

Abstract

Introduction

The objective of this study is to determine whether students who had preceptors that used practice NAPLEX questions on Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) rotations improved students' scores on practice NAPLEX exams and to evaluate whether those APPE preceptors were faculty or nonfaculty preceptors.

Methods

A 13-question survey was created and emailed to all fourth year Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy students. Each participant had taken a pre-APPE knowledge assessment (PAKA) during their third year of pharmacy school performance-based assessment (PBA), and they took the same exam in November 2024 during their fourth year of pharmacy school.

Results

Out of the entire SIUE School of Pharmacy P4 class, 57% of the students completed the Qualtrics survey. Sixty-one percent of students' scores on the practice NAPLEX exam increased by 5-15% points and 42% of the students had preceptors that used NAPLEX preparation questions on their APPE rotations. The students believed that practice NAPLEX questions during their APPE rotations helped improve their practice NAPLEX scores because they felt it was a helpful review, and they learned how to breakdown questions with their preceptor. The students would also recommend required NAPLEX prep questions on APPE rotations because it would reinforce studying, students want additional accountability from their preceptors, and it helps the students' study without realizing it.

Discussion

This study assessed whether students who had preceptors that used practice NAPLEX questions on APPE rotations, improved students' scores on practice NAPLEX exams and to evaluate whether those APPE preceptors were faculty or nonfaculty preceptors. These findings from the survey provided valuable awareness on the student's perception on NAPLEX preparation questions, how those questions have affected their scores on the practice NAPLEX examinations as well as recommending required NAPLEX questions in the future.

Conclusion

Although most of the SIUE School of Pharmacy P4 students did not have preceptors that used NAPLEX preparation questions during their APPE rotations, this study showed some evidence that students who did have practice NAPLEX questions during their APPE rotations felt it helped improve their practice NAPLEX scores.