Factors that Influence Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Selection

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Background

- Wilkes University pharmacy students are required to complete 1440 hours of experiential education during their final year of pharmacy school.
- Students must choose from four required rotations (ambulatory, community, hospital/health system, inpatient general medicine) and three electives.

Objective

- To assess student perception of factors potentially influencing Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) selection.

Methods

- Third (P3) and fourth (P4) year professional students completed an anonymous survey to determine the top 5 factors which influenced their selection process when choosing required rotations.
- Factors include area of interest, size of institution, location, future employment, preceptor reputation, rotation hours, faculty rotation, non-faculty rotation, peer recommendation, cost/housing, level of difficulty, size of institution, and if a residency is offered.
- Factors ranked: Areas of interest in specialty, cost/housing, faculty rotation site, future employment possibility, had an IPPE at the site, how many students the site takes at a time during a given rotation, level of difficulty, location, non-faculty rotation site, peer recommendation, preceptor reputation, residency is offered there, rotation activities, rotation hours.

APPE Rotations

- 6 x 5 week rotations
- 1 x 6 week rotation

Required APPEs

- Ambulatory
- Community
- Hospital/Health System
- Inpatient General Medicine

Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ambulatory Care</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Health/Hospital System</th>
<th>Inpatient General Medicine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P4 Class</td>
<td>P3 Class</td>
<td>P4 Class</td>
<td>P3 Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost/Housing</td>
<td>90 (9.18%)</td>
<td>125 (14.30%)</td>
<td>86 (9.01%)</td>
<td>114 (14.32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Rotation Site</td>
<td>63 (6.43%)</td>
<td>72 (8.24%)</td>
<td>18 (1.89%)</td>
<td>30 (3.77%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Employment Possibility</td>
<td>71 (7.24%)</td>
<td>66 (7.55%)</td>
<td>69 (7.23%)</td>
<td>62 (7.79%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>230 (23.47%)</td>
<td>241 (27.57%)</td>
<td>235 (24.63%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Recommendation</td>
<td>123 (12.55%)</td>
<td>73 (8.70%)</td>
<td>118 (12.37%)</td>
<td>82 (10.30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preceptor Reputation</td>
<td>82 (8.37%)</td>
<td>52 (5.95%)</td>
<td>104 (10.90%)</td>
<td>49 (6.16%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

- 100 % of P3 (71) and P4 (72) students responded to the survey.
- Both classes selected location as the number one factor which influenced their decision for selecting required rotations.
- P3s: Cost/housing was second most important for all rotations except inpatient general medicine. They ranked faculty rotation as second most important.
- P4s: Peer recommendation was second most important for all rotations except inpatient general medicine. They ranked preceptor reputation as second most important.

Conclusion

- Location appears to be the driving factor for selecting APPE rotations. It would be beneficial to look into future rotation sites which potentially offer housing to help decrease costs.
- Further research into the factors that influence ranking on APPE electives is warranted.