

# Updates to a Required APPE Readiness Course Series in a Doctor of Pharmacy Curriculum

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## Purpose

- Didactic preparation of Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) students is essential for experiential practice.
- ACPE Standards 2016 describe the need to teach PharmD students knowledge and skills to be ready prior to Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs); however, limited literature describes how this is completed and assessed at different PharmD programs.<sup>1</sup>
- The purpose of this project is to describe the continuation and updates made to a required APPE Readiness series taught to third-year PharmD students.

## Methods

- The APPE Readiness course series consisted of two required 1.5 credit hour courses offered over two 16-week semesters to third-year PharmD students at Keck Graduate Institute.
- The courses contained knowledge and skills necessary for students to succeed on APPEs, including oral journal club presentations, written and oral presentations of inpatient and outpatient patient cases, and calculations and law reviews.
- Students were assessed by standardized grading rubrics for written/oral journal club presentations and patient presentation-based objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs), and examinations containing course materials, disease state topics, and brand/generic names seen commonly in clinical practice.

## Methods (Continued)

- The courses were team-taught utilizing in-person lectures and interactive patient cases, and other activities.
- Towards series completion, students were assessed with the Pre-NAPLEX.

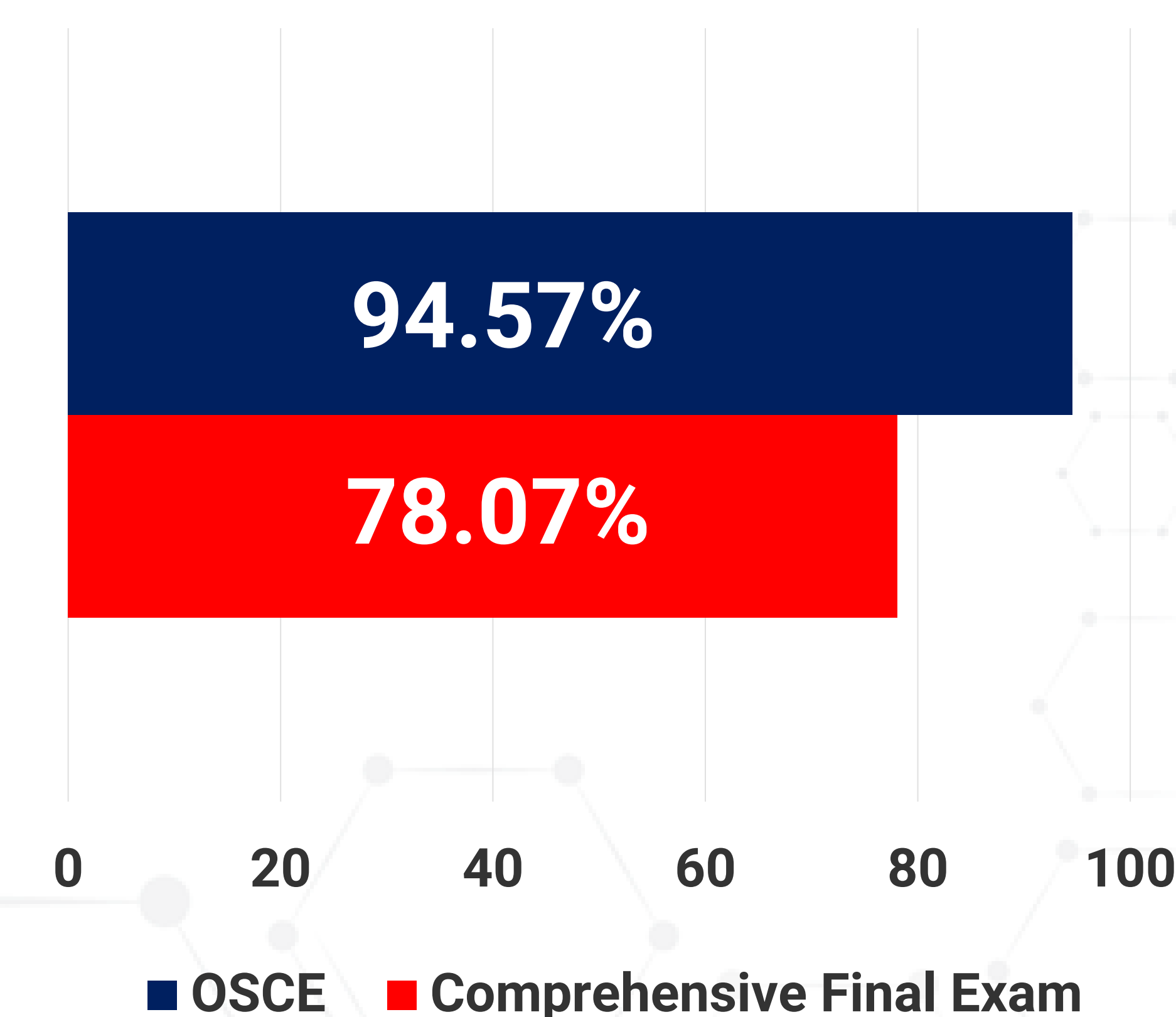
**Table 1. Course Topics, Activities, and Assessments**

Professionalism
Utilizing Drug Databases, Answering Drug Information Questions, and Order Verification
Introduction to Oral Patient Presentations
Individual Practice OSCE, Team Mock OSCE, and Graded Individual Final OSCEs
Comprehensive Inpatient Cases and Critical Thinking
Comprehensive Ambulatory Care Cases and Progress Notes
Interprofessional Education (IPE) Cases
Biostatistics Review and Journal Club Overview
Utilizing Search Engines to Find Literature
Individual and Team Journal Club Presentations
APPE Rotation Discussions with Current P4 Students and Preceptors
Calculations Review
Law Review
Pharmacy Dosing Consults
Rotation Dos and Don'ts
Clinical Therapeutics and Brand/Generic Names Examinations
Pre-NAPLEX
Comprehensive Final Examinations

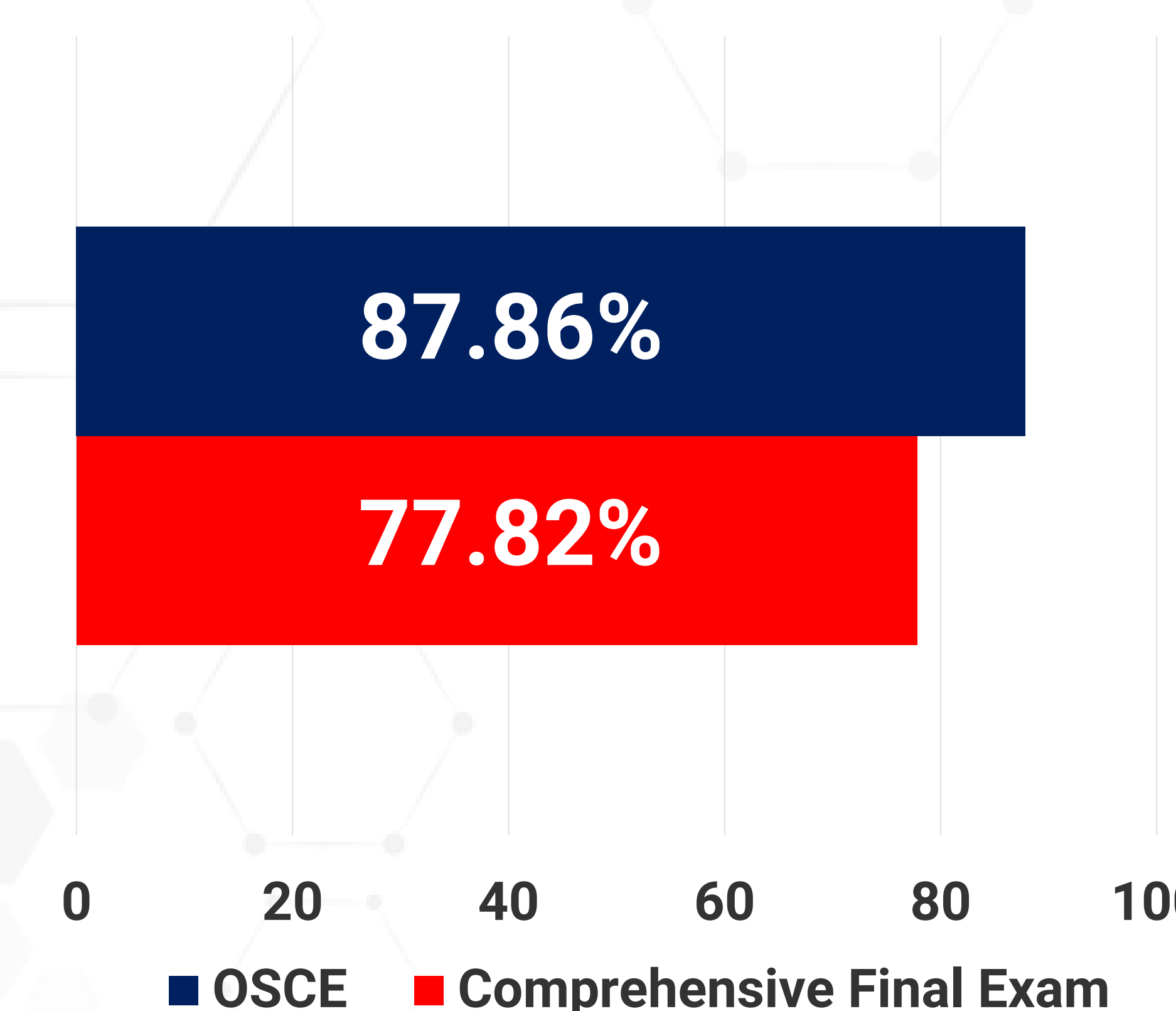
## Results

- Fifty-three and 51 PharmD students were enrolled in the APPE Readiness courses in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 respectively.

**Figure 1. Fall 2021 OSCE and Final Exam Means**



**Figure 2. Spring 2022 OSCE and Final Exam Means**



**Table 2. Mean Pre-NAPLEX Scaled Score**

Mean Pre-NAPLEX Scaled Score	57.37
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## Results (Continued)

**Table 3. Final Course Grade Distributions**

Grade Achieved	Number of Students (Fall)	Number of Students (Spring)
A	13	13
A-	5	6
B+	8	3
B	11	9
B-	8	11
C+	4	4
C	4	5
F	0	0

## Conclusions

- Students in the APPE Readiness course series demonstrated proficiency in both pharmacy knowledge and skills needed for APPE Readiness as exhibited by the final OSCEs, final examinations, and Pre-NAPLEX scores.
- Further research is needed to determine if there is any correlation between APPE Readiness course series, APPE rotation, and board examination performance.

**Reference:** 1. *Currents in Teaching and Learning* 2020;12(7):771-5.

**Disclosures:** The authors of this presentation have nothing to disclose.

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