

# Evaluating Pharmacy Student Attitudes and Experiences in a Diverse Patient Case Workshop

## **Abstract:**

### *Introduction:*

In healthcare, recognizing and addressing diverse patient needs is crucial, with pharmacists playing a vital role. Cultural awareness, emphasized by accreditation standards, is increasingly recognized as essential for effective patient care. However, traditional pharmacy education has focused primarily on scientific and technical aspects, necessitating a shift towards a curriculum emphasizing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Case workshops offer a practical approach to integrate cultural competence into education. The purpose of this study is to evaluate pharmacy students' confidence in addressing diverse patient needs and pharmacy management issues through case-based learning and identifying curriculum enhancements towards DEI principles in pharmacy education.

### *Methods:*

This observational study (IRB #2172) included a survey of third-year pharmacy (P3) students at Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville School of Pharmacy (SIUE SOP) from the Class of 2025. The study consisted of a pre- and post-survey questionnaire that were administered approximately three weeks before and after the case workshop. The primary outcome focuses on student attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, and confidence levels in addressing the unique needs of diverse patient populations and navigating issues related to pharmacy management.

### *Results:*

The pre-survey (n=21) results indicate that students had moderate knowledge of DEI (57%) and felt slightly comfortable caring for diverse patients (61%). The post-survey (n=16) showed the workshop increased awareness of health disparities (81%) and understanding of diverse patient needs (44%). However, only 38% of participants felt it improved their knowledge of pharmacy management.

### *Conclusion:*

A case workshop on diverse patients and pharmacy management increased students' awareness of health disparities and understanding of patient needs. Further curriculum development is needed to better integrate pharmacy management.