Roles and Responsibilities of Student Affairs Professionals in Pharmacy Education

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INTRODUCTION

➤ Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) Standards 2025, Standard 4:[1]

  ➤ "The college or school has an appropriately staffed and resourced organizational element dedicated to providing a comprehensive range of services that promote student success and well-being."

  ➤ No requirement that student affairs professionals to have training in education or psychology or be pharmacists.

➤ Student affairs professionals can help build community[2] which correlates with academic success[3].

➤ Planning events such as orientation and community service projects can enhance student engagement which has also been reported to increase academic performance[4,5].

➤ A holistic approach is needed for caring for students and meeting their needs.[6]

OBJECTIVE

Characterize the roles and responsibilities of student affairs professionals associated with colleges/schools of pharmacy.

METHODS

➤ Survey included the following: college/school, program description, number of FTEs of faculty/staff supporting student affairs, responsibilities for each level of appointment

➤ Prospective participants identified using the ACPE list of accredited colleges/schools of pharmacy in the U.S. and the corresponding college/school website.

➤ For colleges/schools that did not have the student affairs contact listed on their website, the investigators contacted the college/school of pharmacy by telephone to obtain the appropriate person's name and contact information.

➤ The survey was administered via Qualtrics to the identified student affairs contacts.

➤ Prospective participants were contacted by email to complete the survey.

➤ Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the results.

RESULTS

➤ The survey was sent to a total of 134 individuals; 78 survey responses were received after removing duplicate responses.
➤ Responding college/schools were similar in type, size, and length of program compared to all accredited colleges/schools of pharmacy. The greatest number of programs had between one and three full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (39%) with between three and five FTEs close behind (31%).
➤ The team make up that occurred most frequently (N = 20) was zero to one FTE Dean/Associate/Assistant Dean and at least two non-faculty professional staff.

	All responding S/COPs N (%) N = 78	All Targeted S/COPs N (%) N = 141
Institution Type		
Public	38 (49)	70 (49)
Private	40 (51)	71 (51)
Size of Entering PharmD cohort in Fall 2023		
<80	46 (59)	78 (55)
81-130	14 (18)	20 (14)
>130	18 (23)	43 (31)
Length of Program		
3 - <4 years	19 (25)	23 (16)
4 - <6 years	51 (65)	110 (78)
6 years or greater	8 (10)	8 (6)
Include a Satellite Campus		
Yes	25 (32)	
No	53 (68)	

Responsibility	Yes N (%)	No N (%)
Student Orientation	72 (98)	1 (2)
Plan Events Such as Hooding and White Coat Ceremonies	70 (96)	3 (4)
Oversee Student Organizations	68 (94)	4 (6)
Student Wellbeing Programs	66 (90)	7 (10)
Student Recruitment	65 (90)	7 (10)
Oversee Admissions Process	65 (89)	8 (11)
Student Success Support and/or Early Monitoring	65 (89)	8 (11)
Professionalism Policy Enforcement	64 (88)	9 (12)
Oversee Student Awards/ Scholarships	63 (86)	10 (14)
Pre-Pharmacy Student Engagement	63 (86)	10 (14)
Planning Activities for Students Other than Official Ceremonies	62 (86)	10 (14)

	All responding S/COPs N (%)	Responding S/COPs indicating College or School N (%)
Number of Student Affairs FTEs in the College or School		
Total	N = 75	N = 61
>0 – 1	5 (6)	4 (6)
>1 – 3	29 (39)	23 (38)
>3 – 5	23 (31)	17 (28)
>5	18 (24)	17 (28)
Number of Student Affairs FTEs, Dean Level (e.g. Assistant/Associate Dean, Dean)		
Total	N = 68	N = 55
0	2 (3)	1 (2)
>0 – 1	49 (72)	42 (76)
>1 – 2	11 (16)	9 (16)
>2	6 (9)	3 (6)
Number of Student Affairs FTEs, Faculty with Administrative Appointment		
Total	N = 44	N = 35
0	27 (61)	21 (60)
>0 – 1	11 (25)	9 (26)
>1 – 2	4 (9)	3 (8)
>2	2 (5)	2 (6)
Number of Student Affairs FTEs, Non-faculty Professional Staff		
Total	N = 69	N = 59
0	1 (1)	1 (2)
>0 – 1	15 (22)	13 (22)
>1 – 2	12 (17)	10 (17)
>2	41 (60)	35 (59)
Number of Student Affairs FTEs, Not Described Above		
Total	N = 17	N = 10
0	14 (82)	9 (90)
>0 – 1	1 (6)	0 (0)
>1 – 2	2 (12)	1 (10)
>2	0 (0)	0 (0)

CONCLUSIONS

➤ The number and types of FTE positions devoted to student affairs and titles and responsibilities differed greatly among the responding colleges/schools.

➤ Student Affairs Offices in colleges/schools of pharmacy generally employ at least one faculty administrator and at least two professional non-faculty assistants.

➤ Common responsibilities of these offices include student orientation, event planning, student organizations, student wellbeing programs and student recruitment.

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