

## Background

- Four experiential education (EE) faculty members from the AACP EE Section Mentoring Program collaborated across their institutions to initiate the conversation around the concept of Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) readiness.
- It is crucial for programs to ensure students are optimally prepared to excel during IPPEs to foster APPE readiness.

IPPE Readiness

APPE Readiness

- Assessing IPPE curricula to identify opportunities for innovation and peer-to-peer education will inform programs of methods to enhance IPPE readiness.

## Objective

- To explore student IPPE readiness using near-peer conveyed information from APPE students.

## Methods

- Control and intervention groups of first-year pre-IPPE students were studied to examine the impact of APPE students sharing insights and advice about IPPEs.
- Live APPE panel discussions and post-IPPE focus groups were conducted at each institution.

**April/September 2022**  
• Standard IPPE orientation  
• IPPE control group surveyed

**April/September 2023**  
• Standard IPPE orientation with live APPE panel discussion  
• IPPE intervention group surveyed

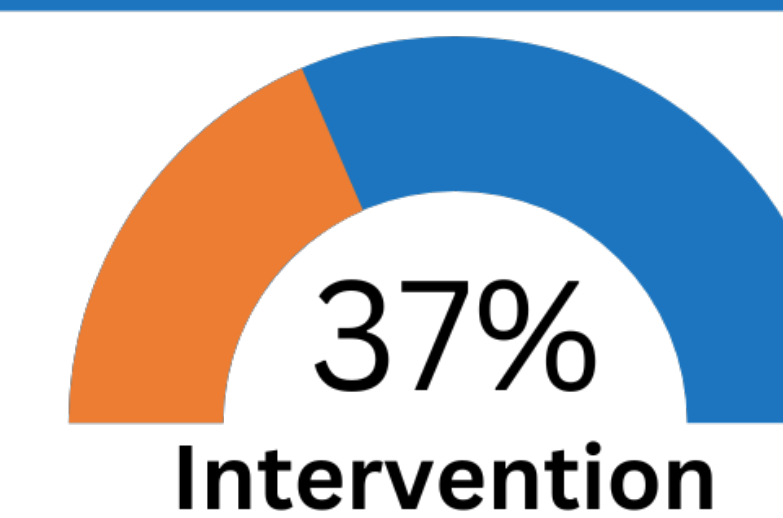
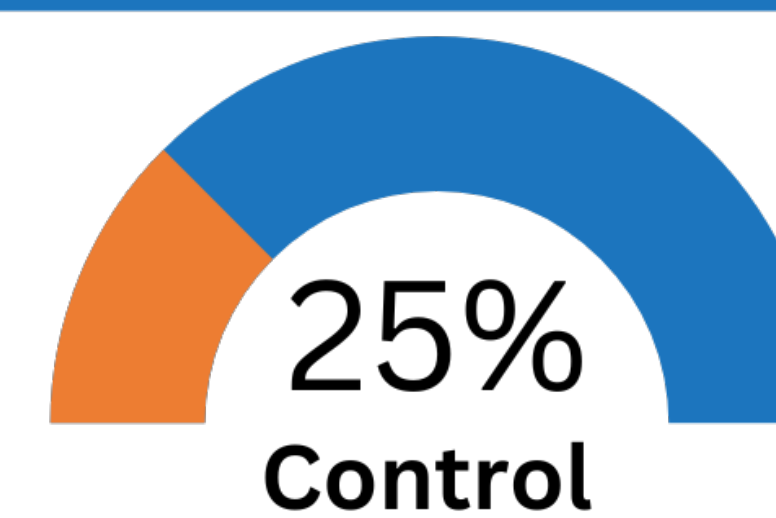
**May-October 2022**  
• IPPE control group completed Community or Health-System IPPE

**May-October 2023**  
• IPPE intervention group completed Community or Health-System IPPE  
• IPPE intervention group completed focus groups

Pharmacy students' expectations and preparedness for IPPE rotations were significantly impacted by peer insight, prior work experience, and didactic coursework. P4 panel discussions highlighted the importance of asking questions, setting realistic expectations, and possessing a professional mindset.

## Survey Results

Response Rates



### Percent Agreement with Survey Statements

Survey Statement	Control (%) n=93	Intervention (%) n=123
I feel that the more prepared I am for IPPEs the more prepared I will be for my APPEs	95.7	96.7
I feel prepared for the start of my first IPPE	90.3	80.5
I feel ready to face any challenges that I might encounter on my IPPE	90.2	86.1
I am confident that what I will gain from my IPPE will prepare me for my APPEs	98.9	95.1
I understand what I need to do to become ready for APPEs	75.3	59.0
I know what I need to do to optimize my learning on my IPPE	90.3	86.1
I will have to commit substantial time and effort to get the most from my IPPE	87.1	88.5

## Focus Group Themes

- Forty students participated in the post-IPPE focus groups.
- Primary themes extracted during the post-IPPE focus groups:

Management of student IPPE expectations is crucial

APPE peer insight positively impacted pre-IPPE student mindset

Strategies for institutions to continue to optimize IPPE readiness emerged

## Potential IPPE Readiness Strategies

- Utilize panelists with more recent IPPE experience: P2s/P3s.
- Include panelists from different types of practice sites.
- Allow students to submit specific questions prior to and during the panel.
- Include a discussion of a typical IPPE rotation day.
- Provide attendees with a list of takeaways.

## Conclusions

This study introduces the novel concept of "IPPE readiness."

The innovative and collaborative design resulted in data that informs pedagogical practices to further optimize student preparation for IPPE.

Researchers intend to continue conversations and collaborations to address IPPE readiness across the Academy.

**Control group:** P1 Class of 2025 (AU, BU, and UMKC) and Class of 2026 (SIUE)  
**Intervention group:** P1 Class of 2026 (AU, BU, and UMKC) and Class of 2027 (SIUE)

