

# Implementation and evaluation of a residency preparation program for fourth year Doctor of Pharmacy students

Erin M. Slazak, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP<sup>1</sup>, Maya R. Chilbert, PharmD, BCCP<sup>1</sup>, Jaime Maerten-Rivera, PhD<sup>1</sup>, William A. Prescott, Jr., PharmD<sup>1,2</sup>, Ashley E. Woodruff, PharmD, BCPS<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

<sup>2</sup>Editorial Board Member, American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education

## Bottom-Line

- The University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (UB SPPS) designed and implemented an optional, non-credit bearing, formalized Residency Preparation Program for professional year 4 (PY4) students.
- PY4 students at UB SPPS had **higher match rates** post-implementation as compared with UB SPPS students pre-implementation and as compared with national match rates.
- Students reported **spending more time with their advisor** and engaged in **more residency preparation activities with their advisor**, including curriculum vitae (CV) review, letter of intent review, and interview preparation.

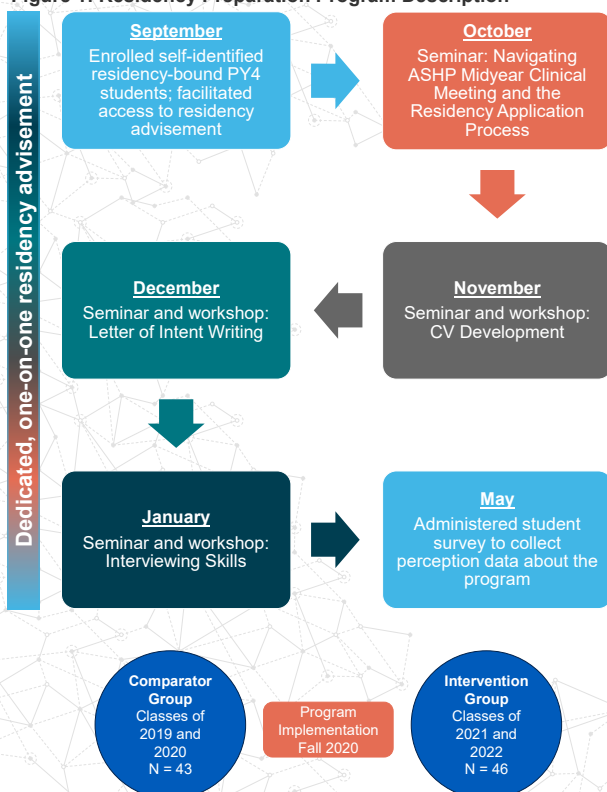
## Study Objectives

To examine the impact of our residency preparation program on:

- Residency match rates
- Student-reported participation in residency advisement activities
- Student perceptions of the residency application process

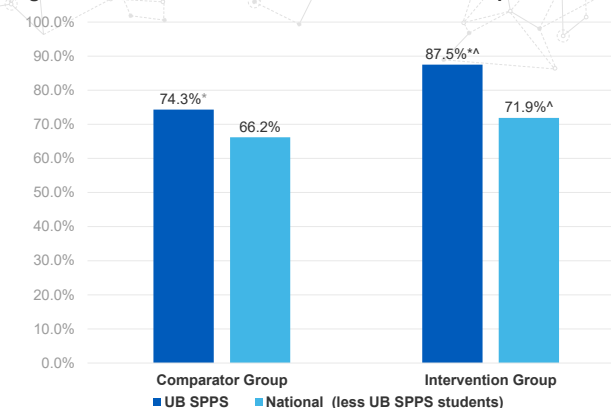
## Methods

Figure 1: Residency Preparation Program Description



## Results

Figure 2: UB SPPS Student Match Rates Pre/Post-Implementation<sup>†</sup>



<sup>†</sup>Match results were aggregated across 2019 and 2020 for the comparator group and 2021 and 2022 for the intervention group

\*p=0.03 for UB SPPS intervention group vs UB SPPS comparator group

^p=0.003 for UB SPPS intervention group vs national (2021 and 2022)

Table 1: Student Perceptions of the Residency Preparation Program\*

	Comparator Group N = 20		Intervention Group N = 22	
	Median (IQR)	Mean (SD)	Median (IQR)	Mean (SD)
My advisor helped me develop professional goals	4 (3-5)	3.7 (1.1)	4 (4-5)	4.3 (0.7)
If my advisor was unable to address a residency-related question/concern, they referred me to the appropriate person, office, or resource	4 (3-5)	3.9 (1.1)	4 (4-4.8)	4.0 (1.0)
If I had to go through the residency application process again, I would be interested in being paired with a faculty member to help me navigate the process	4 (3.8-5)	4.2 (0.8)	---	---
The Residency Preparation Program was beneficial to my professional development	---	---	4 (4-5)	4.4 (0.5)
The Residency Preparation Program helped me obtain a residency position	---	---	4 (4-4.8)	4.0 (0.8)
If I were to go through the residency application process again, I would participate in the Residency Preparation Program	---	---	4 (4-5)	4.4 (0.6)
My residency advisor was the main advisor I utilized to prepare me for residency and the residency application process	---	---	4 (3-5)	3.8 (1.1)

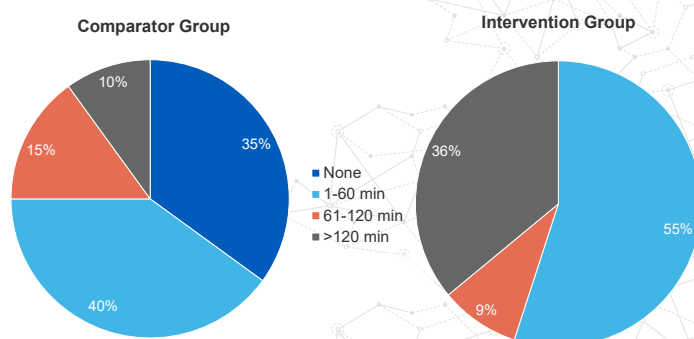
\*Rating scale: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree  
p > 0.05 for intervention group vs comparator group for all items

Table 2: Student-Reported Residency Advisement Activities

	Comparator Group (n = 20)	Intervention Group (n = 22)
My advisor:	n (%)	n (%)
Reviewed my letter(s) of intent	10 (50)	20 (91)^
Reviewed my CV	11 (55)	19 (86)*
Provided guidance on which programs to apply to	7 (35)	15 (68)
Provided guidance on selecting references who could write a strong letter of recommendation	9 (45)	14 (64)
Provided guidance on navigating Phase I of the Match	5 (25)	10 (46)
Assessed/helped improve my interview skills	1 (5)	8 (36)*
Provided guidance on how to navigate the ASHP Residency Showcase	5 (25)	7 (32)
Provided guidance on navigating Phase II of the Match	2 (10)	2 (9)

\* p<0.01  
^ p<0.001

Figure 3: Student-Reported Time Spent with Advisor During PY4



## References

- Match statistics, ASHP Resident Matching Program. <https://natmatch.com/ashprmp/stats.html>.

## Contact Information

Erin M. Slazak, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP  
[emsabia@buffalo.edu](mailto:emsabia@buffalo.edu)  
[www.pharmacy.buffalo.edu](http://www.pharmacy.buffalo.edu)