

Abstract

Faculty Mentorship in Pharmacy School and Graduates' Interest in Postgraduate Training

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Introduction

The career goals of pharmacy students are expected to change throughout the course of a Doctor of Pharmacy program with individual experiences and influences of each student. There are many factors and influences that may impact a student's goals and interests. Faculty mentorship has the potential to cater information specific to a student's personal goals and interests. The objective of this study is to determine the impact of faculty mentorship on student's interest in postgraduate training in a Doctor of Pharmacy program.

Methods

This study is an observational, prospective, cohort study. Participants were invited to complete a ten-question survey a total of 4 times, in the spring of each semester enrolled in the pharmacy program. Faculty Mentorship was defined as having a faculty mentor and meeting at least once a semester. Students' interest in postgraduate training was defined as answering yes or maybe to planning to participate in further education after graduation. The survey data in P1/P2 (2019/2020) and P3/P4 (2021/2022) and the paired data from P1/P2 (2019/2020) and P3/P4 (2021/2022) were assessed using a paired McNemar test.

Results

A total of 50 participants were included in analysis. In P1/P2 (2019/2020) and P3/P4 (2021/2022), students that had a faculty mentor were more likely to be interested in postgraduate training, 7.25 95% CI (2.55 to 20.62) and 6.0 95% CI (1.34 to 26.8) respectively. In the paired analysis of postgraduate interest of students from P1/P2 to P3/P4 was statistically significant, $\chi^2=8.64$, $p=0.003$. The faculty mentorship from P1/P2 to P3/P4 (2021/2022) paired analysis was not statistically significant $\chi^2=0.235$, $p=0.628$.

Conclusion

Students enrolled in a Doctor of Pharmacy program that had a faculty mentor were more likely to be interested in pursuing a postgraduate training. Faculty mentorship provides students with the information needed to make career decisions based upon individual interests.