

Pharmacy Student Mentor Program with Practicing Pharmacists

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Abstract:

Southern Illinois University School of Pharmacy has recognized the value of mentorship and introduced a student alumni mentor program with the graduating class of 2025. This study aims to understand how students are utilizing mentor sessions with practicing pharmacists as a cohort, as one major limitation of prior literature is low response rate and low sample size. This study included quantitative and qualitative responses from 279 surveys completed by 119 students at SIUE during two academic years. The most common topics discussed during mentor sessions were academics/classes, wellbeing, work, and career interests. The most common professional development areas discussed were self-awareness, professionalism, and leadership. The highest response rates in the qualitative analysis were career planning, strategies for school, professional development, strategies for rotations, student/professional organizations, and residency planning. Future implications of this study include improving the student response tool, improving the mentor match survey to adequately pair students with mentors who have similar interests or experiences, and providing additional resources to better serve both mentors and mentees at SIUE.