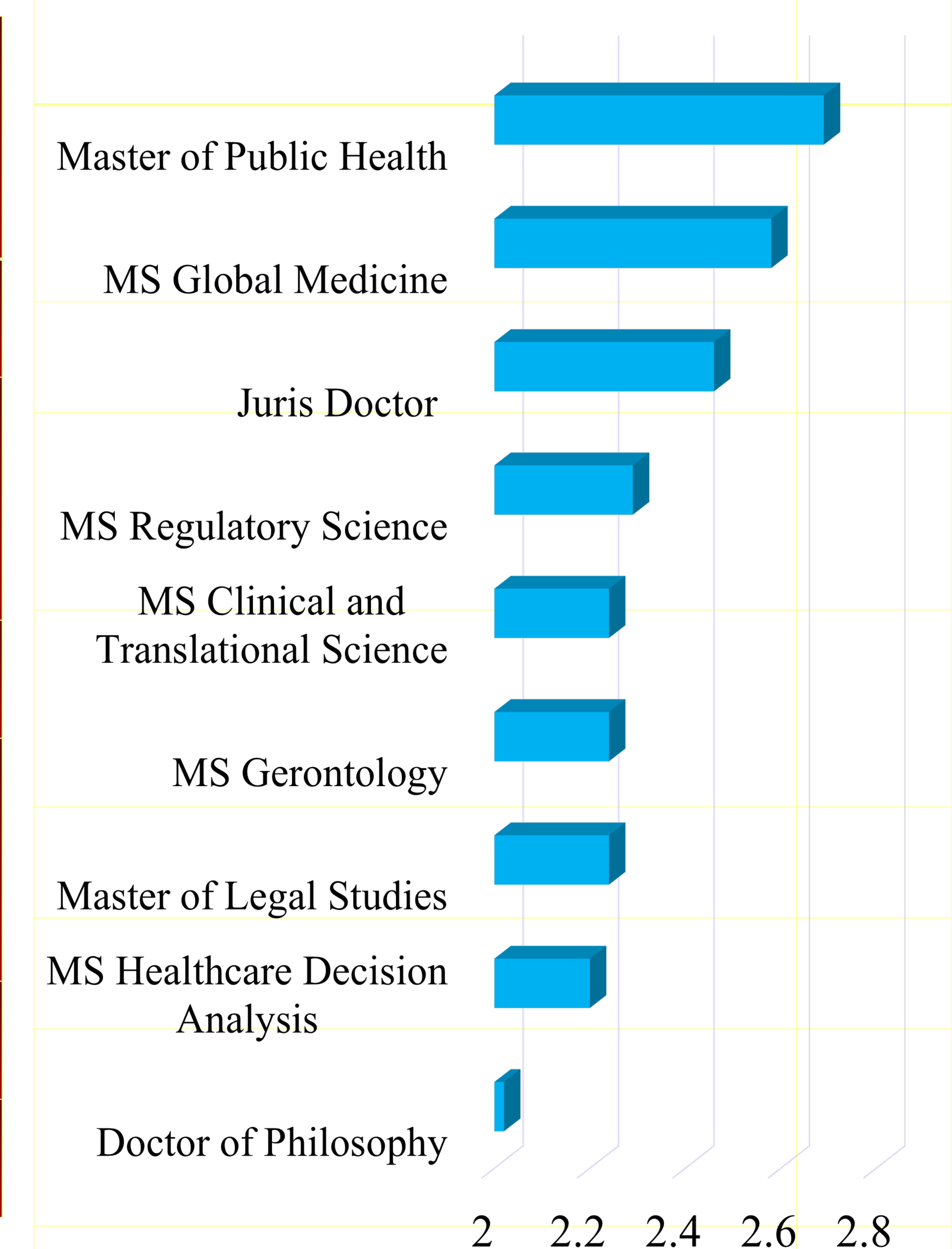
|                                                   |         |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Wanting to experience pharmacy-specific electives | 83 (39) |
| No interest in the subject area                   | 45 (21) |
| Not enough time for summer online courses         | 30 (14) |
| Financial                                         | 24 (11) |
| GPA didn't meet program requirements              | 16 (8)  |
| Not offered yet (Informatics only)                | 8 (4)   |
| Other                                             | 6 (3)   |

### Reasons for Enrolling in Dual Degree

|                                                             |                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| To stand out from other graduates                           | <p>Most Important</p> <p>Least Important</p> |
| Higher opportunity for advancement later in pharmacy career |                                              |
| Related directly to career goals                            |                                              |
| Lower cost than obtaining two degrees separately            |                                              |
| Personal interest in dual degree courses                    |                                              |
|                                                             |                                              |

## RESULTS

### Interest in Other Dual Degrees



Other answers: MS in biology or chemistry, forensics, Doctor of Psychiatry, Doctor of Medicine, Master of Healthcare Administration, Physician's Assistant, and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

## CONCLUSION

- Students obtained a dual degree to stand out from other graduates and to advance their career.
- Students were most interested in Master of Public Health, Master of Science in Global Medicine, and Juris Doctor dual degrees.