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Title: *Main Drivers for Pursuing Pharmacy Residency*

Abstract

Background

Pharmacy residency programs are one option that some pharmacy school graduates may choose to pursue. Residencies may be the chosen career path over direct entry into the work force, if the graduate wishes to specialize or would like further clinical education. Between 2014 and 2018, the number of professional doctorates of pharmacy graduates applying for residency and the number of residency positions increased by the same rate of 23%. Due to the similar increase 56% of applicants are still not receiving placement in a residency training program. This study aims to determine the viewpoints of pharmacy residency from the perspective of current students and alumni of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) School of Pharmacy.

Methods

A survey was given to current students and alumni from the Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE) School of Pharmacy. The survey aims to gauge their knowledge about residency throughout the curriculum, post-graduation and/or post residency and also the respondents' thoughts on the school advocating for students to pursue pharmacy residency programs.

Results

Overall 233 participants responded to the online survey. The study found the majority of respondents believe a pharmacy residency is needed to achieve their personal career aspirations and that the SIUE School of Pharmacy advocates for students to pursue a residency. Thirty-nine percent of total respondents, representing the majority, list their ideal practice setting as a hospital clinical pharmacist role compared to 17% who list their ideal practice setting as retail pharmacy.

Conclusion

Overall, the respondents to this survey, both alumni and current students, agree that the school of pharmacy advocates for students to pursue pharmacy residency. In addition, over the course of the curriculum, students become more aware of pharmacy residency and gain confidence in how to pursue residency if desired. This small study, has shown the need for research into faculty-student prepared, personalized career paths for student's in pharmacy programs.