

INTRODUCTION

- In 2022, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and the University of Pittsburgh David C. Frederick Honors College renewed a collaboration to award students with pharmacy degrees enhanced with honors.
- Prior to 2022, undergraduate honors students matriculating to the School of Pharmacy did not complete honors requirements due to the demanding nature of the PharmD curriculum and the lack of connection between Pharmacy and the Honors College.
- The School of Pharmacy was interested in renewing a collaboration with the Honors College to recruit talented students into the PharmD program. The Honors College was interested in increasing the number of student pharmacists receiving honors degrees.

OBJECTIVE

To describe a renewed collaboration between the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and the University of Pittsburgh David C. Frederick Honors College to recruit and retain talented students with jointly-conferred pharmacy and honors degrees.

METHODS

- Beginning in 2022, student pharmacists (PharmD Class of 2025) also enrolled in the Honors College were assigned an advisor from the School of Pharmacy (author L.A.B.) to shepherd their progress towards pharmacy degrees enhanced with honors.
- The pharmacy faculty advisor used personalized emails, visuals on School of Pharmacy monitors (**Figure 1**), and peer-to-peer discussions to communicate that honors degrees were achievable and valuable.
- Following completion of requirements (**Table 1**), a special Honors Degree was awarded jointly with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the end of the second professional pharmacy year.

School of Pharmacy Website
<https://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/>

METHODS



Figure 1. Visual used to encourage student pharmacists to pursue honors.

	Honors Degree Requirements	Pharmacy Curriculum
Didactic Curriculum	18 academic credits of Honors College approved courses	18 credits met by 1st professional year core courses
Experiential Learning	6 experiential credits (including research, independent study, study abroad programs, internships, and co-ops)	4 credits met by 1st and 2nd professional year core experiential learning courses 2 credits met by elective research and independent study courses
Co-curriculum	Completion of Honors Outside of the Curriculum	To be met by pharmacy co-curriculum (<i>in development</i>)

Table 1. Honors Degree requirements met by pharmacy curriculum.

RESULTS

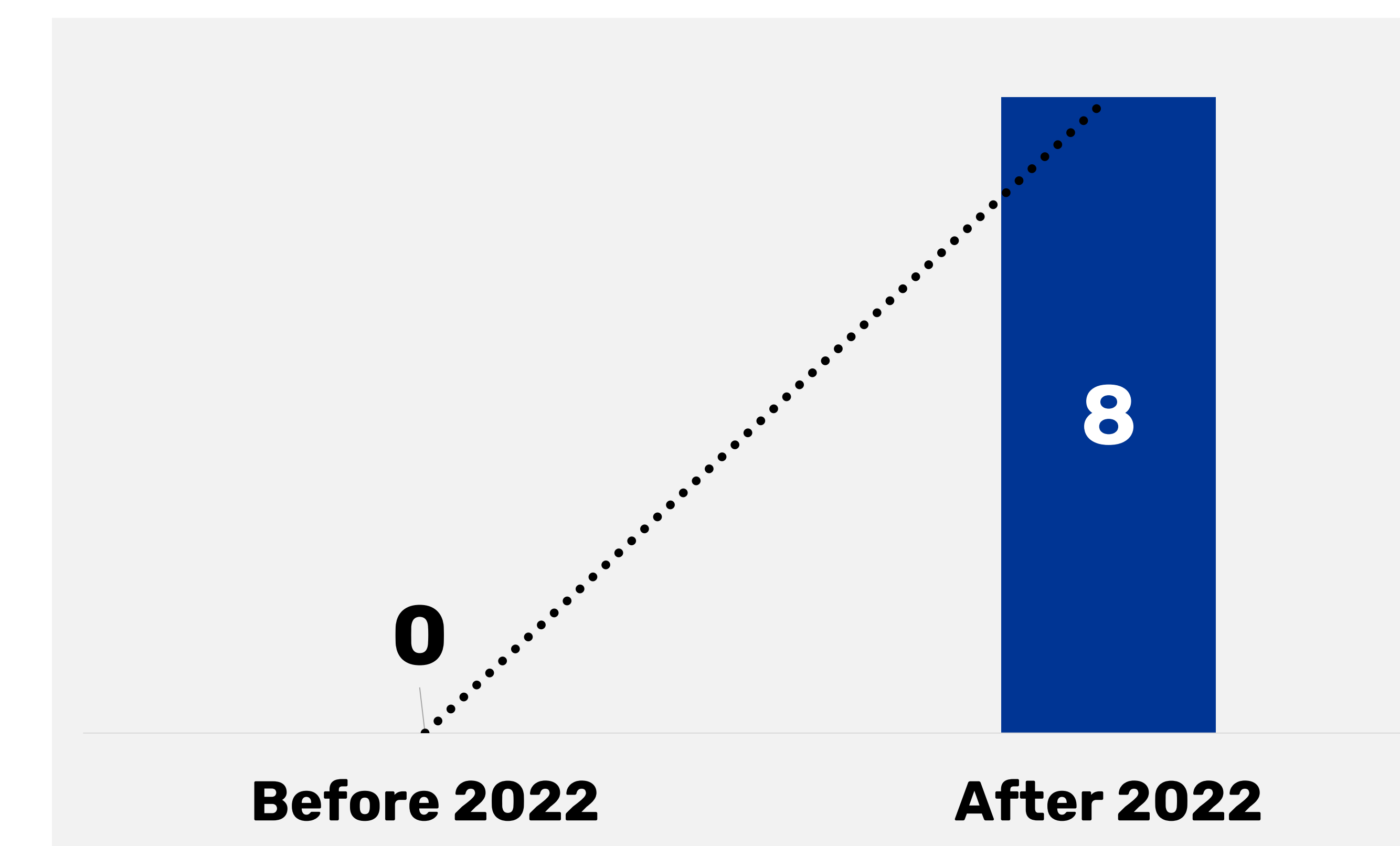


Figure 2. Number of student pharmacists earning honors-enhanced Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (BSPS) degrees from the School of Pharmacy.

*An additional 11 students from the PharmD Class of 2026 are also enrolled in the Honors College.

CONCLUSIONS

Collaborative efforts between the School of Pharmacy and Honors College have increased the number of students earning an honors-enhanced pharmacy degree (**Figure 2**). Offering a jointly awarded honors degree may aid in the recruitment of talented students to pharmacy.

NEXT STEPS

We intend to leverage the renewed School of Pharmacy and Honors College collaboration as an internal and external recruitment tool for PharmD admissions.

Honors College Website
<https://www.frederickhonors.pitt.edu/>