

Implementation of a Support Program to Increase Student Success

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BACKGROUND



Academic Literacy

- The ability to analyze, summarize, and contextualize ideas within an academic discipline from various given sources
- Examples include literature evaluation, active learning for disease states, and patient presentations



Pre-Matriculation Support

- Increased rigor in pharmacy schools has required proactive approaches to enhancing student academic literacy and study skills¹
- Pre-matriculation support generally occurs during orientation when students are inundated with other material²

OBJECTIVE

Objective: To describe the implementation of one school's academic literacy program.

Review Questions:

- Does an early summer preparation course improve student academic literacy?
- Does this support program enhance student retention within the pharmacy school?
- What are student perspectives for the program, including:
 - Efficacy
 - Timing
 - Mode of education

METHODS

Phase I. Development of academic literacy test

REFERENCES

1. Pitts MH, Smith NJ, Bates JA, et al. Development and perceptions of an academic success tool for pharmacy students. *Res Social Adm Pharm.* 2022;18(7):3131-3136. doi:10.1016/j.sapharm.2021.08.012
2. Zeeman JM, Wingo BL, Cox WC. Design and evaluation of a two-phase learner-centered new student orientation program. *Curr Pharm Teach Learn.* 2018;10(4):486-492. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cptl.2017.12.020

Sample Guiding Questions

- What things would have been helpful in preparing for the program?
- What skills are necessary to be a successful student?
- What elements of Boost! did you find most helpful?
- What could be improved with the Boost! program?

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Discussion and Conclusions

- Boost! may be an effective approach to enhance student retention by providing training in certain necessary skills for academic literacy
- Students perceived Boost! to be beneficial, but more students are needed to determine continued student success and retention

Limitations

- Limited number of students

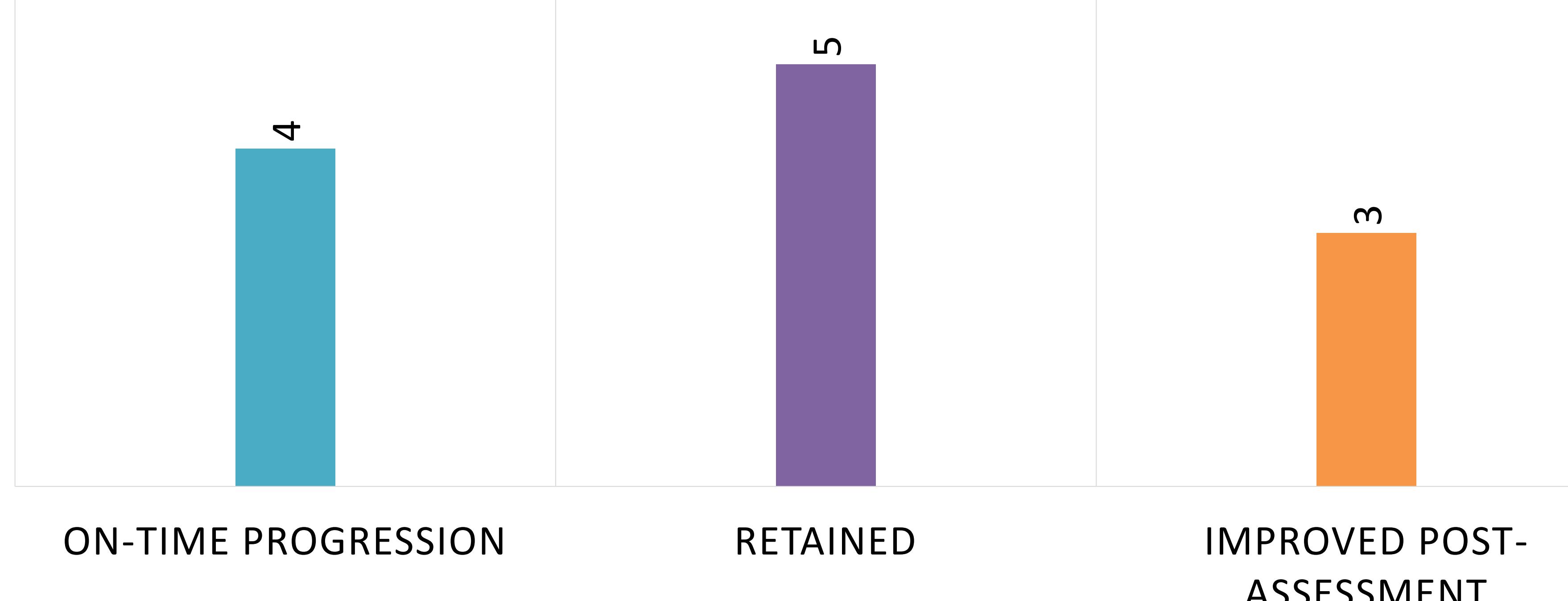
Future Directions

- Assess long-term success and retention with increasing number of students
- Consider implementing program as required for all incoming students

RESULTS

Boost! Participants

Boost! Student Success (total = 6)



*No data on new students

Identified Themes	Representative Quotations
Study Habits	"Learning how to study, not harder, but smarter would be helpful"
Pharmacy School Expectations	"I think that, initial reading and digestion of the material is key"
Boost! Perceived as Beneficial	"I didn't know what the expectations were or what was expected of me in the school up to the School of Pharmacy"
	"Just a little heads up for them to know what to expect academically"
	"I think [Boost!] would have helped me because I think I would have been more competent coming into P1"
	"I think most of the first year was adjusting to all the terms and everything being new. So having kind of like a background would definitely help"
	"I think it would be extremely helpful, especially leading up to the [first] semester"