INTRODUCTION
- Numerous studies have investigated academic dishonesty from various levels, ranging from elementary to graduate school.
- Academic dishonesty is an area of particular concern among healthcare professional students as it may result in less competence and continued unethical behavior beyond graduation.
- Examples of academic dishonesty range from copying another student's answers during an exam, bringing a cheat sheet to an exam, receiving assistance on a take-home assignment/exam, stealing an exam, plagiarizing a paper, taking results on a lab/research project, and falsifying findings in a clinical setting.
- Studies suggest that medical students who are academically dishonest may be more likely to alter laboratory data, patient history, or physical examination findings in a clinical setting. It is reported that academic dishonesty occurs in 0-58% of U.S. medical students.
- Limited data exists regarding academic dishonesty among pharmacy students.
- Numerous studies have investigated academic dishonesty from various levels, ranging from elementary to graduate school.

METHODS
- Design: A 45-item cross-sectional paper and pencil survey conducted at four Northern California pharmacy schools. Three of the schools were private institutions and one was public.
- Exclusion Criteria: The pharmacy student researcher (K.N.) visited four Northern California pharmacy schools (e.g. Touro University California College of Pharmacy, University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy, University of the Pacific Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, and California Northstate University College of Pharmacy) to survey all of the second-year pharmacy students.
- Inclusion Criteria: The pharmacy student researcher (K.N.) visited four Northern California pharmacy schools. Three of the schools were private institutions and one was public.
- Cheating scenarios: Data analyses were conducted using STATA vs. 12.
- Statistical analyses: Data analyses was conducted using STATA vs. 12.

RESULTS
- Cheating History and Awareness
  - Cheated in Pharmacy School: 39/331 (11.8)
  - Cheated in undergraduate: 60/331 (18.1)
  - Cheated in high school: 110/330 (33.3)
  - Cheated in middle school/junior high school: 120/331 (36.2)
- Are you aware of any incident(s) of cheating involving a pharmacy student at your institution? Yes: 185/330 (56.1)

SPECIFIC FORMS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
- Have you ever used hidden notes during a written or electronic examination? Yes: 3/331 (0.9)
- Have you ever used an unauthorized electronic device during a written or electronic exam? Yes: 2/331 (0.6)
- Have you ever copied from a neighbor during a written or electronic exam? Yes: 215/331 (65.1)
- Have you ever copied from a neighbor without the student's permission? Yes: 98 (30.1)
- Have you ever asked someone for the answer during a written or electronic exam? Yes: 96 (29.1)
- Have you ever asked a peer for details regarding content of an oral/practical exam or OSCE? Yes: 87/331 (26.6)
- Have you ever offered details to a peer regarding content of an oral/practical exam or OSCE? Yes: 96/330 (29.1)
- Have you ever handed down work to students in lower years for their use in pharmacy school? Yes: 331/331 (100)
- Have you ever offered help to a peer regarding content of an oral/practical exam or OSCE? Yes: 98/331 (29.4)
- Have you ever offered help to a peer regarding content of an oral/practical exam or OSCE? Yes: 98/331 (29.4)
- Have you ever asked someone for the answer during a written or electronic exam? Yes: 12/331 (3.7)
- Have you ever asked a peer for details regarding content of an oral/practical exam or OSCE? Yes: 87/331 (26.6)
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DISCUSSION
- Academic dishonesty occurs among Doctor of Pharmacy students in the U.S.
- Roughly 10% of students self-reported to “cheating” in pharmacy school and higher rates were seen when specific examples of academic dishonesty were queried.
- Peer-based forms of academic dishonesty were more common than examination cheating.
- Primary motivations for cheating included fear of failure, procrastination, and stress.
- Cheating in undergraduate studies was the sole predictor of cheating in pharmacy school.
- Information presented in this study may help pharmacy programs better understand their student population, which may lead to a reassessment of ethical culture, testing procedures, and prevention programs.

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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
Investigations of this study do not have any conflicts of interest to declare.