

Developing “CPD Ready” Practitioners through an Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Process

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Background: In order to prepare student pharmacists for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in practice, colleges/schools are developing CPD training and opportunities to exercise CPD skills. However, information is not yet available on the practice necessary to master these skills. **Objectives:** To develop a process to be threaded through Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) that builds skills in lifelong and self-directed learning. To provide the necessary support for each student to develop the skills needed to graduate as a “CPD ready” practitioner. **Methods:** The CPD Course extends four semesters, beginning in the spring of the third professional year and continuing through graduation. The CPD Course requires that students maintain a learning portfolio, which is assessed by Pharmacist Coaches on a quarterly basis. A Learning Status Update and a Learning Plan are required at each quarterly checkpoint. The course exercises and measures skills in self-assessment, learning planning, learning reflection, learning documentation, evaluation of learning progress and collaboration. **Results:** The Class of 2013 reported progression to near or at the level of “skilled” on each of six CPD competencies by graduation. Over the course of the year, CPD-related skill development was statistically significant (all measures $p < .001$). In addition to self-assessments, performance data indicated that the majority of students met CPD requirements with Satisfactory or Exemplary scores by graduation. Plans to evaluate success (31% needs improvement) remains the most difficult aspect of CPD. **Implications:** With quarterly practice, the majority of students meet CPD requirements satisfactorily within the year.

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