

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)¹
- Implementation of acute care and similar electives has demonstrated a positive impact on student APPE performance^{2,3}
- 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)

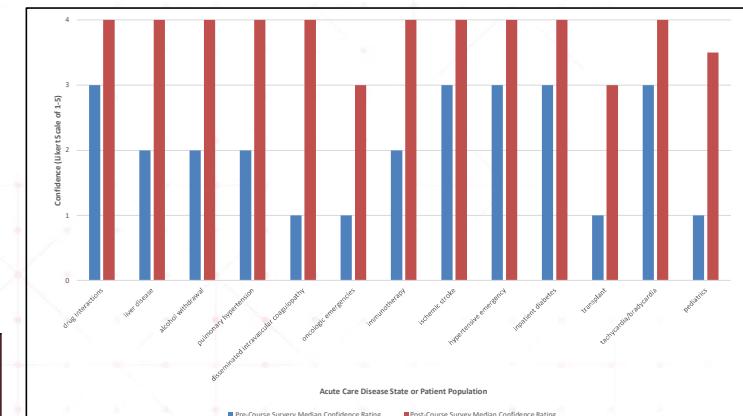


Figure 1. Student Confidence in Managing Acute Care Disease States (5-point Likert Scale, 1 = not confident to 5 = very confident)

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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