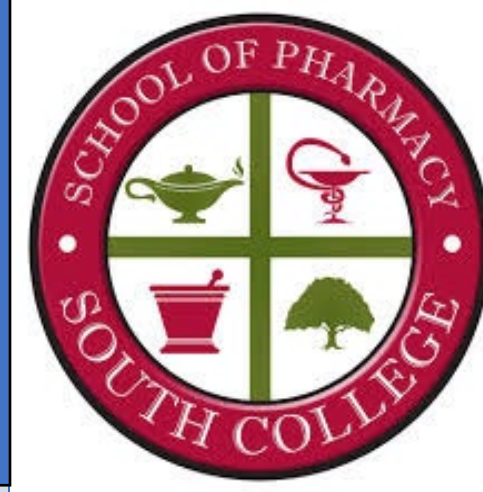




# Students Lead the Way in Pharmacy Advocacy

Rachel Lazim, Pharm D, BCCCP, BCNSP, Erica Rowe PhD, FAACP  
South College School of Pharmacy, Knoxville, TN



## Background

Pharmacy Student Organizations (PSO) at South College School of Pharmacy (SCSOP) provide opportunities for student pharmacists to learn the skills for lifelong advocacy for the profession of Pharmacy. Student pharmacists have an impact not only on the local community but at the state and national levels through participation in SPOs. In addition, students also advocate for the profession by participating in Longitudinal Service Learning experiences.

## Objective

Participation in Pharmacy Student Organizations leads to student advocacy for the profession of pharmacy.

## Methods

Students at SCSOP participate in the various PSOs starting in the P1 year. Throughout their time at SCSOP students design, lead, and participate in activities that advance the profession of pharmacy in the local community through pharmacy related service projects and at the state level through participation with the TN Pharmacist Association. In addition, students complete 30 hours of Longitudinal Service Learning prior to the P3 year to fulfill their introductory pharmacy practice experience (IPPE) hours. These IPPEs allow students to participate in community outreach through activities like wellness fairs and immunization clinics.



## Results

SCSOP student pharmacist participated in pharmacy advocacy activities at multiple levels during the past academic year.

-Community Advocacy: Students coordinate and participate in HIV Testing Events, Wellness Fairs, Immunization Clinics, Drug Take-Backs, Patient Medication Education Events, and Free Health Clinics.

-State Advocacy: Participation in "Day on the Hill" Legislative day in Nashville to advocate for pharmacy viewpoint with TN representatives and served as President of TN Student Pharmacist Association.

-National Advocacy: Student delegates attended APhA summer leadership institute in June 2022. Other students attending the APhA Midyear introduced a legislative proposal and participated in development of an organizational policy.

-Online Advocacy: Student organizations produced social media posts on topic "What's Exciting About Pharmacy" published on SCSOP social media accounts for National Pharmacy Month. Organizations also publish quarterly newsletters for distribution in the SOP.

## Conclusions

Student Pharmacists make the most of opportunities offered by Pharmacy Student Organizations to advocate for our profession and present a positive view of pharmacy at the local, state, and national level as well as online.