

# Professional identity formation (PIF): words and activities leading to increased PIF

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## INTRODUCTION

- Professional identity formation (PIF) is “thinking, acting, and feeling” like a pharmacist.<sup>1</sup>
- A scoping review identified key curriculum factors of content silos, modeling behaviors, and opportunities to enact professional identities as ways to increase PIF.<sup>2</sup>
- No previous research examined how students describe their professional identity or what specific activities influenced their identity.

## OBJECTIVE

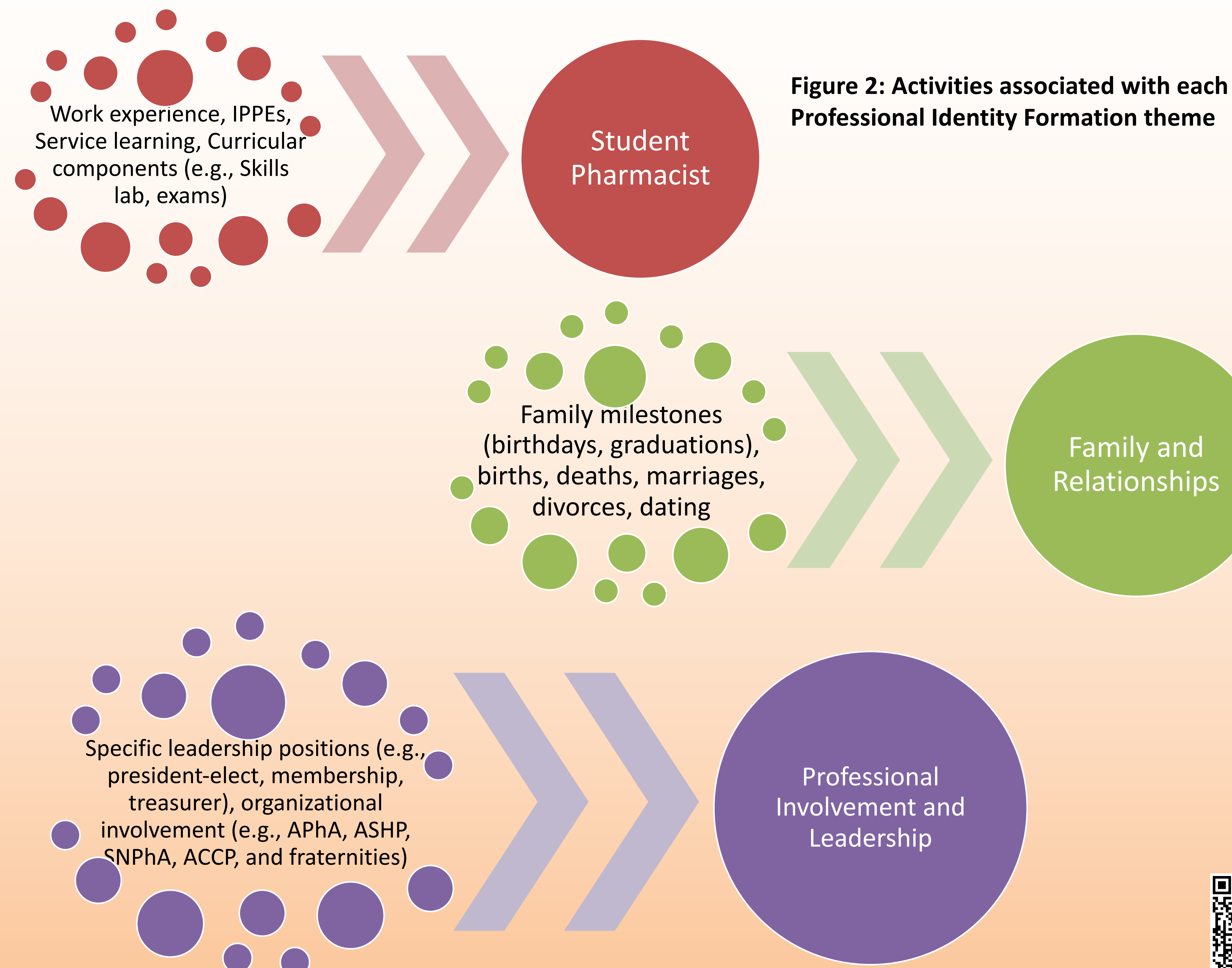
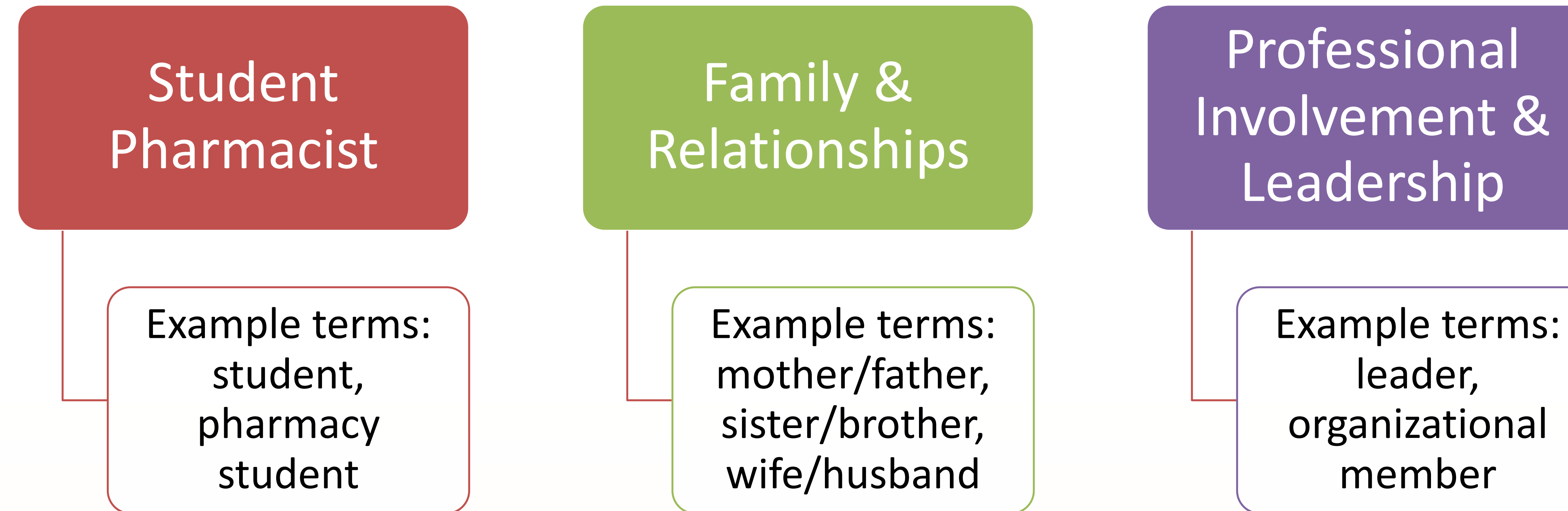
To describe student pharmacists’ evolution of professional identity formation (PIF) through completion of year-specific activities in a professional development curriculum

## METHODS

- Students instructed to identify five terms (ranked most to least important) during new student orientation
- During their first (P1) and second (P2) years, students completed year-specific PIF, professional development, and experiential activities (part of curricular and co-curricular requirements)
- During the spring semester of their P2 year, students reflected on PIF evolution and most influential activities
- Thematic analysis of terms and activities was completed by two researchers
- Frequencies for common terms and activities reported
- Activities may include curricular/co-curricular components or profession-related components (e.g., work experience)

## RESULTS

Figure 1: Professional identify formation themes and associated terms



## DISCUSSION

- Student pharmacist’s professional identity is still developing as they progress through pharmacy school.
- The development of PIF has many influential factors, some from the curriculum, some from co-curricular experiences, some from work experiences, and some from outside school influences.
- Limitations:
  - Personal identity formation was reported
  - Community IPPE completed

## CONCLUSION

- Professional identity formation is important component for future pharmacists to understand.
- After completion of intentional professional development activities, student- and family-related terms were most frequently noted.
- Schools/colleges of pharmacy should be intentional in development of PIF-related activities
- Future research will continue to monitor impact of professional development activities on growth of PIF.

## REFERENCES

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