



Investigation of Pharmacy Student's Interest in Dual Degree Programs

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BACKGROUND

- Pharmacy job market is becoming increasing competitive for new pharmacy graduates
- A dual degree is one way students can distinguish themselves to employers
- However, few studies have examined the factors that led students to enroll in a dual degree or which dual degrees interest students the most

OBJECTIVES

- To determine which factors drove pharmacy students to enroll, or not enroll, in a dual degree
- To identify which dual degrees pharmacy students would be most interested in

METHODS

Study Design:

- Cross-sectional survey

Data Source:

- 12-question, anonymous online survey
- Distributed via Qualtrics
- Multiple choice, Likert scale, and ranking-type questions were used.

Study Population:

- Students enrolled at SIUE School of Pharmacy in the 2019-2020 school year

RESULTS

Sample: N=129 Students
 Response rate: 129/323 (40%)
 Similar response rate between classes P1-P4

Background Characteristics

Degree Obtained Prior to Pharm School, N, (%)

None= 83 (64%)
 Associate's= 21 (16%)
 Bachelor's= 21(16%)
 Master's= 1(1%)
 Doctoral= 3 (2%)

Aware of SIUE dual degree programs, N, (%) = 127 (98%)

Attended dual degree informational meeting during P1 year, N, (%) = 60 (47%)
 ➤ Meeting positively influenced your decision to enroll, N, (%) = 43 (72%)

Enrolled in PharmD/MBA Program, N, (%) = 22 (17%)

Enrolled in PharmD/MS Healthcare Informatics, N, (%) = 6 (5%)

Interested in PharmD/MBA program upon first hearing about it, N, (%) = 82 (66%)

Felt like had enough information to make informed decision to enroll or not, N, (%) = 105 (83%)

RESULTS

Reasons for Not Enrolling in Dual Degree- N(%)

Wanting to experience pharmacy-specific electives	83 (39)
No interest in the subject area	45 (21)
Not enough time for summer online courses	30 (14)
Financial	24 (11)
GPA didn't meet program requirements	16 (8)
Not offered yet (Informatics only)	8 (4)
Other	6 (3)

Reasons for Enrolling in Dual Degree

To stand out from other graduates	<p>Most Important</p> <p>Least Important</p>
Higher opportunity for advancement later in pharmacy career	
Related directly to career goals	
Lower cost than obtaining two degrees separately	
Personal interest in dual degree courses	

RESULTS

Interest in Other Dual Degrees

Master of Public Health	2.69
Master of Science in Global Medicine	2.58
Juris Doctor	2.46
Master of Science in Regulatory Science	2.29
Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Science	2.24
Master of Science in Gerontology	2.24
Master of Legal Studies	2.24
Master of Science in Healthcare Decision Analysis	2.20
Doctor of Philosophy	2.02

Other answers: Master of Science in biology or chemistry, forensics, Doctor of Psychiatry, Doctor of Medicine, forensic chemistry, Master of Healthcare Administration, Physician's Assistant, and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

CONCLUSION

- Students obtained a dual degree to stand out from other graduates and to advance their career
- Students were most interested in Mater of Public Health, Master of Science in Global Medicine, and Juris Doctor dual degrees