

First professional year performance of students who attended partner and non-partner schools

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Key Take Away Points

- Neither pre-pharmacy institution attended nor prior degree earned predicts first-year success
- Age, pre-pharmacy science GPA, and overall pre-pharmacy GPA were significant predictors of success in the P1 year
- This research could help inform admission decisions in a rapidly changing environment
- Trends in performance in specific courses can lead to pre-pharmacy course improvements at partner schools

Introduction

- Determining admission criteria to ensure student success is difficult
- NEOMED has four main partner institutions for undergraduate coursework
- NEOMED's partner school agreements are similar to early assurance pathways found at other pharmacy schools
- First-professional year is often the most difficult
- Most of the research done on this topic does not consider at what specific school the student completed his or her pre-pharmacy coursework
- Purpose: to compare academic success of students who attended partner schools of NEOMED and other institutions

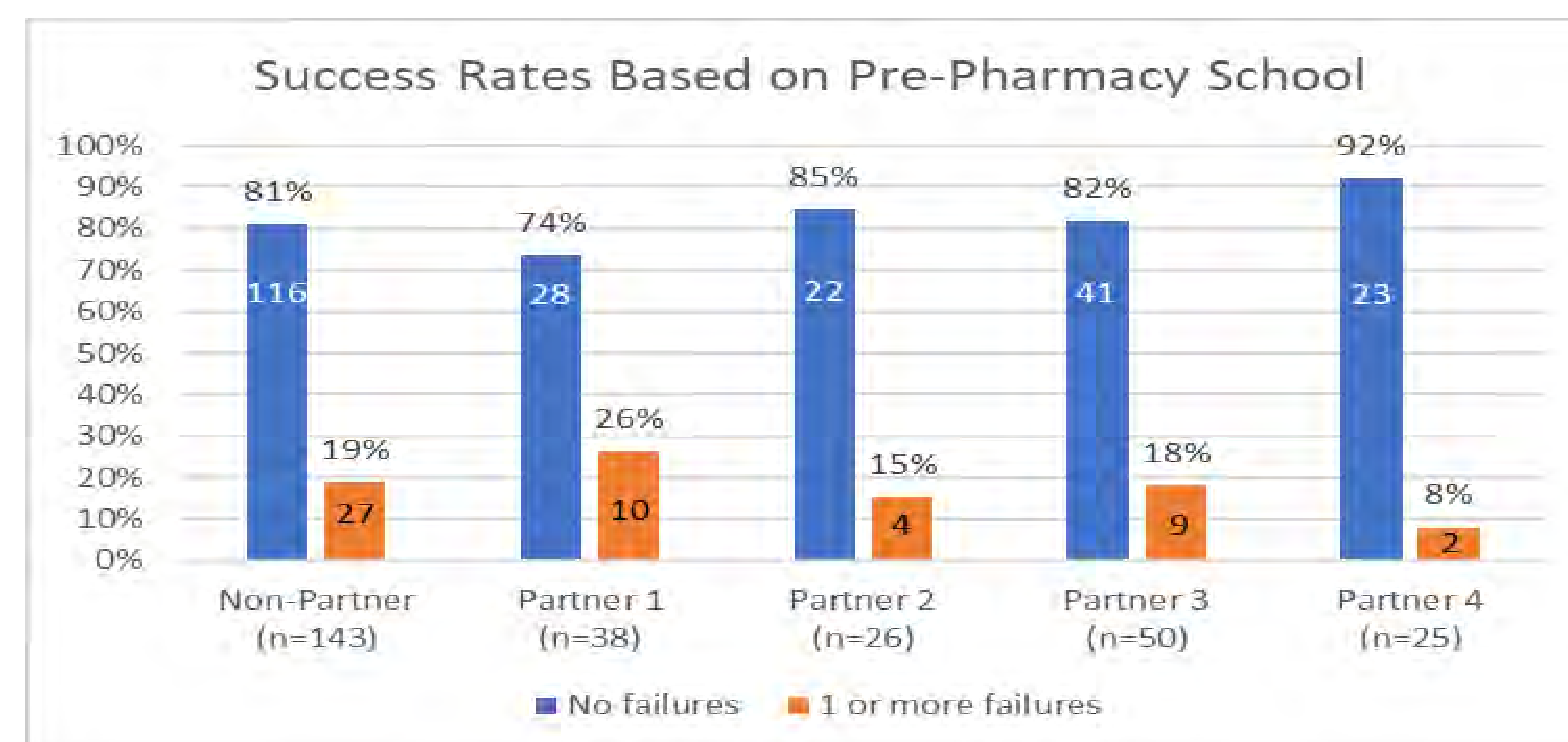
Methods

- Approved by NEOMED Institutional Review Board
- Admission data matched to P1 academic data; de-identified by third party
- Inclusion: pharmacy students who matriculated into NEOMED fall 2013-16
- Exclusion: multiple partner schools or partner school and non-partner school with no degree
- Primary outcome: if pre-pharmacy institution attended is a predictor of P1 academic success (no course failures)

Results

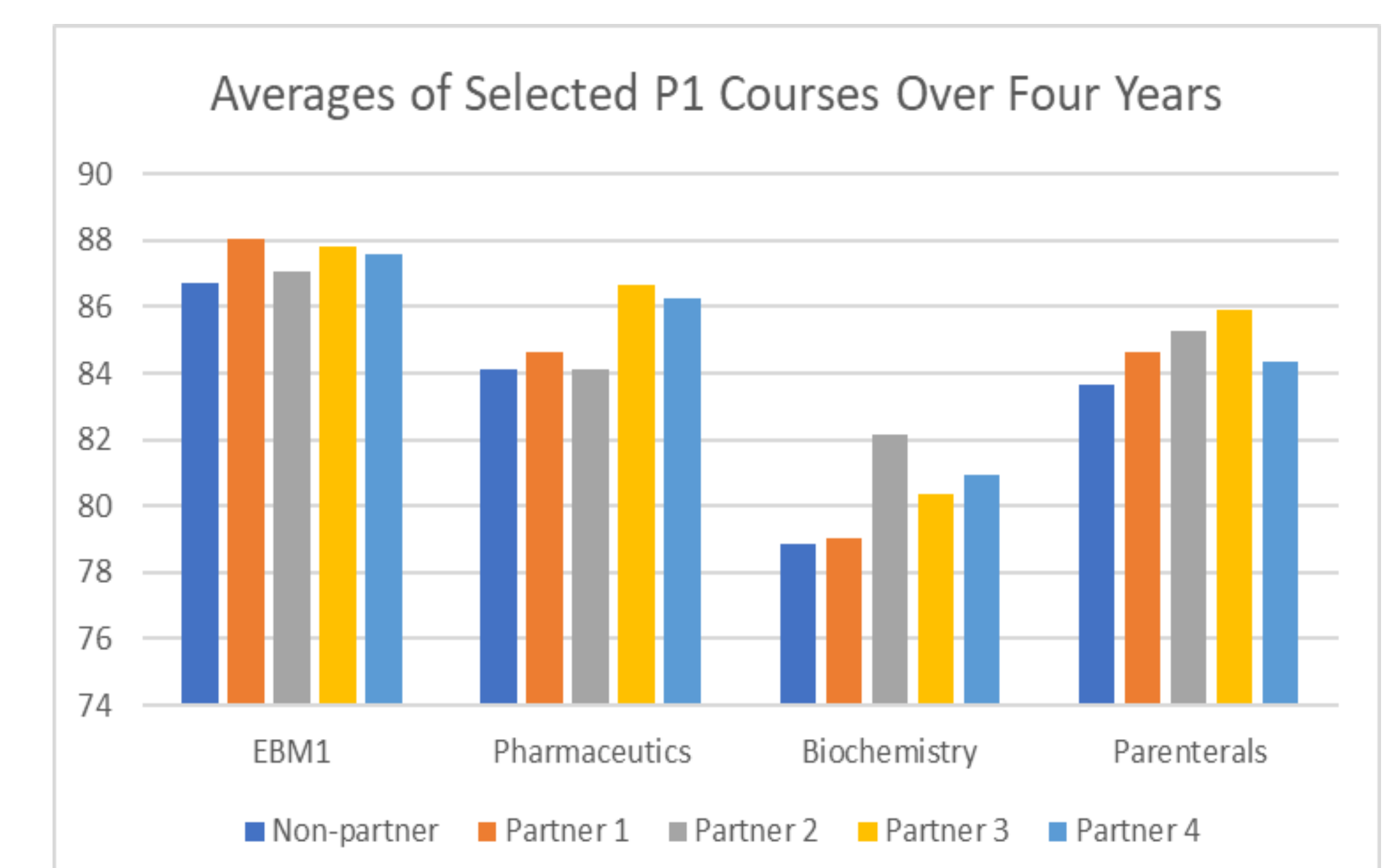
Baseline Characteristics

Variable	Partner (n=139)	Non-Partner (n=143)
Age, mean (SD)	22.68 (4.03)	23.72 (4.89)
Overall GPA, mean (SD)	3.39 (0.37)	3.19 (0.36)
Science GPA, mean (SD)	3.26 (0.45)	3.02 (0.45)
Female, n (%)	70 (50.7)	77 (53.8)
Prior Degree, n (%)	95 (68.3)	120 (83.9)



- No significant difference between partner and non-partner schools and first-year success ($\chi^2(4) = 3.565$, $p = 0.468$)
- No relationship between degree attainment and first-year success ($\chi^2(1) = 0.054$, $p = 0.817$)

Results (continued)



Discussion

- Students who attend partner schools do equally well in P1 year
- Prior degree attainment was not a significant predictor of success P1 year, which differs with some previous research
- Similar to previous research, pre-pharmacy GPA predicts first-year success
- Although not significant, differences in course scores could possibly indicate differences in prerequisites at pre-pharmacy institutions.

References

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