

Post-Graduate Residency Opportunities for International Students with a PharmD from a U.S. School/College of Pharmacy

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BACKGROUND^{1,2}

- Of the 47,592 students who enrolled in U.S. Schools/Colleges of Pharmacy in Fall 2022, 1,747 (3.67%) were international students.
- With the increasing number of international students in U.S. pharmacy programs comes the responsibility of guiding students who may want to pursue post-graduate residency training.
- International students typically need to obtain a 1-year Optional Practical Training (OPT), a type of work authorization or an H1-B work visa sponsorship in order to pursue a pharmacy residency.

OBJECTIVE & STUDY DESIGN

- **Objective:** This study aims to provide guidance to international students seeking to pursue postgraduate residency opportunities by identifying residency programs in the U.S. that accept international students with a PharmD obtained from a U.S. School/College of Pharmacy
- **Study Design:** Retrospective Database Study

METHODS³

First Search Strategy: Utilization of the 'Advanced Search Options' filter on the ASHP residency directory

- Specific key search words were inputted in the "Special Requirements for Acceptance" field within the advanced search.
- The data was then filtered for PGY-1 residency programs.

Second Search Strategy: Manual search of individual programs

- The ASHP directory was used to filter for all PGY-1 residency programs in the U.S.
- Individual review of program's residency pages was conducted.
- A further review of the individual program's website was done to confirm the accuracy of acceptance of international students.

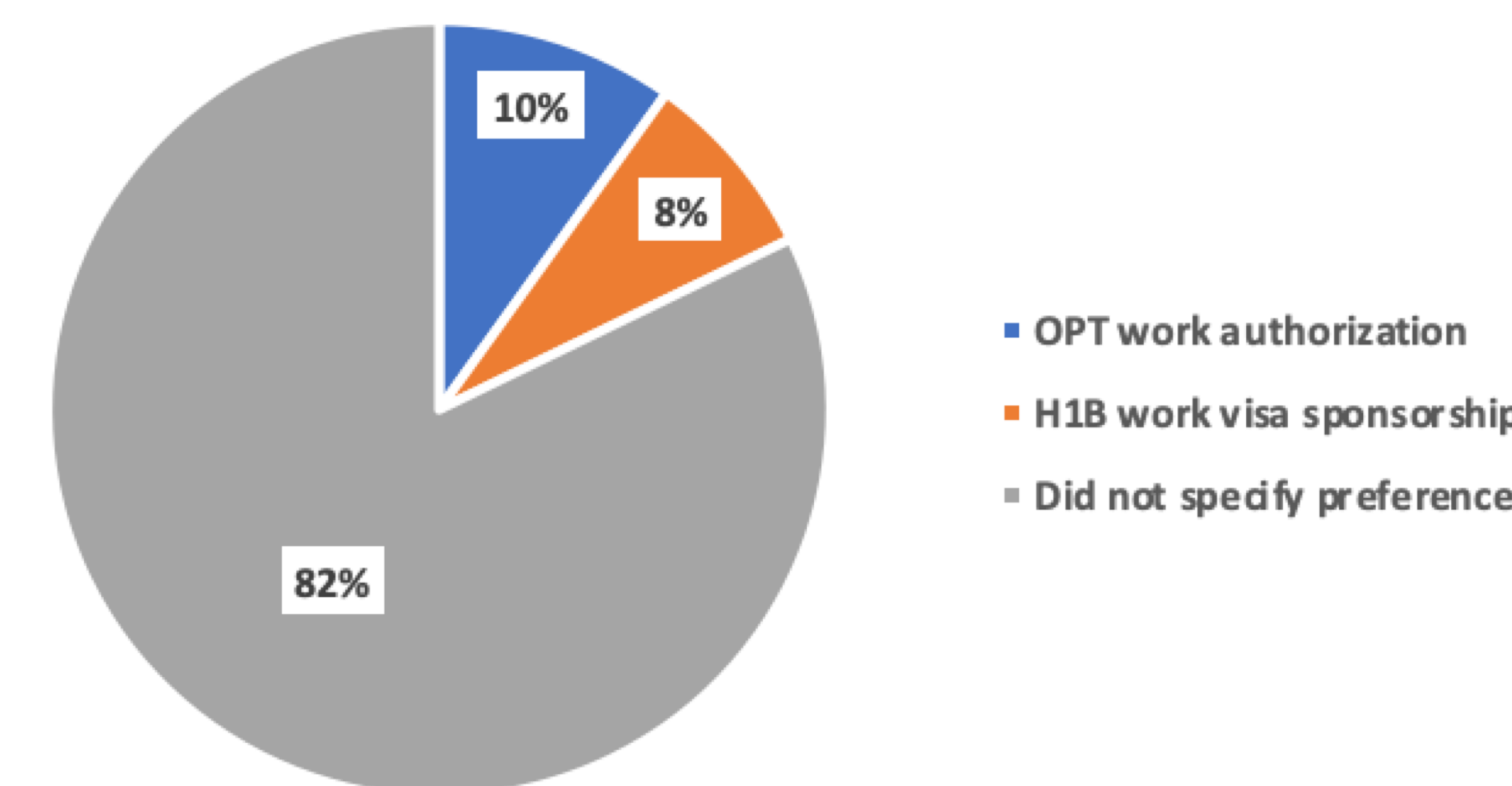
Key Search Words

Narrow	"Visa", "H-1B", "Optional Practical Training or OPT", "Eligible to work", "Sponsor or Sponsorship"
Broad	"International", "Citizen", "Foreign"

RESULTS

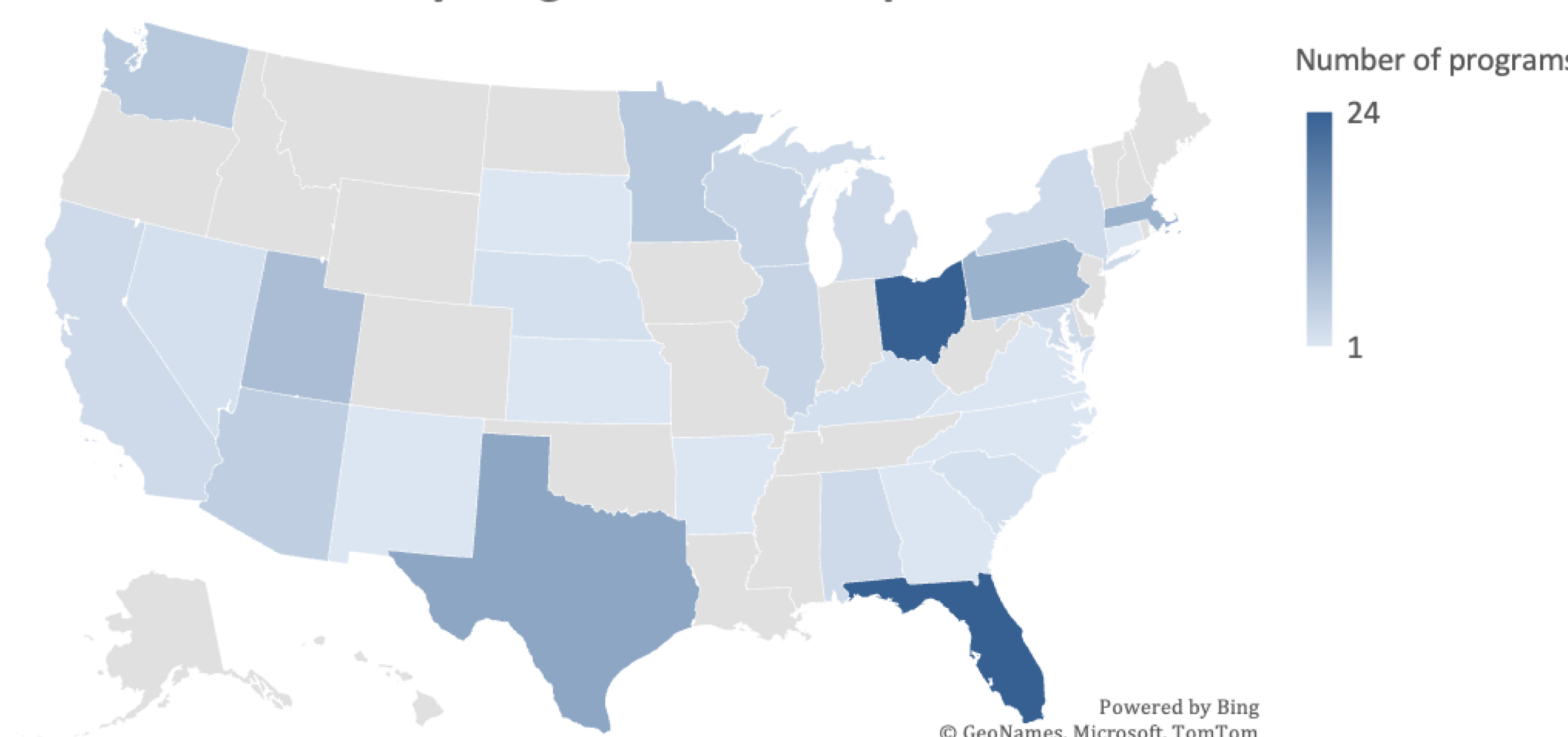
- As of February 2024, 1,641 PGY-1 residency programs were listed within the ASHP residency directory.
- Of these, 152 programs (9.26%) accept international students based on information provided on the ASHP directory or the program's individual websites.
- Beyond this, identifying the terms of acceptance varied between programs as there was no specific immigration status favored.

Terms of Acceptance for Residency Programs that accept International Students



- Geographically, the programs that accept the most international students with a PharmD obtained from a U.S. School/College of Pharmacy are on the eastern and southern coasts, with Florida and Ohio having the highest number of residency programs that accept international students

PGY-1 Residency Programs that Accept International Students



LIMITATIONS

- The ASHP residency directory largely relies on programs' self-reporting, which requires periodic updates.
- Residency program pages did not include the date information was last updated.
- Programs without clear acceptance status listed within the directory required a review of the program specific website resulting in a time-consuming process.

CONCLUSIONS

- Given the competitive nature of pharmacy residencies and the increasing number of international students, it is imperative that international students in the U.S. are supported beyond their PharmD degrees.
- Both search strategies described can be utilized by Schools/Colleges of Pharmacy looking to provide guidance to international students pursuing post-graduate residencies.

REFERENCES

1. Student Applications, Enrollments and Degrees Conferred Reports. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). <https://www.aacp.org/research/institutional-research/student-applications-enrollments-and-degrees-conferred>. Accessed February 19, 2024.
2. Optional Practical Training (OPT) for F-1 Students | United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). 2020. <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/optional-practical-training-opt-for-f-1-students>. Accessed February 19, 2024.
3. ASHP Residency Directory. American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP).