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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Partner (n=139)</th>
<th>Non-Partner (n=143)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD)</td>
<td>22.68 (4.03)</td>
<td>23.72 (4.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall GPA, mean (SD)</td>
<td>3.39 (0.37)</td>
<td>3.02 (0.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science GPA, mean (SD)</td>
<td>3.26 (0.45)</td>
<td>3.02 (0.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>70 (50.7)</td>
<td>77 (53.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Degree, n (%)</td>
<td>95 (68.3)</td>
<td>120 (83.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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 ($\chi^2(1) = 0.054$, $p = 0.817$)

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