

Rachael Albert and Kayla Crome

Mentor: Stephanie Hunziker, Kate Newman

Title: *A Qualitative Analysis of APPE Goal Setting*

Abstract

Background: Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) play an important role in pharmacy school curriculum by helping students prepare for their pharmacy career. Since each APPE is uniquely different, it is important for students to set goals for themselves in order to better their learning experience and achieve core entrustable professional activity (EPA) standards required by the pharmacy education system. The goal of this study is to identify if Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant/Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART) goals set by APPE students align with EPA standards, as this has not been studied in any previous literature.

Methods: A qualitative analysis of SMART goals from 79 APPE students was performed with the use of MAXQDA coding software. De-identified SMART goals were organized by type of APPE, then individually categorized based on the skill identified in the goal. SMART goal categories were then sorted into groups based on the EPA standard targeted

Results: This study showed that Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) School of Pharmacy (SOP) Class of 2019 APPE students created SMART goals that align with core EPA standards. Students identified goals within all six of the EPA domains. The Patient Care Provider Domain accounted for the most goals (33.3%), whereas The Population Health Promoter Domain accounted for the least amount (1.5%) of all goals.

Conclusion: Through the use of this SMART goal analysis it can be seen that pharmacy students are setting goals not only to reach EPA domains, but to ultimately better themselves and their skills for a future in pharmacy.