

# Ascending to the Next Level: Design and Outcomes of an APPE Readiness Course

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## Key Points

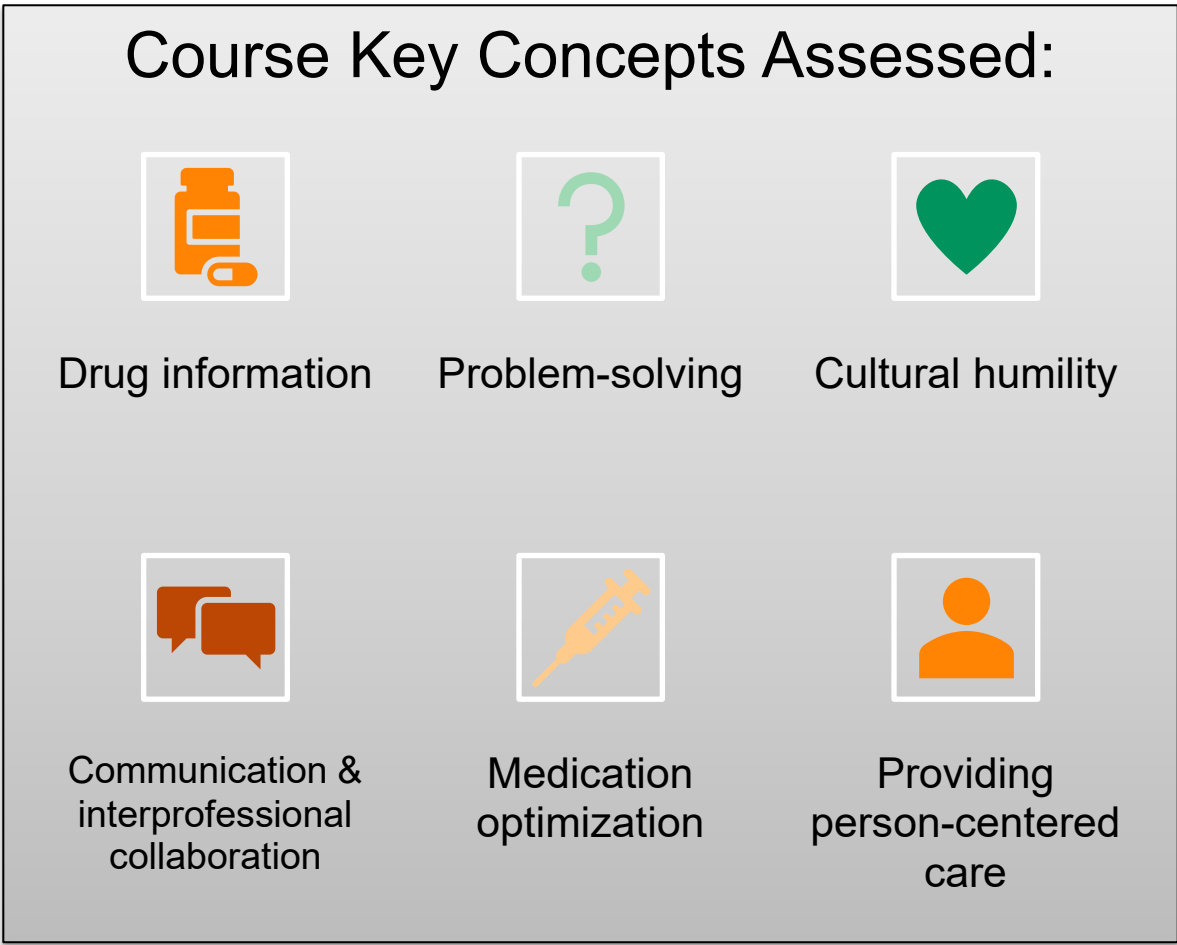
- The Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Ready course can successfully identify students who may require further development before proceeding to APPEs.
- The course provided insight into previously unrecognized knowledge gaps.
- The identified knowledge gaps can be utilized as part of an ongoing quality improvement tool for curricular design.

## Objective

To describe the design, implementation, and outcomes of an innovative course designed to assess student readiness for APPEs.

## Methods

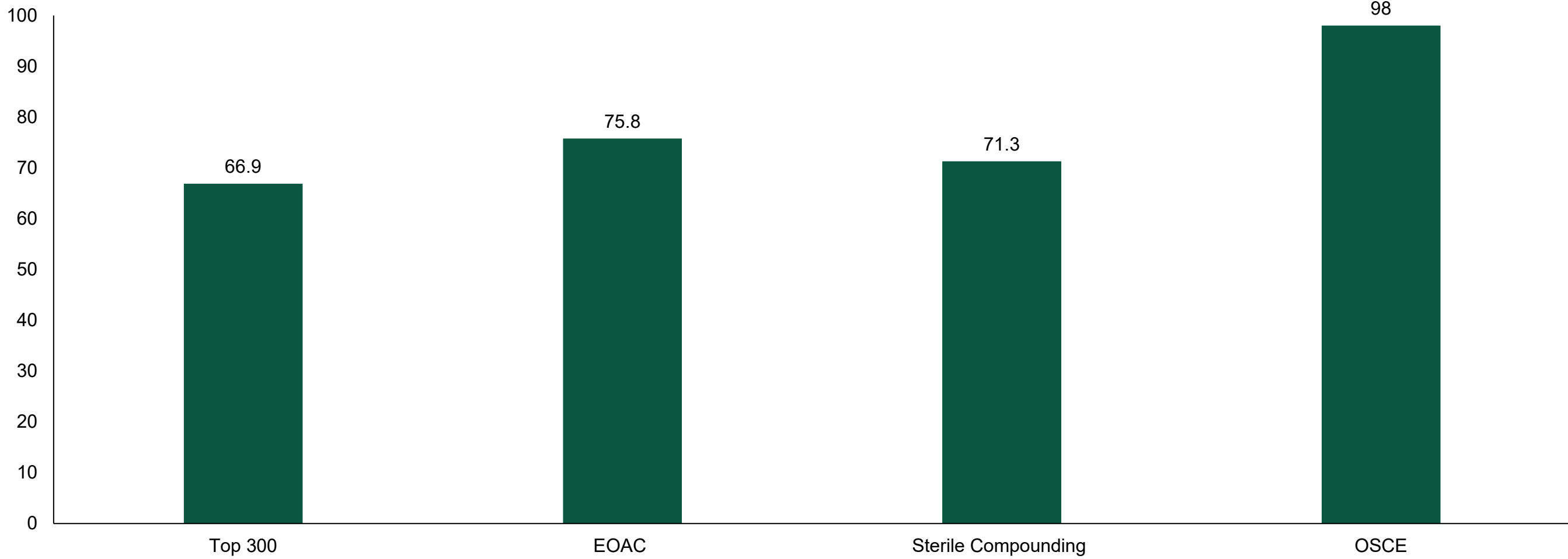
- 8-week capstone course implemented in January 2020
- Assessments:
  - **Top 300 Drugs**
    - Foundational drug knowledge
  - **Errors, Omissions, and Calculations (EOAC)**
    - Prescription accuracy, pharmacy math
  - **Sterile Compounding Practicum**
    - Station 1: pharmaceutical calculation
    - Station 2: sterile compounding technique
  - **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)**
    - 12-minute standardized patient encounter during which a comprehensive medication review was conducted
- Scores of  $\geq 80\%$  on all assessments were required to pass the APPE Ready course
- Remediation was granted if the minimum cut point was not achieved on first attempt



## Results

- 698 students have completed the course since implementation
- 97.6% of students progressed to APPEs on time
- First-time pass rates varied by assessment (Figure 1)
- Curriculum changes secondary to these outcomes included:
  - Implementing milestone top 300 quizzes throughout the curriculum
  - Adding clinical case-based scenarios to Pharmacy Math
  - Additional sterile compounding sessions throughout the curriculum
  - Targeted developmental plans for skill development in OSCEs

Figure 1. Assessment First Time Pass Rates (%)



## Conclusions

- Overall, students are prepared to progress to their APPEs.
- The APPE Ready course allowed for identification of knowledge gaps not previously noted.