



Professional Outcomes of Students Graduating from the MCPHS Non-Traditional Doctor of Pharmacy Program (NTDP)



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Background

ACPE mandated that beginning in 2000 the entry level degree awarded in pharmacy schools in the United States to be a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.¹ The Non-Traditional Doctor of Pharmacy program that started at MCPHS in 1996 allowed for a working, U.S. licensed pharmacist to obtain their PharmD degree because of the online distance learning platform, asynchronous format, part-time time commitment and flexible schedule.

Objective

- Evaluate whether a PharmD degree translates into improved satisfaction and confidence
- Identify impact of the program completion on individual practice patterns, change in work setting or position, increased level of confidence in providing pharmaceutical care and increased job satisfaction
- Evaluate overall satisfaction of the NTDP program at MCPHS

Methods

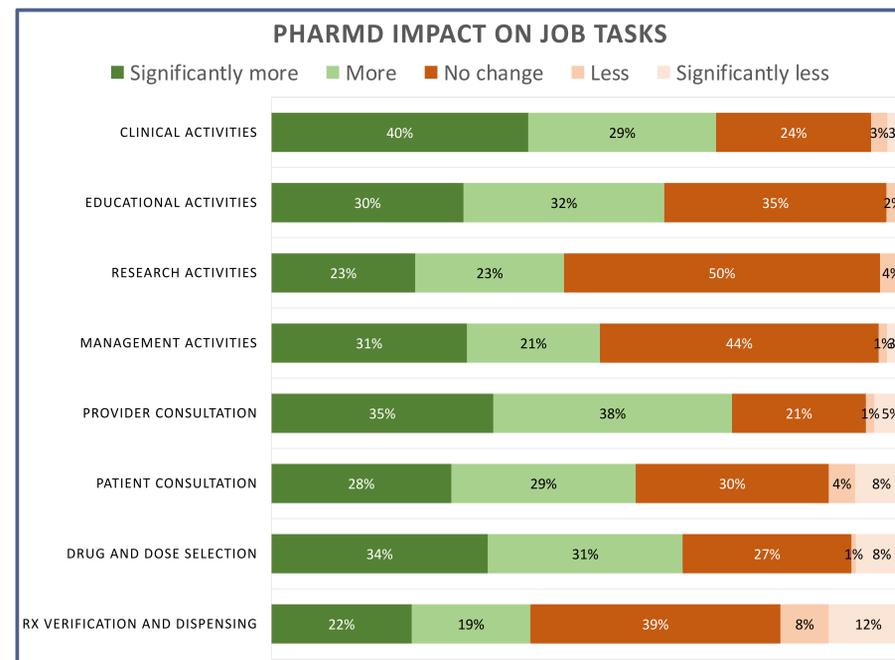
A 33-question online survey was distributed to NTDP alumni who graduated between 2002-2022. The survey included 5-point Likert scale and open-ended questions about motivations for enrolling, career changes after graduation, pay increase, confidence in skills, satisfaction with the program, and publication history. Descriptive statistics were reported.

Reasons for Returning to School

- Career advancement
- Remain competitive in the job market
- Be able to apply for and be hired for different job (industry, MSL)
- Gain clinical knowledge
- Learn most up to date knowledge
- Improve themselves to provide best patient care possible
- Job security
- To be eligible to complete a Residency Program
- Increase confidence in clinical skills

Results: Job Tasks

After obtaining their PharmD in the NTDP Program, the pharmacist was able to provide more drug and dose selection, provider consultations, management activities, research activities, educational activities and the greatest increase was in the task of performing clinical activities

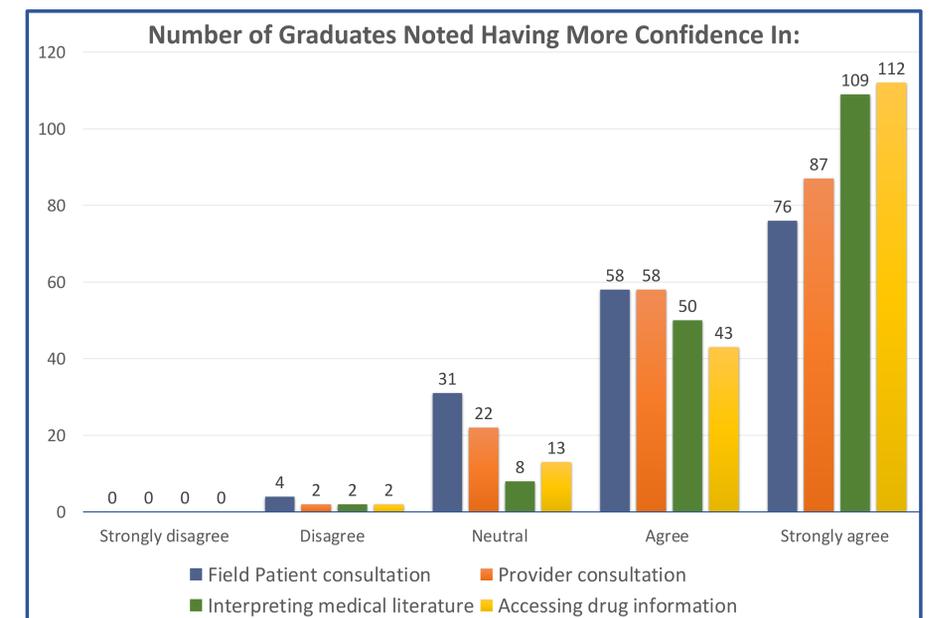


Results

- 78% of the participants strongly agree and agree that earning their Doctor of Pharmacy degree opened up opportunities that they would have otherwise missed
- 80% strongly agree and agree that obtaining the degree helped them to meet their career goals
- 26% of the participants accepted a promotion or higher position at a different company or organization
- 20% of participants accepted a promotion or higher position within company or organization
- Improvement in job satisfaction after receiving the Doctor of Pharmacy degree was statistically significant ($p < 0.001$)

Results: Confidence in Skill

Participants were surveyed if they strongly agree and agree having more confidence in several clinical skills with the highest being in accessing drug information.



Conclusion

The NTDP program enabled career advancement for many graduates. Graduates reported increased confidence in clinical skills, high satisfaction with the flexible program, career advancement, and increased pay. Overall, the survey of the NTDP program graduates confirmed the impact and need for the NTDP program due to the flexibility of the online platform as a pathway to professional satisfaction.

References

1. Council on Credentialing in Pharmacy. Credentialing in pharmacy. The Council on Credentialing in Pharmacy. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm AJHP Off J Am Soc Health-Syst Pharm.* 2001;58(1):69-76. doi:10.1093/ajhp/58.1.69

All authors have nothing to disclose. Contact the authors at amy.ricupero@mcphs.edu or Kathy.grams@mcphs.edu