

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

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Key Points

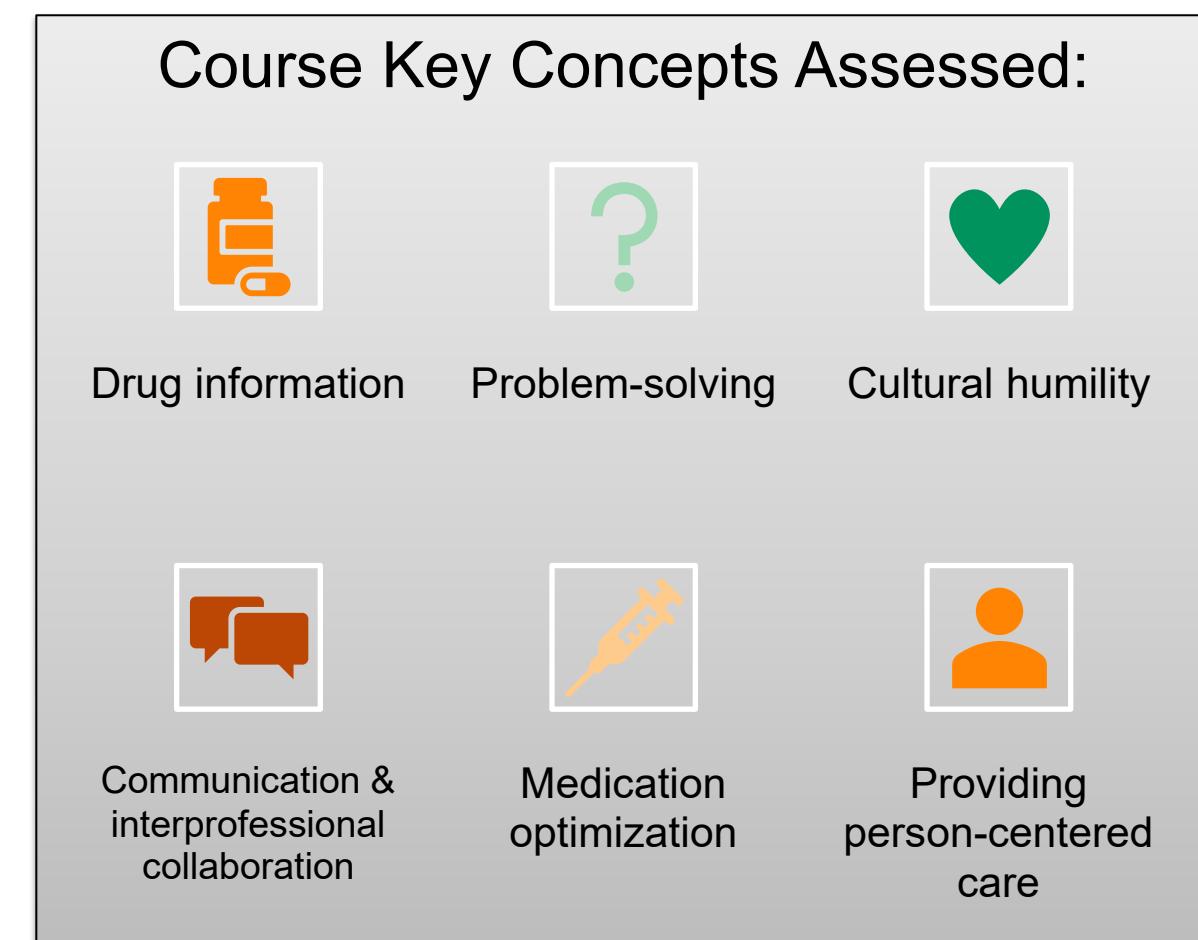
- The Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Ready course can successfully identify students who may require further development before proceeding to APPEs.
- The course provided insight into previously unrecognized knowledge gaps.
- The identified knowledge gaps can be utilized as part of an ongoing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

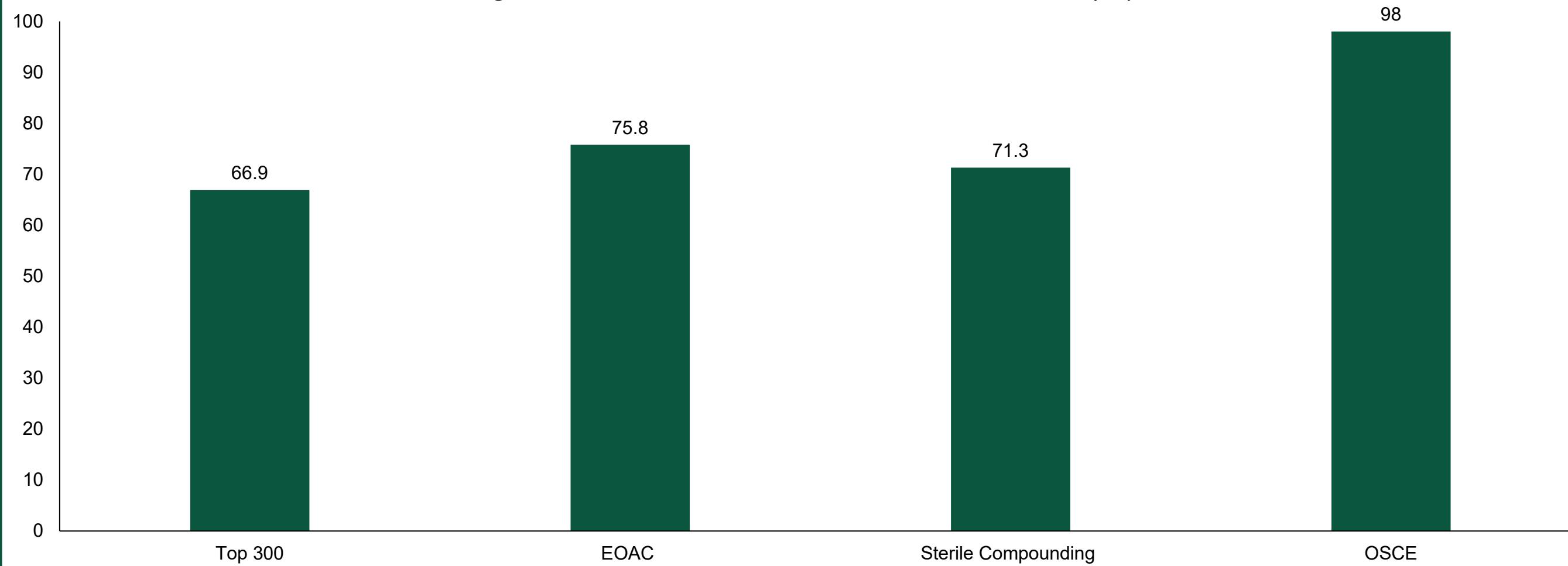
- 8-week capstone course implemented in January 2020
- Assessments:
 - **Top 300 Drugs**
 - Foundational drug knowledge
 - **Errors, Omissions, and Calculations (EOAC)**
 - Prescription accuracy, pharmacy math
 - **Sterile Compounding Practicum**
 - Station 1: pharmaceutical calculation
 - Station 2: 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.