

Industry Pharmacy Rotations Offered by US Pharmacy Programs

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Background

As the job market for pharmacists becomes more saturated, more pharmacy students are interested in non-traditional pharmacy roles such as those in the pharmaceutical industry.¹ The pharmaceutical industry allows pharmacists to use their clinical knowledge and skills to impact patients globally. Industry pharmacists also have the opportunity to explore business and commercial responsibilities. The fact that industry fellowship programs have increased by 140% over the last seven years shows how both pharmacists and pharmaceutical companies see value in non-traditional pharmacy roles.² As more opportunities to pursue non-traditional pharmacy roles arise, it becomes more pertinent that student pharmacists have the opportunity to be exposed to such roles.

One way that pharmacy students can gain exposure to non-traditional industry roles is through Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) rotations. These experiences allow pharmacy students to become familiar with different pharmacy roles and environments. As the pharmacy field becomes saturated and traditional pharmacy jobs become harder to obtain, it would be helpful for pharmacy students to be aware of other non-traditional career paths. Therefore, it would be beneficial to understand US pharmacy programs' current offering of industry rotations.

Objective

Identify common barriers to obtaining an industry pharmacy rotation and capture the unmet demand for industry rotations.

Hypothesis

A minority of schools offer industry rotation opportunities.

Methods

18 Question Survey was Created via Qualtrics

The survey was sent to 138 Directors of Experiential Education via email

A reminder email was sent a week after initial email

Results

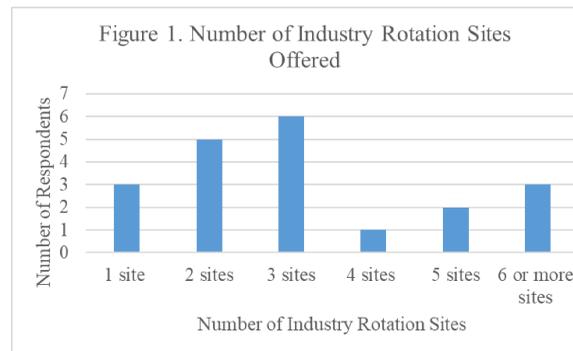


Figure 1 depicts the number respondents and how many sites their program offers

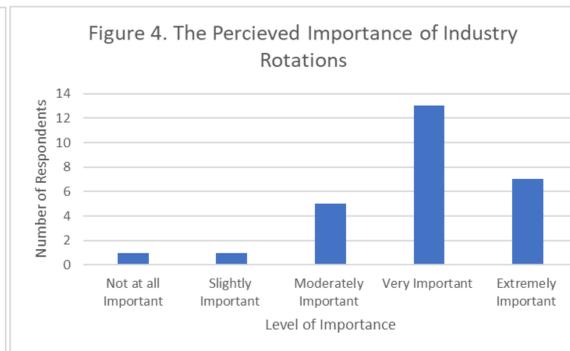


Figure 4 depicts the number of respondents and how they perceive the importance of industry rotations

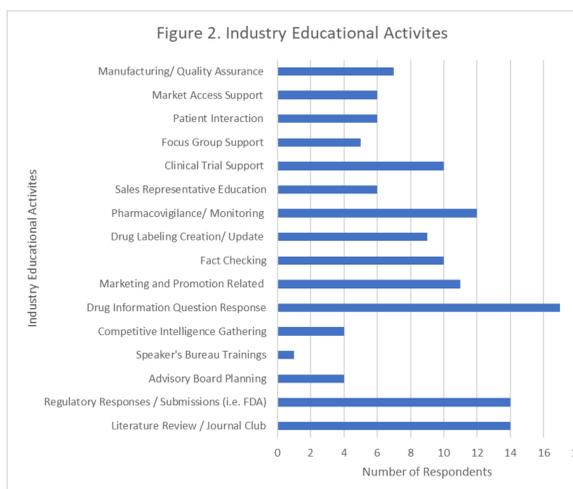


Figure 2 the number of respondents who offered each industry educational activities

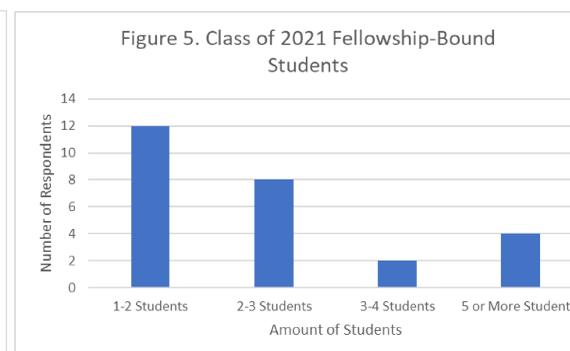


Figure 5 depicts the number of respondents and how many fellowship bound students they had in their graduating class of 2021

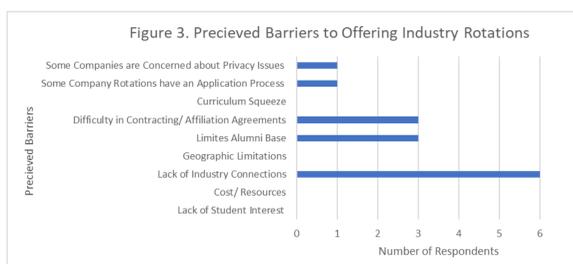


Figure 3 depicts the number of respondent and what barriers are preventing them from offering any or more industry rotations.

Discussion

❖ 79% (22) of respondents represented schools that offer and IPPE or APPE with an industry focus, 21% (6) of respondents do not.

❖ 52% of respondents had an IPhO chapter.

Limitations

❖ Low number of survey responses

❖ Voluntary survey response bias

Conclusions

❖ The majority of respondents believe industry rotations are very important to have.

❖ All schools that did not offer industry rotations have students that expressed interest in industry career paths or industry rotations.

❖ The most pertinent barrier to industry rotations was a lack of industry contacts.

❖ Half of pharmacy school respondents have had students involved in recruiting or identifying industry preceptors for rotations

References

- (1) Alexander, J. G.; Mathre, S.; Hu, G.-W. J. (2020) Analysis of Direct-To-Industry Jobs Among 2020 PharmD Graduates
- (2) Alexander, J. G.; Bunkers, L.; Dodd, L.; Emami, N.; Iftikhar, M.; Pradhan, V.; Scillufo, F. (2020) Analysis of 2020-2021 PharmD Industry Fellowships