

The Development of a Post-Graduate Training Committee for Fourth-Year Pharmacy Students

Stefanie C. Nigro PharmD, BCACP, CDCES, BC-ADM; Kristin Waters PharmD, BCPS, BCPP; Diana M. Sobieraj PharmD, FCCP; Jennifer Luciano PharmD; Cassandra R. Doyno PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP; Youssef Bessada PharmD, BCPS; Kathleen K. Adams PharmD, BCPS

University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, Storrs, CT, USA

Objective

To enhance professional development resources for fourth-year pharmacy students seeking post-graduate training at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy

Background

- Our Institutional Assessment Committee (IAC) identifies programmatic and organizational areas of improvement through a continuous quality improvement process.
- One of the charges of the IAC is to trend student post-graduate employment plans to support applicants' professional development to pursue those post-graduate programs (Figure 1).
- Our graduates have consistently shown increased interest in post-graduate professional programs, for which structured programmatic support is lacking. This is similar to national trends^{1,2}.

Methods

- The IAC identified that, while overall national PGY-1 residency match rates were relatively stable from 2017-2021 (67 to 69%), our overall school match rates were down-trending (from 81% to 62%) (Figure 2).
- Simultaneously, more graduates of the school were pursuing fellowship positions than in previous years (Figure 3).



Figure 1. UConn School of Pharmacy Employment at Graduation, 2022

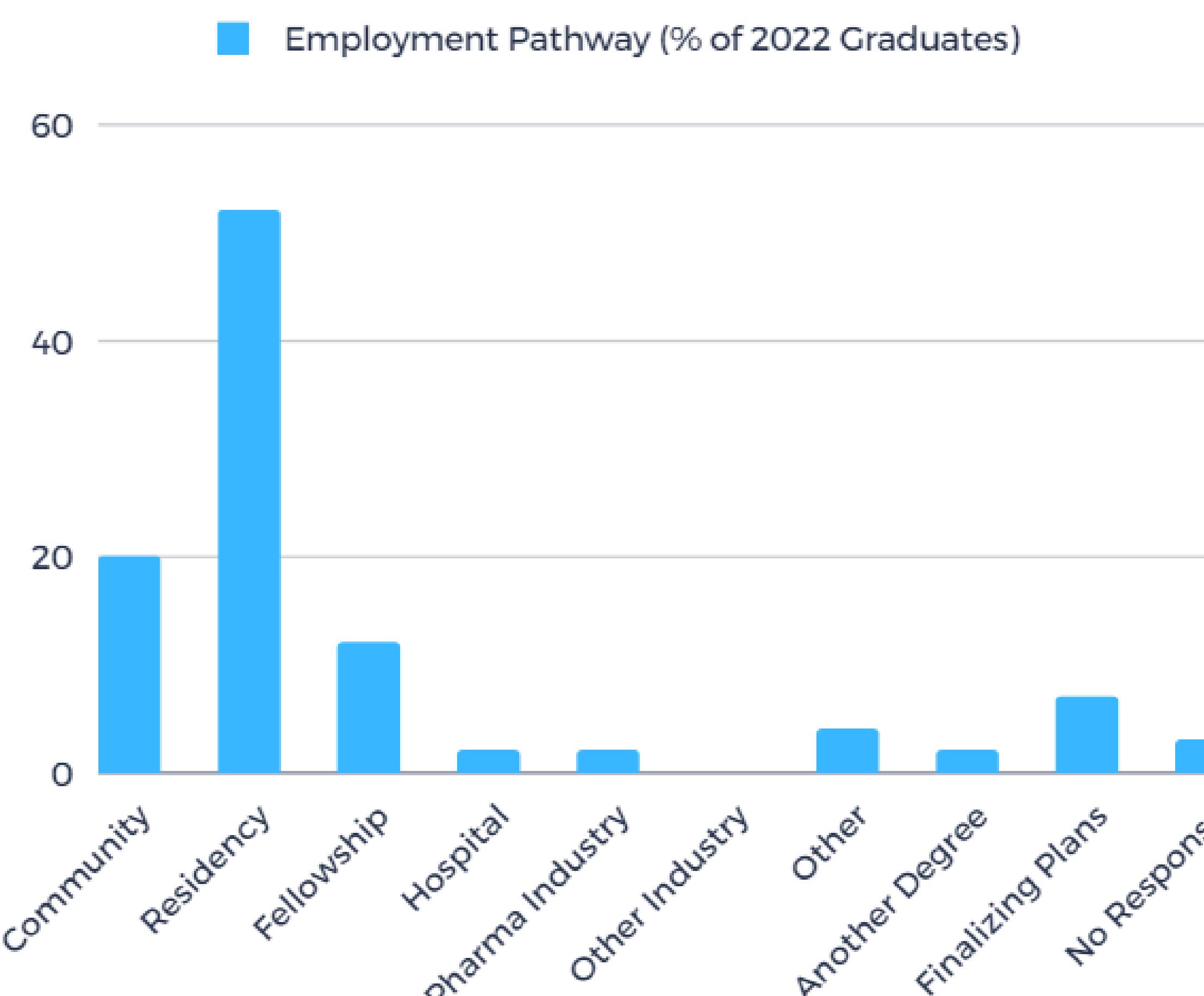
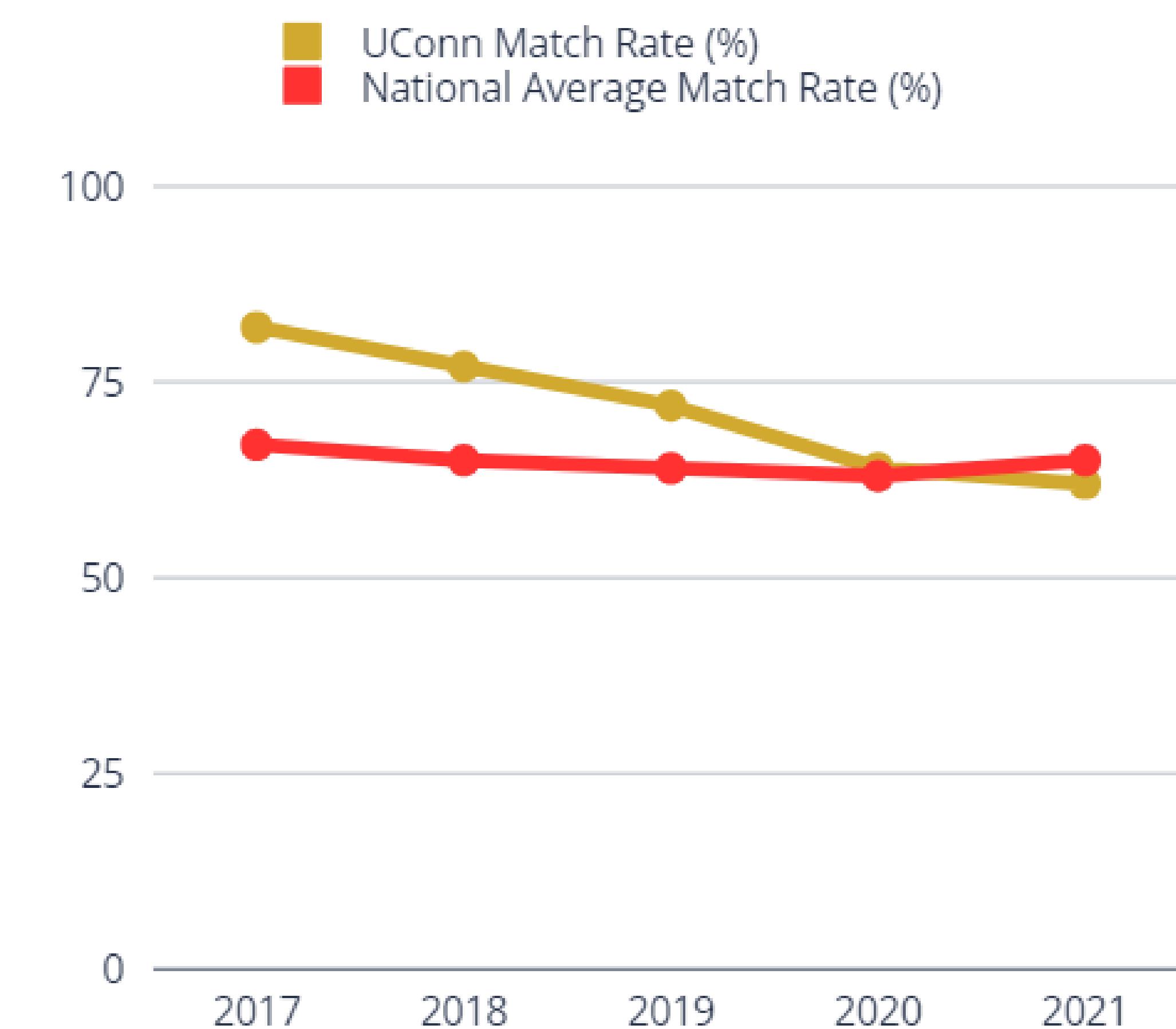


Figure 2. 6-year trend of PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Match Rates



Results

- The PGTC developed a compendium of resources and activities for residency and fellowship applications (Table 1).
- These tools were disseminated to the P4 class using the School of Pharmacy web-learning platform over the course of AT 22-23.

Table 1. Timeline of Post-Graduate Preparatory Activity Implementation

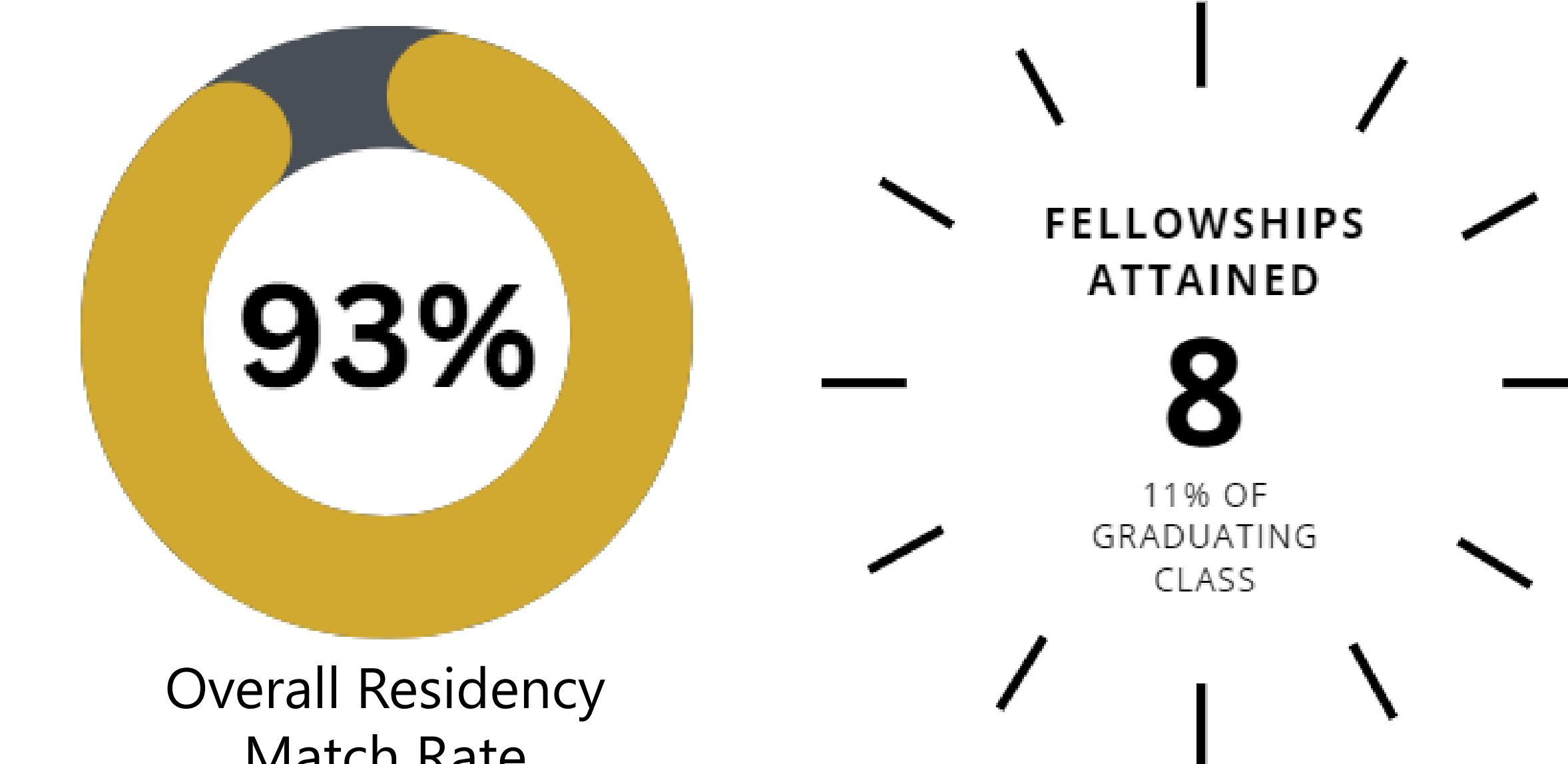
MONTH	RESIDENCY ACTIVITY	FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY
JUNE	Curriculum Vitae (CV) Writing Workshop (Webinar)	29
JULY	Letter of Intent (LOI) Composition Workshop (Webinar)	12
AUGUST	Question & Answer Panel of Current Residents (Webinar)	26
SEPTEMBER		13
OCTOBER	CV & LOI Review by Faculty (Activity) & Tips & Tricks for Residency Program Selection (Webinar)	4
NOVEMBER	Residency Mock Interviews (Activity)	21

of Students in Class of 2023 (n=75) Attending Each Activity:

- Residency: 29, 12, 26, 4, 21
- Fellowship: 13
- Joint: 26

Discussion

Figure 3. Class of 2023 (n=75) Post-Graduate Statistics



- These activities, in addition to the collection of tools and resources to assist student success were completed by the faculty in the PGTC, as an additional commitment (Figure 4).
- In consequent years, the class of 2022 (n=81) and the class of 2023 (n=75) had a 90% and 93% residency match rate.
- It is important to note that while improvement in Residency Match Rate could be attributed to this initiative; Nationally, the applicant pool is decreasing and matching may be more favorable to applicants.
- The School of Pharmacy aims collect more data to more accurately observe trends in successful Fellowship attainment.

Figure 4. Estimated Workload



Conclusions

Through the assessment process, the School of Pharmacy increased the number and type of activities in support of residency applicants and implemented new activities to support fellowship applicants.

References

- Cho JC et al. Int J Pharm Pract. 2020 Apr;28(2):150-155.
- Patel I et al. Curr Pharm Teach Learn. 2018 Aug;10(8):1055-1061.

The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research presented.