

## Background

- As of December 2022, there were 142 ACPE-accredited U.S. Schools of Pharmacy
- The Academy has seen declining student applicant numbers across US Schools of Pharmacy since 2014-2015 admissions cycle and as of April 2023 the number of submitted applicants in PharmCAS was under 10,000
- Since the first AACP Holistic Admissions Institute in 2017, most schools have adjusted their admissions processes
- Increased emphasis on GPA's, personal interviews, life experiences, and PCAT no longer a consideration
- With declining applications, the likelihood that more matriculating students approach the established minimum standards increases. The development of new tools and programs to promote student success while maintaining overall programmatic rigor is imperative.

## Student Success Program Objectives

### Awareness

Develop processes for students to engage early for successful transition from undergraduate to graduate level work.

### Success

Demonstrate positive student success through advising, programming and the implementation of peer supported systems and processes.

### Wellness

Promote interactive and engaging discussions and informational sessions to increase student awareness of support resources.

## Pharmacy Boot Camp

- Goal: Promote early engagement, student retention, and an increased level of preparedness to begin the semester with advanced knowledge of expectations and address common problematic stressors.
- Canvas modules offer short quizzes at the end to attest to module completion
- Thirteen modules ranging from 5 to 60 minutes to complete
- Topics include introductions to coursework in the first semester that historically students have found most challenging (eg., Biochemistry, Pharmacy Physiology, Pharmacy Calculations). Other topics include a review of technical requirements, diversity in healthcare, School policies and terminology, financial aid and financial planning, internship requirements, and professionalism.

## Success and Wellness (SAW) Program

- Designed to provide a regularly scheduled program supporting student health, wellness, and academic success.
- Offered monthly on the first and third Thursday
- First Thursday sessions are offered live virtually and are recorded, last 30-minutes, and consist of 10-15 minutes of information sharing with Q&A for the remainder.
- Third Thursday sessions are offered as either live, virtual information sharing programs or as recordings, and are 2-hours in duration covering pre-selected topics serving as a NAPLEX review.

First and Third Thursdays  
Success and Wellness (SAW) Programming 2023-2024  
UMKC School of Pharmacy

	"First Thursday" First THURSDAY Each Month, 6:30 to 7 pm (P1-P4)	"Third Thursday" Third THURSDAY Each Month, 5:30 - 7:30 pm (P4 Board Review)
September	September 7, 2023# Professionalism in Pharmacy – It Matters from Day 1 with Dr. Kathryn Holt	September 21, 2023 Topic review: Diabetes and Metabolic Disease Dr. Cillessen and Resident
October	October 5, 2023# Accommodations and Managing Test Anxiety Dr. Stoner and Scott Laurent	October 19, 2023 Topic Review: Cardiovascular Disease Dr. Smith
November	November 2, 2023# Mental Health: Recognizing and Supporting Peers in Distress (Suicide Awareness) Dr. Arnie Abels and Staff Members	November 16, 2023 Topic Review: EBM Statistical Methods Dr. Sperry and Dr. Bowers
December	December 7, 2023 Holiday Cookie Baking Show starring Dr. Stoner, Dean Melchert and their significant others	December 21, 2023 Topic Review: Compounding and Calcs Dr. Ruehter, Dr. McQueen, Dr. Englin, Dr. Lyons-Burney
January	No Programming	January 18, 2024 Topic review: Men's and Women's Health Dr. Schauner
February	February 1, 2024# Professional Communication Strategies Dr. Cillessen	February 15, 2024 Topic Review: Infectious Disease Dr. Taylor Steuber
March	March 7, 2024# Managing Your Inbox: Tips to Reduce the Stress Dr. Bowers	March 21, 2024 Topic review: Pain Management Dr. Knell
April	April 4, 2024# Getting Involved in Research as a Student Dr. Nelson and Dean Melchert	April 18, 2024 Topic review: Psychiatry and Neurology Dr. Nelson and Dr. Stoner
May	No Programming	May 16, 2024 Topic review: Pharmacy Law Dr. Villa

## Student Teams Enhancing Pharmacist Success(STEPS) Program

- Pharmacy Student Ambassadors serve as academic support or tutors
- Virtual, drop-in format with five sessions per week (60 minutes)
- P1's and P2's have 2 sessions and P3's have one session
- Ambassadors selected to tutor based on prior academic performance
- Allows Ambassadors to meet service commitments
- 1:1 tutoring available by referral to Rho-Chi members if additional support needed



## Pro-Active Student Success Program (PASS)

- Goal: Achieve student success with no more than 5% of any admitted class failing to progress because of academic performance.
- Academic Success Risk Factors (Pre-pharmacy)  
Cumulative GPA 2.5 to 2.75  
Math/Science GPA 2.25 to 2.5  
Prerequisite GPA 2.5 to 2.75  
Multiple repeats/withdrawals same semester
- Grit-Grid Survey, Academic Pharmacy Resilience Scale, and Cohen Perceived Stress Scale completed
- Those identifying with risk factors or minimum thresholds on self-rated scales are referred to "Pharmacy Learning Specialist" and Academic Preparedness Assessment form completed.
- Findings shared with ADSA, ADAA, and advisor

## Enhanced Faculty Advising

- All faculty advisors are notified of student success concerns and exam scores below 70%.
- Faculty advisors meet with their advisees and document the outcome of the intervention.
- Preliminary findings suggest lack of follow-up from students with their advisor is problematic.

## Conclusions

- Implementation of new programs to enhance enrollment and retention has been well received by students through real-time participation, but increase demands on faculty and staff time.
- Attendance fluctuates dependent upon outside factors of employment, commute time, course schedule, family commitments, and self-doubt.