

Elective Empowerment: Students Prescribe Their Ideal Pharmacy Education Journey

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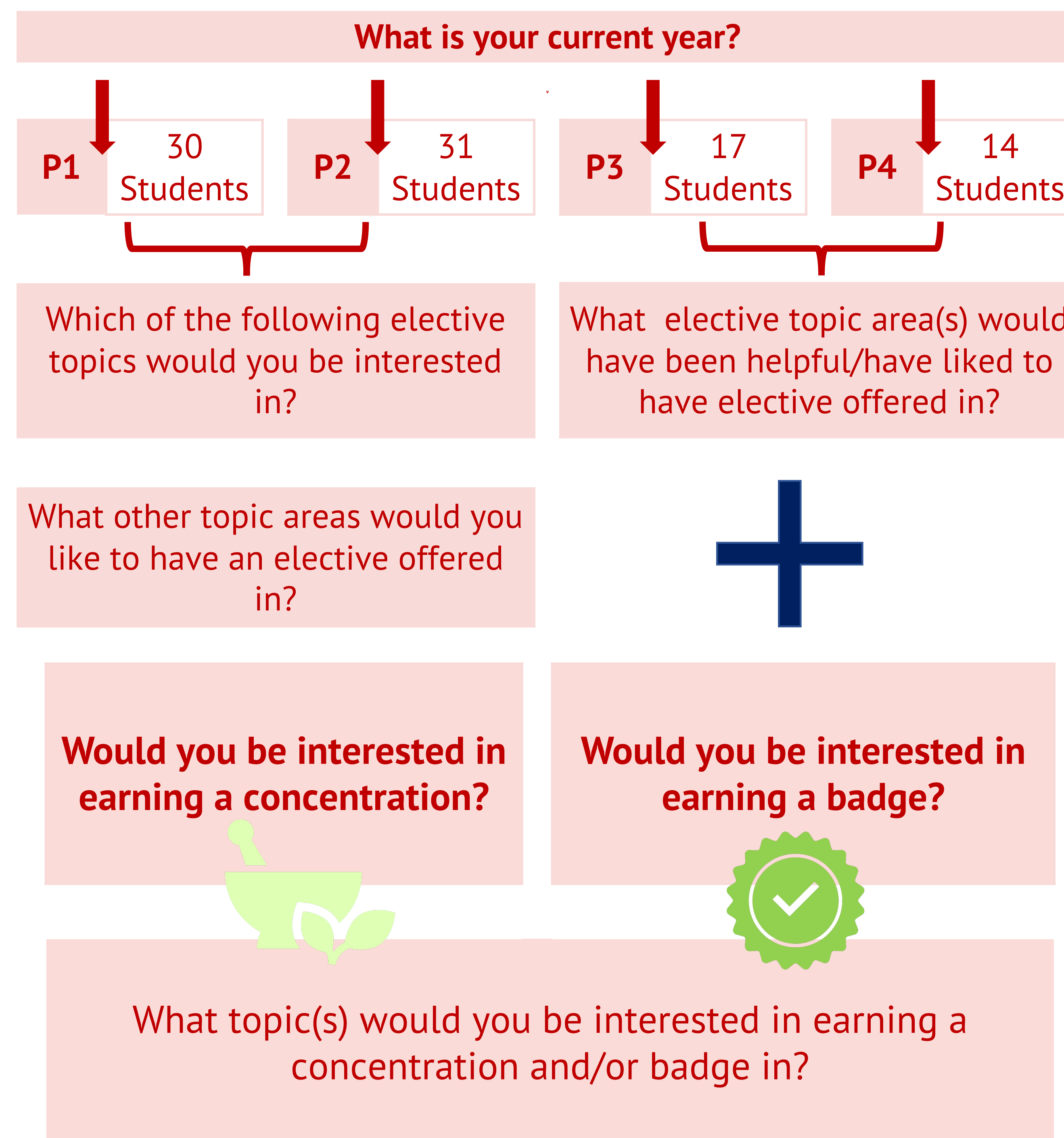
INTRODUCTION:

- Per ACPE Draft Standards 2025, electives should “permit **exploration** of and/or **advance studies** of professional **interest**.”
- Critical to provide elective options that **enhance** student **knowledge and skills** in areas of interest.
- Flexible and prevalent elective offerings can combat curriculum bloat and improve student satisfaction.

METHODS:

- Using a qualtrics survey, student interest in elective topics based on academic year and student interest in earning a concentration or digital badge was collected.
- Responses were gathered over two weeks, with a reminder sent two days before survey closing

Figure 1: Survey Flow Chart



REFERENCES:

Accreditation Standards and Key Elements for the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree ("Standards 2025"). (2024). Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. <https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/Standard2025DRAFTForComment.pdf>

Increased clinical exposure *later* in the curriculum may shift elective preferences from *industry and research* to *advanced clinical topics*.



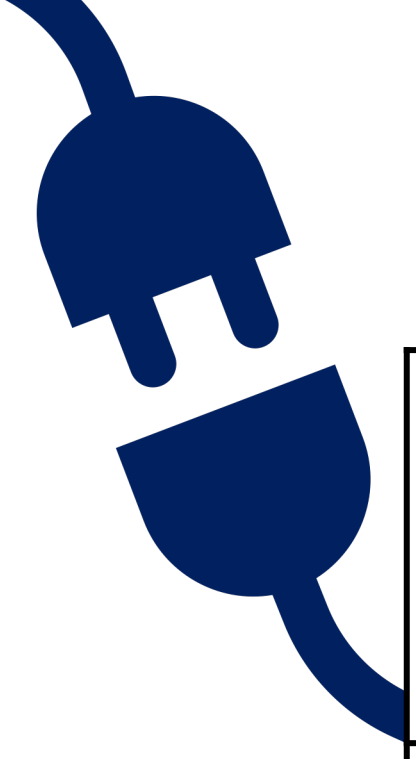
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RESULTS:

N = 81
Overall Response Rate = 23.5%

Academic Year	Top Three Elective Topic Areas	Student Interest (%)
P1	Industry	12.21
	Oncology	11.45
	Pediatrics	10.69
P2	Industry	12.5
	Oncology	12.5
	Research	9.38
P3	Industry	17.65
	Programming/informatics	17.65
	Specialized Care	23.5
P4	Specialized Care	14.29
	Critical Care	7.14
	Programming/informatics	7.14



	Student Interest
Concentration	93.44%
Badge	91.53%

DISCUSSION:

- Students in the **P1 and P2** years have more interest in **research and industry** electives
- Students in the **P3 and P4** years have more interest in **advanced clinical topics**.
- This pattern is not unexpected and may be attributed to **the increase in clinical exposure** students gain later in the curriculum.
- Pharmacy curricula should offer a **variety** of elective topics to support more **comprehensive** education for students.
- Increased elective variety will support professional identity formation in students