

# A Survey Study Assessing Student Pharmacist's Quality of Life in Internal Medicine vs Community Pharmacy Rotations using the Professional Quality of Life Scale

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **Background:**

The Professional Quality of Life Scale (ProQOL) is a self-report questionnaire designed for healthcare workers, aiming to assess compassion satisfaction, perceived support, burnout, secondary traumatic stress (STS), moral distress, and compassion fatigue, which are pivotal concepts in ProQOL Health. Despite limited research focusing on pharmacy, existing studies highlight concerning trends among pharmacy students, such as high burnout scores and incidence rates of STS, burnout, and compassion satisfaction, underscoring the importance of addressing these issues early in students' careers. This study aims to evaluate ProQOL health concepts among fourth-year pharmacy students at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy, specifically those completing Community Pharmacy and Internal Medicine rotations, chosen for their distinct perspectives within the field.

### **Methods:**

This study, conducted at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy (SIUE SOP), focused on fourth-year pharmacy students who had finished their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) in Community Pharmacy and Internal Medicine. Surveys were distributed via email through the experiential office of SIUE SOP to ensure the privacy of student records under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations. Exclusion criteria were limited to surveys where the completed rotation was unspecified. The survey, administered using Qualtrics, comprised 30 questions based on the ProQOL Health framework, with individual scores provided to students upon completion. Surveys were sent at the conclusion of each rotation from rotations 2-7, spanning July 2023 to March 2024, and results for compassion satisfaction, perceived support, burnout, secondary traumatic stress, and moral distress were compared between Community Pharmacy and Internal Medicine rotations.

### **Results:**

Out of the 89 surveys sent out, 25 were completed with 41.7 % (n=10) of them were from community rotations and 58.3% (n=14) were from internal medicine rotations. Both arms of the study resulted in be categorized as average risk for experiencing compassion satisfaction, perceived support, burnout, and secondary traumatic stress. The only category that resulted in different categorization, was the risk for experiencing moral distress. The community pharmacy arm was categorized as average, where internal medicine was categorized as low.

### **Conclusion:**

Moral distress was the only category that was found to have a difference between the two arms of the study, showing low and average risk to community pharmacy and internal medicine respectfully. All other categories were found to be within the average risk category.