Pharmacy Admissions: The Dating Game

Travis Mentch  
_Cedarville University_, tmentch@cedarville.edu

Aaron Oliver  
_Cedarville University_, ajoliver@cedarville.edu

Joel Sanvee  
_Cedarville University_, asanvee@cedarville.edu

Godfred Atta-Effâ  
_Cedarville University_, gattaeffa@cedarville.edu

Maame Debrah-Pinamang  
_Cedarville University_, mdebrahpinamang@cedarville.edu

_See next page for additional authors_

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Authors
Travis Mentch, Aaron Oliver, Joel Sanvee, Godfred Atta-Effa, Maame Debrah-Pinamang, Monica Saad, Aleda Chen, Stephanie M. Cailor, and Kate Ford
Pharmacy Admissions: The Dating Game

Godfred Atta-Effa, Maame Debrah-Pinamang, Travis Mentch, A.J. Oliver, Monica Saad, Joel Sanvee, 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.
- Schools do not know how to properly recruit students to their school.
- Students interested in pharmacy schools may consider many key characteristics when deciding where to go:
  - 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

3. NAC's Institutional, faculty and student databases track an annual baseline status of pharmacy's academic enterprise. Data in Academic Pharmacy's Vital Statistics are reflective of the Association/Mobile of Pharmacy Faculty and Mobile 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 normally 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

- Spring 2016: Complete IRB and survey questions
- Fall 2016: Send out survey
- Spring 2017: Analyze data from survey
- Fall 2017: Use data to create materials
- Spring 2018: Complete project and present findings

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.