

# Evaluation of an Acute Care Pharmacotherapy Course on Pharmacy Student APPE Readiness and Post-Graduate Training

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## Introduction

- Teaching of acute care pharmacy topics during formative training can be variable and nuanced, with a bulk of exposure occurring during Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE)<sup>1</sup>
- Implementation of acute care and similar electives has demonstrated a positive impact on student APPE performance<sup>2,3</sup>
- Acute Care Pharmacotherapy is a 3-credit professional elective for P3 students at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHS) that was first offered in Fall 2022
- The course utilizes a hybrid format with pre-recorded lectures and weekly in-person case-based active learning sessions
- This elective course was developed to address gaps in the curriculum, prepare students for acute care APPE, and future practice in the acute care setting

## Objectives

To evaluate the impact of a hybrid acute care pharmacotherapy elective on student readiness for acute care APPE rotations and decision to pursue post-graduate training

## Methods

### Study Design

- This was a retrospective study of P3 students enrolled in the Acute Care Pharmacotherapy elective during Fall 2022
- A pre- and post-course survey were administered to all students enrolled to assess student readiness for acute care APPE rotations, interest in pursuing post-graduate training, and confidence in managing acute care conditions

### Inclusion Criteria

- ACPHS P3 students enrolled in Acute Care Pharmacotherapy during Fall 2022 that completed both the pre- and post-course survey

### Exclusion Criteria

- None

### Statistical analysis

- Descriptive statistics was used to analyze data collected from both surveys

## Results

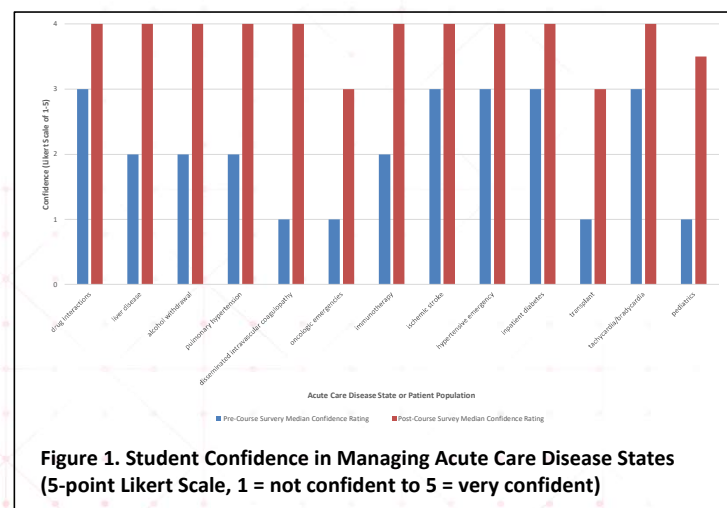
- A total of 16 students were enrolled in the elective course
- 15 students completed the pre-course survey, and 16 students completed the post-course survey
- One student added the course late after the pre-course survey had closed
- Six students had a GPA of 3.5-4.0, nine with a GPA of 3.0-3.49, and one with a GPA of 2.5-2.9
- Only 5 of the 16 students had prior inpatient experience besides institutional Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences

**Table 1. Student Readiness for an Acute Care APPE**

Question	Pre-Course Survey Number of Students Who Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	Post-Course Survey Number of Students Who Strongly Agree or Agree (%)
I understand the role of a pharmacist in the acute care setting	9 (60)	16 (100)
I feel confident assessing patients and their disease states in the inpatient setting	4 (26.7)	15 (93.8)
I feel confident with developing treatment plans in the inpatient setting	1 (6.7)	15 (93.8)
I feel confident applying primary literature to support evidence-based decisions to treat patients in the inpatient setting	8 (53.3)	16 (100)
I feel prepared for an inpatient APPE rotation at this moment	0 (0)	13 (81.3)

**Table 2. Student Interest in Post-Graduate Training**

Post- Graduate Training	Pre-Course Survey Number of Students (%)	Post-Course Survey Number of Students (%)
Residency	10 (66.7)	13 (81.3)
Fellowship	1 (6.7)	1 (6.3)
Neither	4 (26.7)	2 (12.5)



**Figure 1. Student Confidence in Managing Acute Care Disease States (5-point Likert Scale, 1 = not confident to 5 = very confident)**

## Conclusions

- Following completion of the Acute Care Pharmacotherapy elective course, P3 students reported increased readiness for an acute care APPE rotation, interest in post-graduate training, and confidence in managing acute care disease states
- The results were limited by the small sample size, given this was the first time the course was available to students
- Future directions for research include follow-up on student performance on APPE rotations and success in matching to a residency or fellowship

## References

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