

Background

- During the 2022-2023 admissions cycle, 12,000 PharmCAS Applications were submitted to the 133 participating pharmacy schools.
- The 2020 - 2021 admissions cycle was the first one where The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy (UTCOP) waived the required Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) score.
- Common areas of assessment include evaluation of an applicant's GPA and prerequisite coursework performance.
- In addition to information pertaining to academic performance, PharmCAS also collects pre-matriculation attributes such as the highest degree completed and previous work experiences.
- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) serve as a unique clinical case-based assessment where students demonstrate their abilities to counsel patients and provide clinical recommendations in preparation for their rotations and future careers.

Objectives

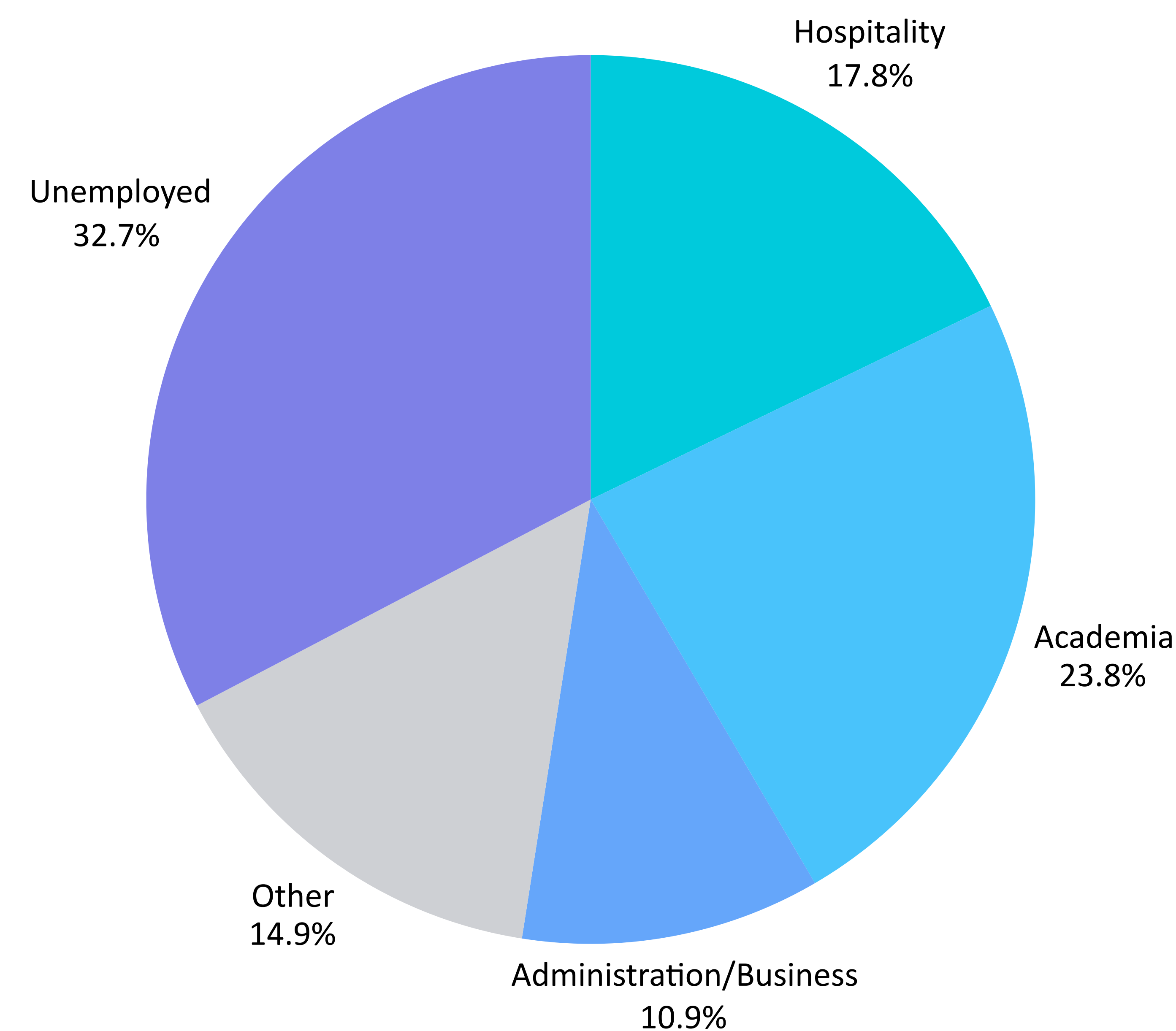
- These projects aimed to assess the potential of pre-matriculation work experience and degree completion status as indicators of student pharmacist performance on OSCEs.

Methods

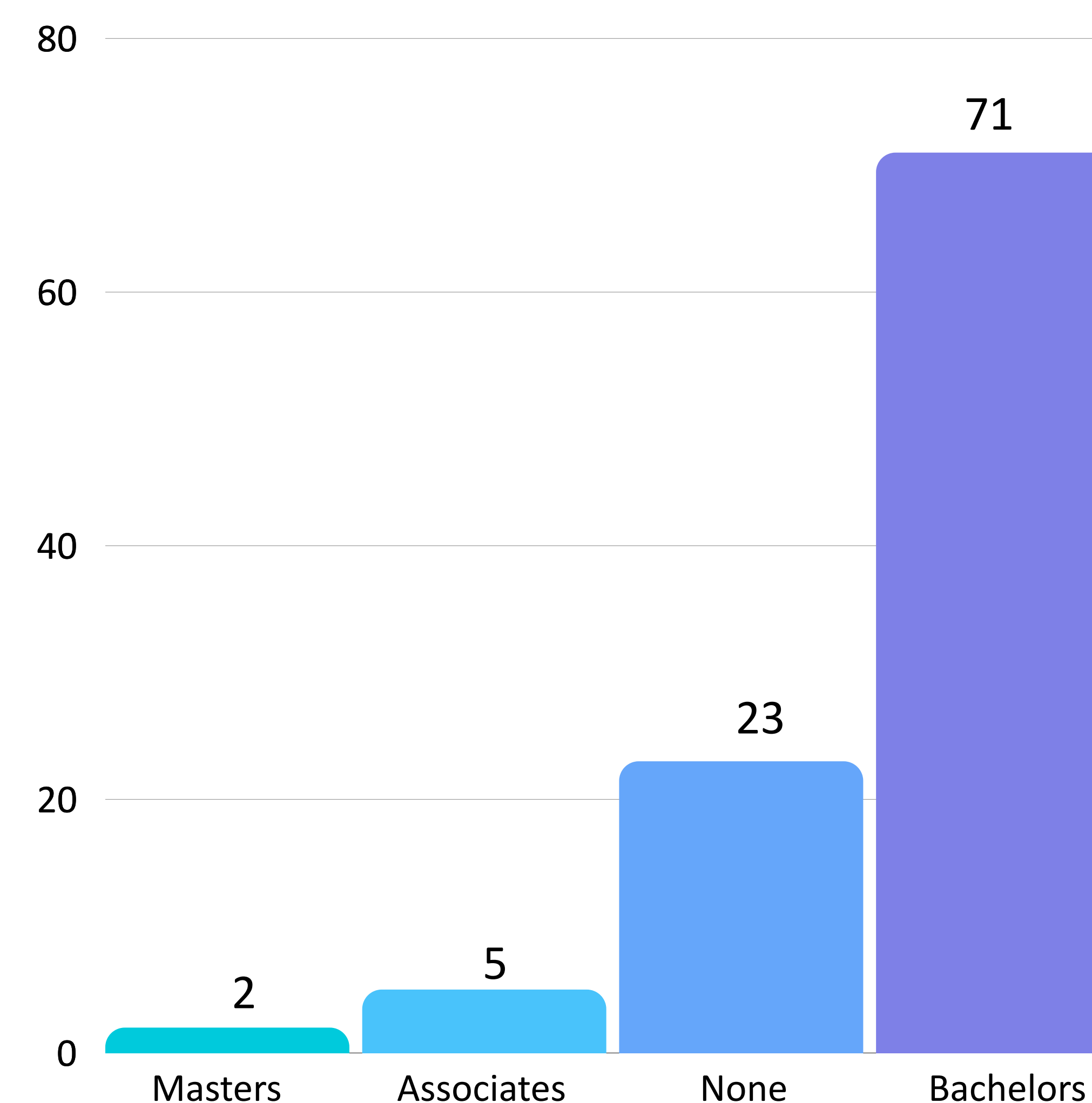
- Conducted retrospective analysis of admissions data for the 101 student pharmacists of the admitted Class of 2024 at UTCOP.
- Information regarding student pharmacists' highest degree completed was categorized into none, associates, bachelor, or master.
- Pre-matriculation work experience was obtained and categorized into one of five categories.
- Examination of clinical case-based OSCE scores completed during students' second year was performed and correlated to the corresponding student's pre-matriculation attributes.
- Descriptive analyses including ANOVAs and independent t-tests were conducted to determine if a correlation existed between student pharmacist's OSCE scores and pre-matriculation attributes.

Outcomes

Pre-Matriculation Job Categories



Highest Degree Completed Prior to Pharmacy School



Limitations

- Data looked at OSCE scores and not overall GPA
- OSCEs may be a better indicator of technical skills as compared to academic success.
- Only P2 OSCE scores were considered as this is the first year where clinical knowledge is incorporated into the curriculum and pertain to specific topic areas and did not assess student knowledge in all academic areas of interest.
- P3 OSCE scores were not included in this project which assesses different pharmacotherapeutic areas compared to P2 OSCEs.

Conclusions

- No significant relationship between degree completion status, pre-matriculation work experience, and OSCE performance was determined.
- These pre-matriculation attributes could still serve as potential indicators of success in other areas of the PharmD program, such as confidence and performance in experiential education and overall APPE-preparedness.
- Further research is warranted to explore alternative indicators of student pharmacist success to guide admissions committees in prospective student selections.
- The PharmD program at the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy is standardized and shows no significant difference between students who have obtained a prior degree and work experience and those who have not.

Funding/Disclosures

- No funding was given to this project.

References

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