



Assessment of Perceived Benefits of a Professionalism Development Program

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PURPOSE

- To assess the perceived benefits of the Professionalism Development Program, which spans from the first through fourth year of the doctorate of pharmacy curriculum.

INTRODUCTION

- Pharmacists are expected to demonstrate professional behavior in a multitude of settings.
- Professional competence is the habitual and judicious use of communication, knowledge, technical skills, clinical reasoning, emotions, values, and reflection in daily practice for the benefit of the individual and community being served.¹
- Experience has shown that the attitudes and behaviors that comprise professionalism cannot be learned from a textbook or lecture. Rather, they must be actively acquired and inculcated through the process of professional socialization.²

METHODS

Study Design

- Cross Sectional Study Conducted Fall 2013 (Class of 2017)

Data Source

- The questionnaire consisted of 20 questions that assessed the views of fourth year pharmacy students on professionalism.
- The Professionalism Development Program included the following initiatives:
 - Annual Professionalism Leadership Workshop
 - Election of Professional Chairs
 - Professional Development Essay
 - Professionalism Newsletter
 - Professionalism Seminars
 - White Coat Ceremony/Orientation

Statistical Analysis

- Surveys were assessed with SPSS and Tableau statistical analysis software.

RESULTS

- 37 out of 62 fourth year pharmacy students (Class of 2017) participated in the study, which yielded a 59.7% response rate.
- Approximately 80% of the participants self-identified as Black, African-American, or African.
- 100% of participants agreed that the Professionalism Development Program helped to reflect and evaluate their personal professionalism level, provided useful career mapping information, and provided knowledge directly applicable to their growth as a student pharmacist.
- Participants reported that they gained the following from the Professionalism Development Program: integrity, responsibility, accountability, conflict resolution, timeliness, ability to reflect, insight, awareness, and responsibility.

Graph 1: Perceived Benefits of the Professionalism Development Program

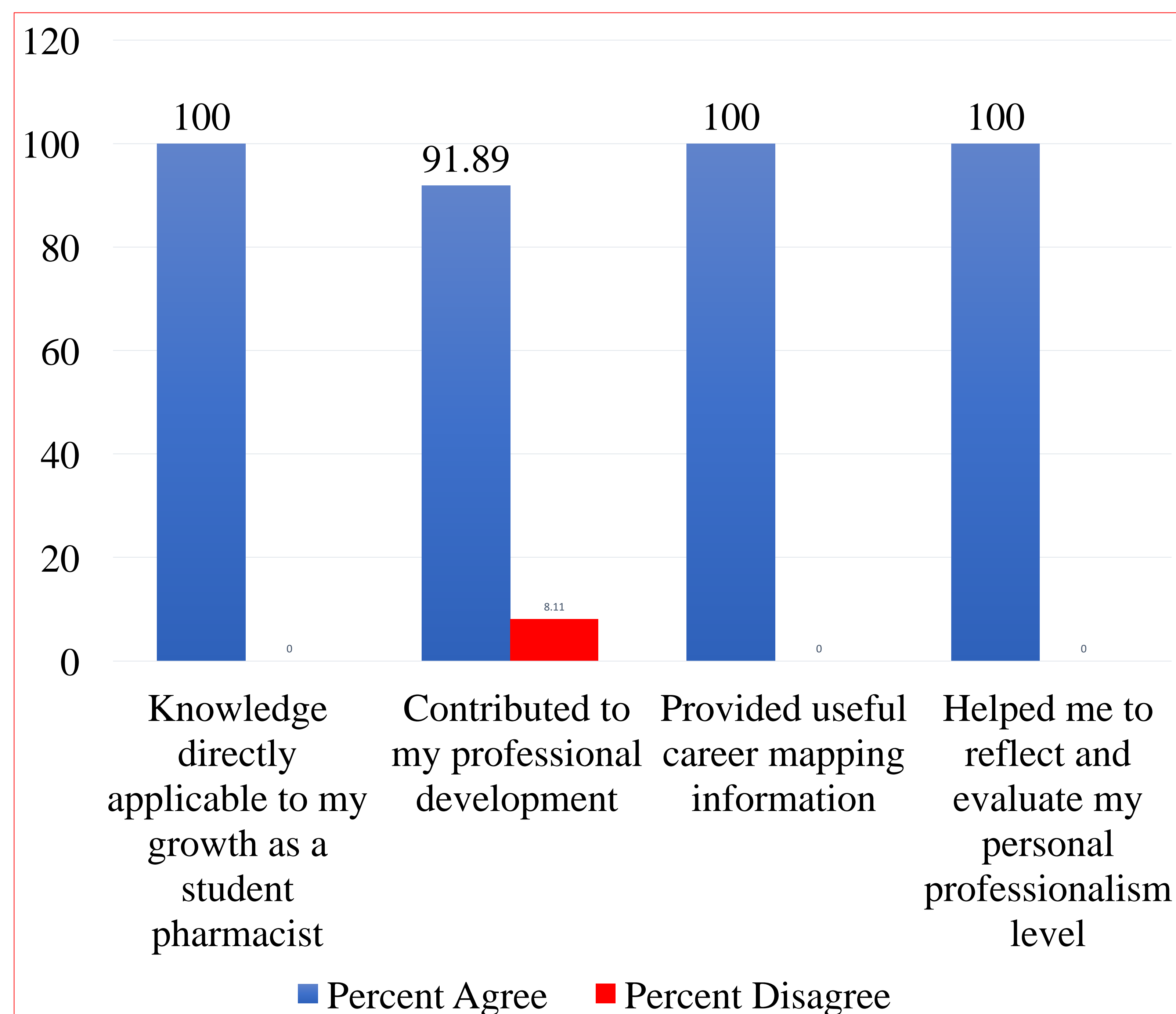


Table 1: Most Favored Initiatives

Initiatives	Rank
White Coat Ceremony/Orientation Workshop	1
Fall Professionalism Seminars	2
Annual Professionalism Leadership Workshop	3
Professional Development Essay	4
Election of Professional Chairs	5
Annual Professionalism Recognition Award	6
Professionalism Newsletter	7
Spring Professionalism Mentoring Circle	8
Professionalism Bulletin Board	9

CONCLUSION

- Recently, pharmacy schools have begun implementing professionalism into their curriculum
- The outcome of the study supports a professional development program in its ability to positively impact pharmacy students.
- In order to improve the validity of the study,
 - Assessing other cohorts of fourth year pharmacy students on the program's benefit on professionalism development.
 - Increasing participation in cross sectional study
 - Implementing a baseline assessment so that comparisons can be made before and after participation in the professionalism development program.

REFERENCES

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