

Effect of Implementation of A Residency Preparation Course on Residency Match Rates at Large Pharmacy School

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Background:

With the advances in modern-day health-care, pharmacists have stepped up to the front line, working with physicians and nurses to optimize pharmacotherapy regimens for patients. The main objective of postgraduate pharmacy residency training is to develop the skillsets necessary to do this. As a result, the application process for postgraduate training has become more competitive. The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy implemented an elective course for third year pharmacy students to assist with preparation in applying for residencies. This course focuses on building self-awareness, interviewing, curriculum vitae (CV) development, and networking skills. The purpose of this study is to objectively measure the impact of implementation of this elective on specific outcomes.

Objectives:

- To compare ASHP residency match rates amongst students who completed the Residency Elective Course to those who did not
- To compare ASHP residency match rates prior to and after implementation of a ASHP Residency Preparatory course at a major academic institution
- To identify the impact of the Residency Preparatory course on students pursuit of additional activities to strengthen professional portfolio and confidence levels

Methods:

This project was approved by the University of Maryland IRB. A survey was designed to collect specific information from the classes of 2015 and 2016. Students were asked their grade-point-average (GPA), considerations when choosing residency programs, assessment of confidence levels, professional portfolio development, and outlook toward applying for residency training prior to and after the elective. In addition to the survey, school records for match rates post- implementation of the Residency Elective were obtained.

The percent match rates between students who completed PHMY 5000 versus those who did not will be analyzed. The responses to the survey questions will also be characterized, to determine associations with GPA, assessment of confidence levels of components to applying for residency (CV, letter of intent, self-awareness, and interview skills) and professional development (leadership experience, pharmacy related working experience, and research projects), and residency match rates.

Preliminary Results

Class of 2011 to 2014 overall matched rates range from 54%- 73%. Class of 2015 has the overall highest matched rate (84%) while class of 2016 has the lowest (52%). Students who took the elective have match rates of 71% (2015) and 46% (2016) while those who did not have match rates of 86% (2015) and 59% (2016). 28 students responded to the survey (6 took the elective) thus far. 6 students who took the elective stated they felt well prepared for the application process because of this elective.

Conclusion

To be determined provided further evaluation of results