

Student preference-informed curricular offerings to drive personalized education and increase satisfaction

Jennifer L. Prisco, PharmD; Lana Dvorkin Camiel, PharmD



Background

- As enrollment changes and new fields/careers continue to develop in pharmacy, it is essential for educators to provide timely offerings to students.
- Educators must develop student awareness of opportunities, solicit their areas of interest, and make data-informed curricular offerings.

Objective

- Pharmacy student enrollment in elective courses changed over the past several years. Researchers aimed to identify 1) student interest in 16 diverse areas for professional development within required curriculum, electives, rotations and certificates and 2) specific reasons for selecting the offerings.

Methods

- Using a Qualtrics link distributed in Personal and Professional Development courses (PY1 – PY3) and on APPE rotations (PY4), students were surveyed on their interests related to 17 various topics. Data was stratified according to the professional year and evaluated by topic areas.

Results

Table 1: Greatest Interest Based on Pharmacy Topic Areas

	Course, %	Rotation, %	Certificate, %
Inpatient specialty topics (e.g. hospital health system, emergency medicine, intensive care)	36	51	23
Industry (e.g. biopharmaceutical companies, regulatory affairs, new drug applications)	36	44	33
Ambulatory care topics (e.g. outpatient, chronic disease management, direct patient care)	32	47	21
Compounding (e.g. Cosmetics, Sterile Compounding)	38	32	14
Specialty pharmacy (e.g. Infertility, hepatitis/HIV medications)	36	37	18
Specialty populations (e.g. Geriatrics, Pediatrics, Substance Use Disorder)	35	33	19
Pharmacogenomics (e.g. genetic applications, individualized/precision medicine)	38	31	23

- In total, 126/662 (19%) of students responded to the survey, with many respondents being PY1 (41%).
- Many respondents (35%-48%) were interested in having exposure to the assorted topics (1-2 lectures in required courses).
- Areas with lesser interest included Public health, Emergency Preparedness, Digital Health, Natural Medicine, Informatics, Business Leadership, Academia, Research, Veterinary Medicine, Managed Care

Implications/ Conclusion

- This data was used to inform the School of Pharmacy’s Program Innovation Strategic Planning Team in their 5-year development of offering an updated curriculum that both improves student satisfaction with the program and creates more personalized education.
- Study strengths include participation of all PY cohorts with low response rate, especially with P4 students being the main limitation.

Table 2: Main Reasons for Selecting Courses or Rotations

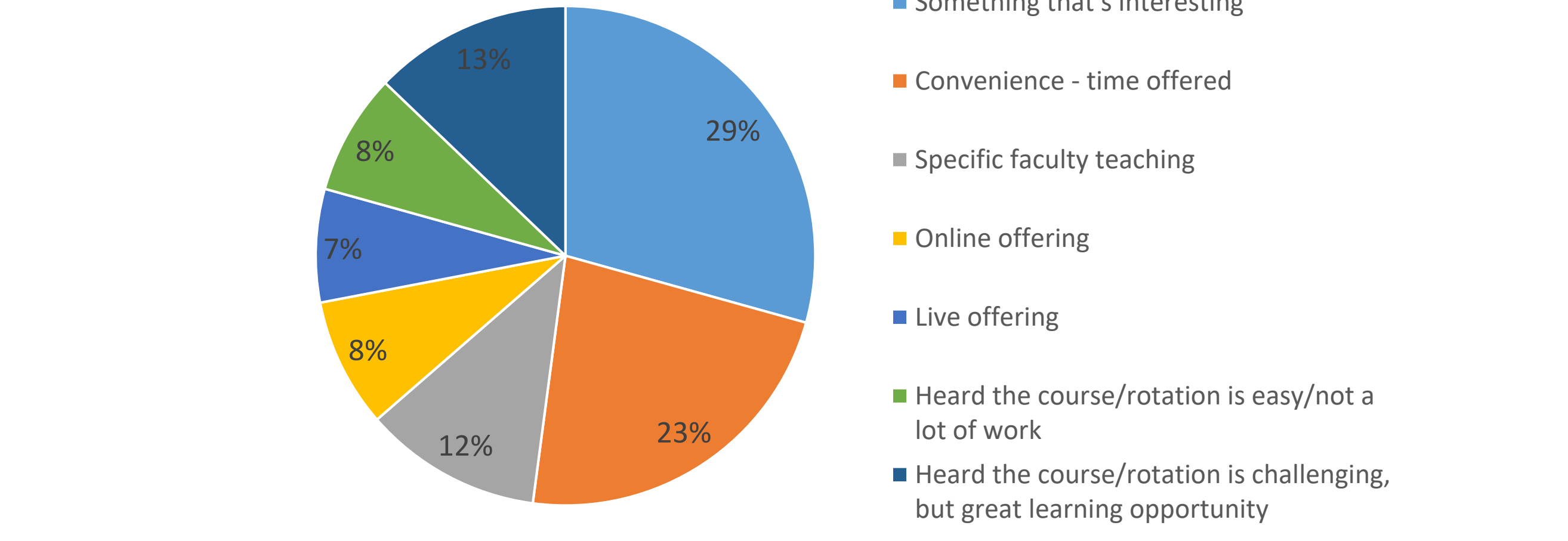


Table 3: Respondents by Professional Year (n=126)

