

Effect of Undergraduate Exploring Pharmacy Courses on PharmD Program Recruitment

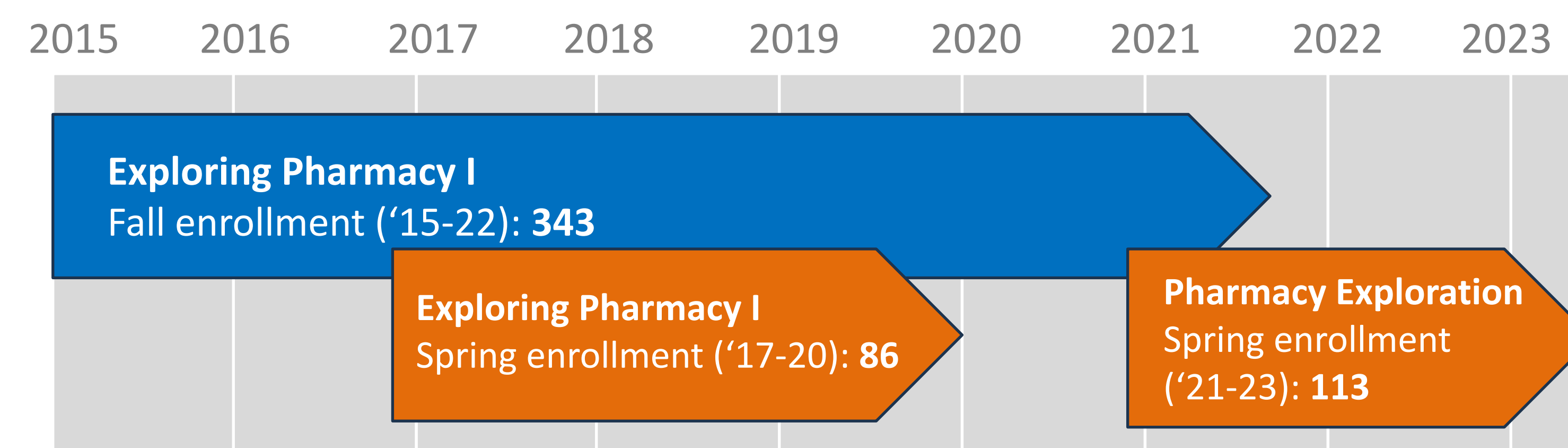
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Objective

Increase undergraduate student awareness of pharmacy careers & support preparation for competitive and successful application to the PharmD program.

Methods

Course Offerings



Course Objectives – As a result of participating in this class, students will:

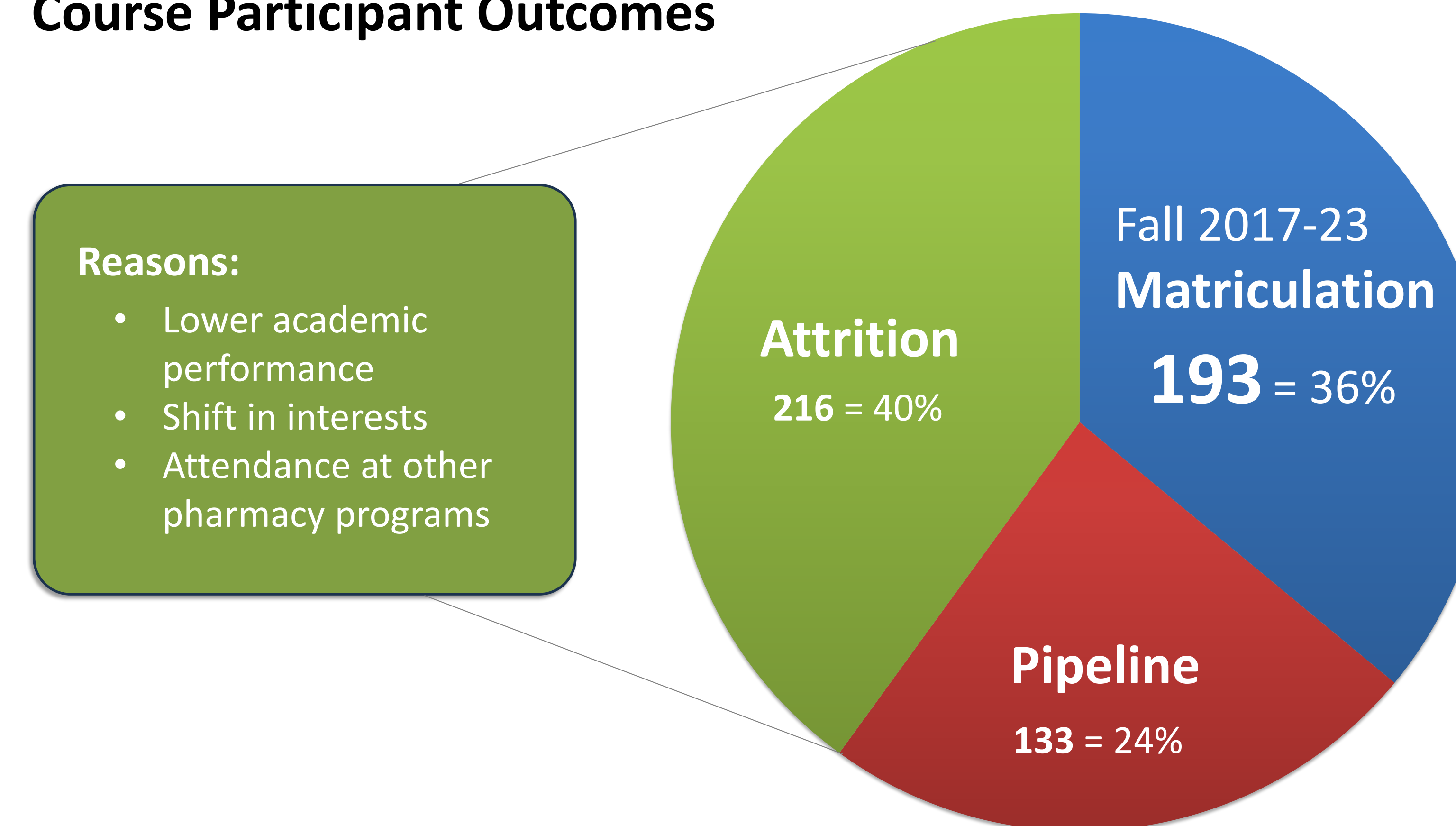
- Gain exposure to opportunities in the pharmacy field, career paths, and post graduate opportunities
- Build connections with current School of Pharmacy students, faculty and staff
- Learn about the application process & tips to becoming a competitive applicant
- Develop basic skills necessary for pursuing PharmD education and a professional career

Course Learning Activities:

- Guest speakers & reflections: hospital, community, ambulatory, industry, specialty, pharmacy admissions, co-curricular opportunities, resume prep, residencies & advanced training, interprofessional practice
- APhA pharmacy career pathways assessment
- Discussions led by pharmacy student mentors: PharmD student life, student perspectives, co-curricular experiences
- Pharmacy focused meetings/events & reflections
- Pharmacists and public health, health literacy, and health disparities panel discussion
- Public health assessments & Healthy People 2030 project
- Tour of UW Hospital inpatient/outpatient/pediatric pharmacy settings
- Career conversations with pharmacists: pharmacist roles/responsibilities/training
- Introduction to common medical terms and drug names including common uses/treatments
- PharmD curriculum, electives, scholars in pharmacy overview
- Social identity, cultural awareness, health disparities discussion
- Therapy and compounding simulated lab demonstrations
- Academic and social transition from high school to college & undergrad to professional school
- Study skills and time management assessments
- PharmD admissions/PharmCAS presentation
- Resume, personal statement and mock Interview assignments
- SMART goals and elevator speech

Results

Course Participant Outcomes



Student Comments:

"From the career panels to the pharmacy mentors to the pharmacy tours and hands-on labs to the conversations with the admissions team and more – all helped solidify my interest in and understanding of the field and gave me a lot to talk about in my application and interview!"

"Prior to this experience, I thought I could be a community or hospital pharmacist. This course exposed me to so many other pharmacist roles and career paths that a PharmD degree can take me."

"Joining this course was my best college decision by far! As a pre-pharm student, you can't find a better opportunity to be in the pharmacy building every week, exploring career paths, experiencing pharmacy student life, networking with faculty and pharmacists, and getting a jump start on the application process!"

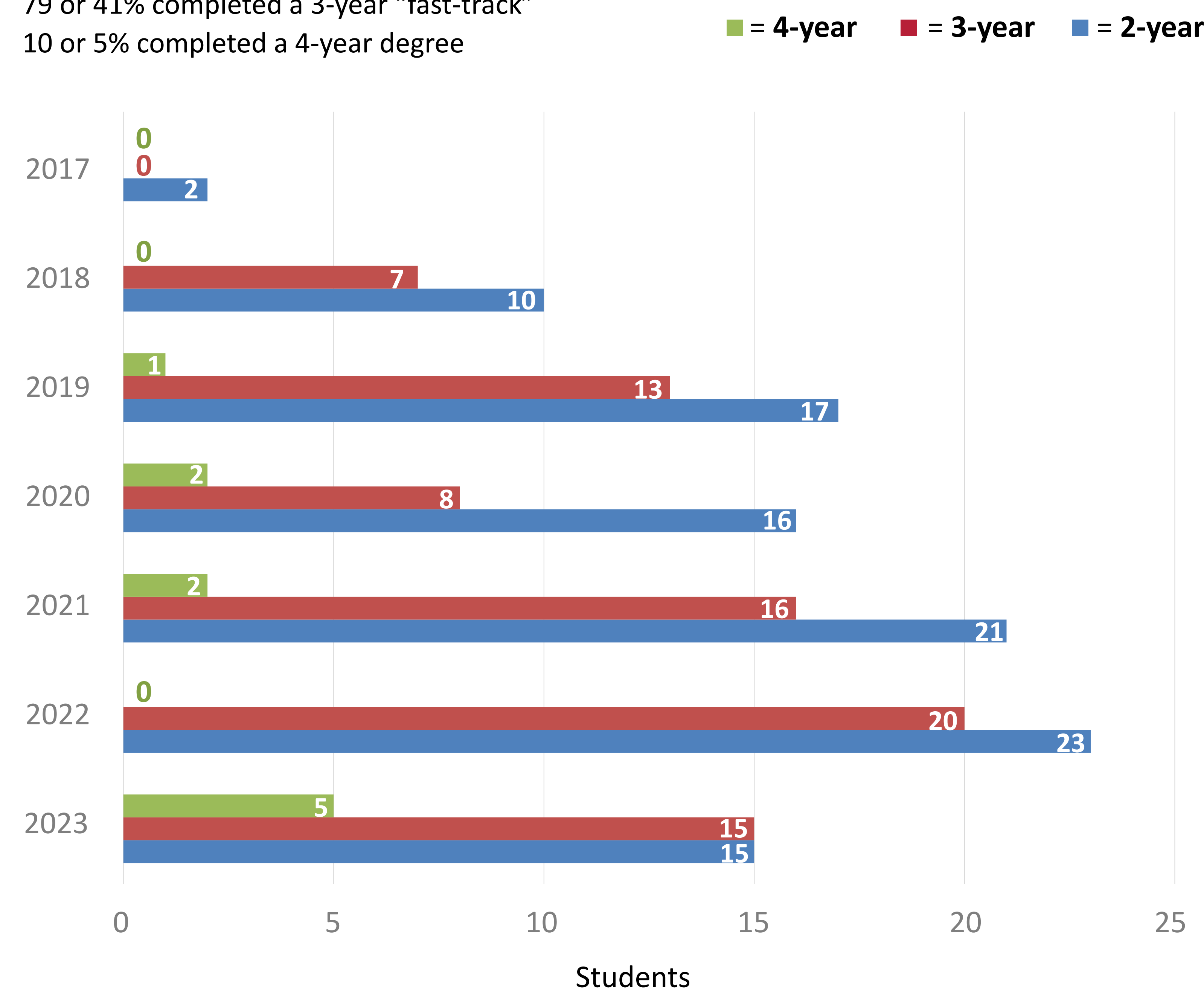
"I came to college focused on a biology major as a path to a medical school. A friend of mine was interested in pharmacy and suggested this course. I honestly didn't realize all of the ways pharmacists are key members of health care teams, can have significant patient contact, and can take their career in so many directions. I've completely changed my path and am excited to apply on the fast-track."

PharmD Admissions Office Comment:

"Students who participate in the exploring pharmacy courses are well prepared when applying to our PharmD program. They excel in addressing the selection criteria and expressing their knowledge of pharmacy practice and their motivation to pursue a career in pharmacy."

Admitted Student Data

193 total students matriculated (through fall '23 admissions cycle)
104 or 54% completed a 2-year "fast-track"
79 or 41% completed a 3-year "fast-track"
10 or 5% completed a 4-year degree



Conclusions

These courses strengthen students' interest in pharmacy and support their successful matriculation into the School of Pharmacy.