

# Student Pharmacists' Perceptions of a NAPLEX Preparation Module in the Pharmacy Curriculum

Alison Robinson; David R. Axon, PhD, MPharm, MS, MRPharmS

The University of Arizona College of Pharmacy



Pharmacy



## Background

The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) is taken by pharmacy graduates shortly after they graduate.

In response to student requests for more NAPLEX support, the University of Arizona R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy has developed NAPLEX preparation modules that students take in their final year of the pharmacy curriculum.

However, student's perceptions of the NAPLEX preparation modules is currently unknown.

## Objectives

To assess final-year pharmacy students' experiences of a NAPLEX Preparation Module in the pharmacy curriculum at University of Arizona R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy.

## Methods

A 20-item electronic survey was administered to all fourth-year student pharmacists enrolled in the University of Arizona R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy NAPLEX preparation module in Spring 2023 (N=118).

Twelve items explored student perceptions and opinions towards the NAPLEX preparation module using a six-point agreement scale.

Two items explored students' preferences towards the course structure and course assignments.

Six items collected demographic data.

Data were analyzed descriptively using frequencies with percentages, and medians with interquartile ranges.

Differences between campuses were compared with chi-squared tests.

**Table 1**

Demographics Characteristics	Total N (%)	Tucson Campus N (%)	Phoenix Campus N (%)
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	27 (69.2)	16 (57.1)	11 (100)
Male	11 (28.2)	11 (39.3)	0 (0)
Other/Prefer Not to Say	1 (2.6)	1 (3.6)	0 (0)
<b>Race</b>			
White	21 (51.2)	12 (42.9)	9 (69.2)
Not White	20 (48.8)	16 (57.1)	4 (30.8)
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic	11 (26.8)	8 (28.6)	3 (23.1)
Not-Hispanic	30 (73.2)	20 (71.4)	10 (76.9)
<b>Hours worked on average per week</b>			
≤ 4 hours/week	11 (27.5)	7 (25.9)	4 (30.8)
5-8 hours/week	11 (27.5)	5 (18.5)	6 (46.2)
9-12 hours/week	8 (20.0)	6 (22.2)	2 (15.4)
≤13 hours/week	10 (25.0)	9 (33.3)	1 (7.7)
<b>First generation college student</b>			
Yes	18 (43.9)	12 (42.9)	6 (46.1)
No	23 (56.1)	16 (57.1)	7 (53.9)

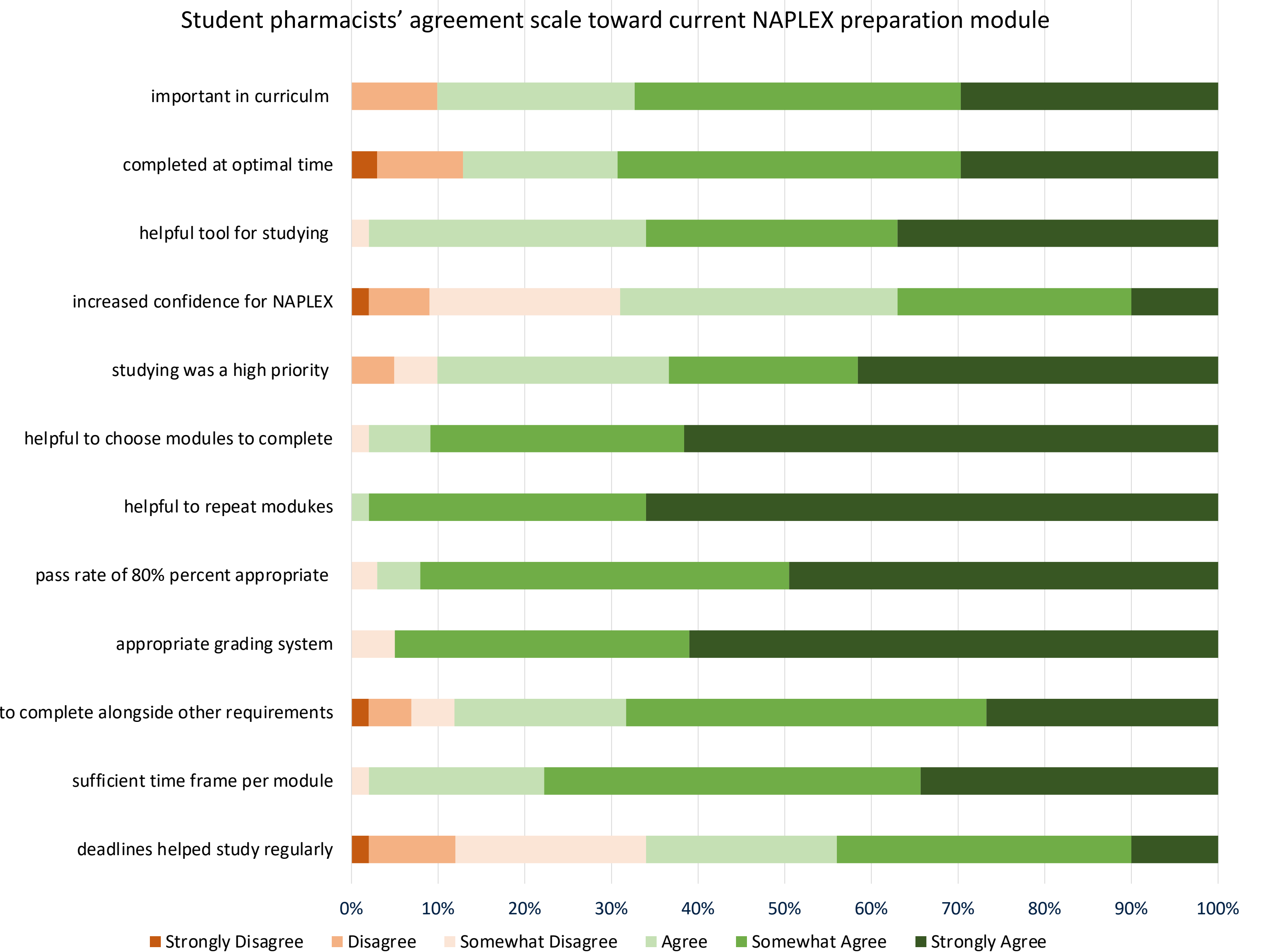
p>0.05 for all comparisons.

**Table 2**

Course Structure & Assignments	Total N (%)	Tucson Campus N (%)	Phoenix Campus N (%)
I would prefer a self-directed online (asynchronous) NAPLEX preparation course	23 (56.1)	15 (53.4)	8 (61.5)
I would prefer a variety of both short and long assignments with a greater proportion of short assignments	17 (41.5)	12 (42.9)	5 (38.5)
I would prefer only short NAPLEX preparation assignments	17 (41.5)	12 (42.9)	5 (38.5)

p>0.05 for all comparisons.

**Figure 1**



## Conclusions

The study results suggest that student pharmacists typically perceived the NAPLEX preparation modules positively.

Further research is needed, perhaps with qualitative interviews, to explore individuals' experiences with the NAPLEX preparation module in greater detail and to determine what modifications can be made to further assist students when studying for the NAPLEX.