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# Pharmacy Admissions: The Dating Game

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# Pharmacy Admissions: The Dating Game

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Stephanie Cailor, Kate Ford, and Aleda Chen, PharmD, PhD

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Background:

- There is a disconnect between what the 132 pharmacy schools provide and students want<sup>1,2</sup>
- Schools do not know how to properly recruit students to their school
- Students interested in a pharmacy school may consider many key characteristics when deciding where to go<sup>3</sup>:

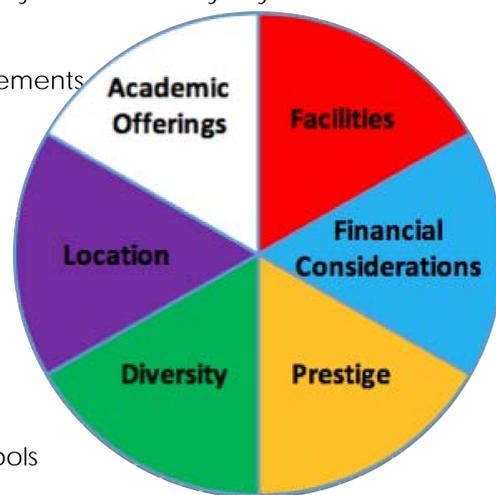
- The classes offered and admissions requirements
- The location of the school
- The impact of diversity on the student
- The stature of the school
- The scholarships offered and overall cost of the school
- The relevance of the facilities

Question:

- What are students looking for in a pharmacy school?

Gap:

- The current disconnect between what schools offer and what prospective students desire in a professional pharmacy school.



## OBJECTIVES

Overall Aim: To evaluate student perceptions of desirable pharmacy school characteristics and create a presentation or portfolio of materials to address those characteristics.

Objectives: To determine:

- Objective 1: what pharmacy school academic standards and offerings of a school will significantly impact student choice in attending a school
- Objective 2: if the ethnic and cultural diversity of currently-enrolled students and the diversity awareness initiatives influence students' decision-making for enrollment
- Objective 3: the impact of prestige on students' choice of school
- Objective 4: the impact of cost and financial aid offerings on students' choice of school
- Objective 5: the impact of pharmacy schools' facilities on students' choice of school
- Objective 6: the impact of school location on students' choice to attend

## HYPOTHESES

These six characteristics play an important role in creating a presentation or portfolio of materials to address the most valuable characteristic of the pharmacy school.

## LIMITATIONS

- Getting a reliable amount of survey responses from the survey
- Selection bias, due to us picking the specific schools, rather than sending it to all pharmacy schools in the country.
- This project focuses more on what students are looking for in a school rather than what schools actually offer.
- The survey does not target students younger than eighteen years of age nor faculty members because of maturation and bias in their experiences.

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Academic Pharmacy's Vital Statistics. Published February 2, 2015. Updated Last Updated, 2015. Accessed November 20, 2015.

<sup>2</sup>Accreditation standards and key elements for the professional program in pharmacy leading to the doctor of pharmacy degree. <https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/Standards2016FINAL.pdf>. Published February 2, 2015. Updated Last Updated, 2015. Accessed November 20, 2015.

<sup>3</sup>AACP's institutional, faculty and student databases track on an annual basis the status of pharmacy's academic enterprise. Data in "Academic Pharmacy's Vital Statistics" are reflective of the Association's *Profile of Pharmacy Faculty* and *Profile of Pharmacy Students*.

## PROPOSED METHODS

Study Design:

- Cross-sectional study design carried out by a survey

Sample:

- Current students in undergraduate and graduate pharmacy programs from approximately 10 different schools across the country

Data Collection:

- A Qualtrics survey will be used to collect data through email with two follow-up emails
- Researchers will generate Likert-scale and closed-ended questions to properly assess the factors that affect student choices.

Measurement:

- The survey will measure which of the following factors has the most influence on a student's choice of school: academics, prestige, financial considerations, location, facilities, and diversity

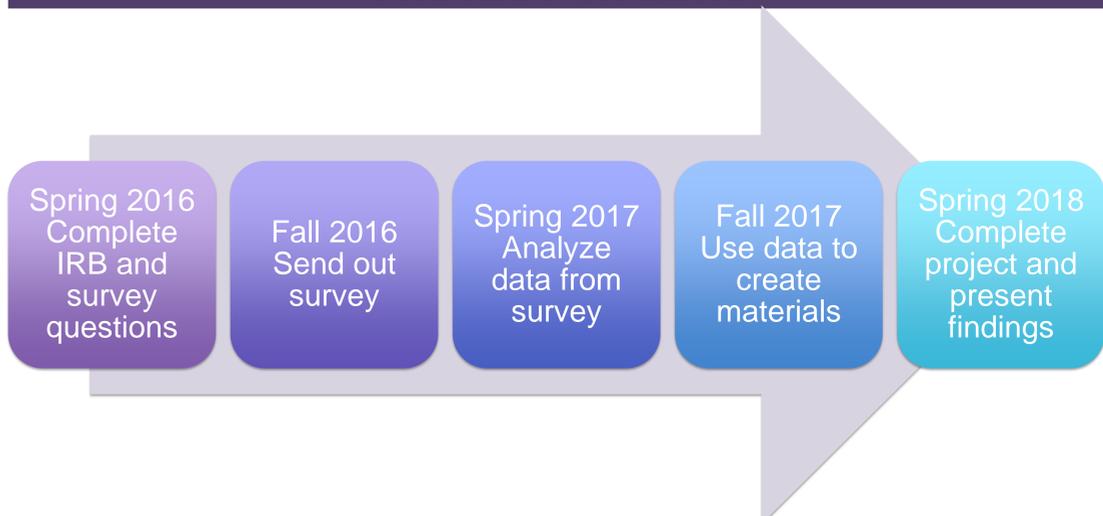
Utilization of Results:

- Educational pamphlet and presentation will be created
- This will provide information for pharmacy schools to better their recruiting process and target potential students.

## PROPOSED ANALYSES

- Obtain data from various pharmacy students from across the country
- Categorize the data based on demographic information that includes gender, ethnicity, and the name and region of their school
- Analyze the data using One-Way ANOVA, chi-squared, and Kruskal-Wallis statistical tests (based on question type and normality assessed by a Shapiro-Wilk test)
- Two-fold analysis
  - The analysis will be done to determine overall what students want
  - Analysis will also show what students want based on their demographic information

## PROJECT TIMELINE



## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- A study that includes more health professional programs to broaden the findings to graduate health programs
- The final result of the study can be used as a tool for recruiting professional students based on the most likely specific criteria of factors that will influence their decision
- Further the research to see how pharmacy schools can even better suit the needs of incoming prospective pharmacy students
- The research can be more in depth by expanding the scope of the survey to determine what continues to drive students to pharmacy schools over an extended period of time