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Background & Objective

Background

The pharmacy and therapeutics (P&T) committee plays a critical role in formulary decisions for various healthcare and managed care settings. The continuous rise in healthcare cost has called for a better understanding of formulary decisions. The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Foundation holds an annual P&T competition to provide pharmacy students with real world experience in formulary decision-making for a health plan. Compared to other pharmacy organization-sponsored student competitions, students participating in the AMCP Foundation P&T competition are required to dedicate a significantly greater amount of time outside of their pharmacy curriculum to prepare the deliverables for the competition. These deliverables include a written document evaluating the product dossier, a health assessment and evidence rating matrix report, a written P&T committee monograph, a PowerPoint presentation slide deck, an optional economic model, and an oral presentation. Given the time and work dedicated to this competition, several colleges and schools of pharmacy have established specific course work to prepare students for success and incentivize participation by providing college credit for an elective that includes participating in the competition. Gaining an understanding of the current trend of educational support for registered AMCP student chapters may provide valuable insight about the resources available to prepare students in making evidence-based formulary decisions in a P&T committee setting.

Objective

To describe current educational support available to pharmacy students participating in the AMCP Foundation P&T competition.

Methods

An electronic survey instrument was developed utilizing Qualtrics Research Suite software (Qualtrics Lab, Provo, UT). The survey instrument consisted of multiple-choice, yes/no, and free-text items intended to capture student chapter demographic information and current educational resources available at each college or school to help prepare pharmacy students for participation in the annual AMCP Foundation P&T competition. A draft survey instrument was reviewed by 6 members of the AMCP Foundation Board of Trustees and AMCP Schools of Pharmacy Relations Committee. After reviewer comments were incorporated, the final survey instrument contained a total of 25 items using branched logic; thus, respondents reporting the availability of elective coursework designed to prepare students participating in the P&T competition were asked additional questions. Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide suggestions for additional materials that the AMCP Foundation could provide to contribute to student success in the P&T competition.

On February 5, 2016, an electronic invitation containing a direct hyperlink to the survey instrument was sent to all AMCP chapter advisors of chapters who participated in the 2014-2015 and/or the 2015-2016 AMCP Foundation P&T competition (N=62). Four reminder e-mails were sent to increase response rate, and the survey was closed on March 11, 2016. All data and responses were confidential and reported in aggregate. The project was granted exempt status for human subject research by the Purdue University Investigational Review Board (IRB). Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Open-ended responses were independently reviewed by two investigators (CH and AS), who identified general themes to report.

AMCP Foundation P&T Competition

The annual AMCP Foundation P&T Competition provides pharmacy students an opportunity to critically analyze, research and evaluate an assigned product dossier and arrive at a place in therapy or formulary recommendation. It also provides students with exposure to the *AMCP Format for Formulary Submissions*. The AMCP Foundation P&T competition is conducted on both local and national levels. The local competitions take place at each school of pharmacy, and the first place team material is submitted for national review. Based on the material submitted from participating schools of pharmacy around the country, 8 finalist teams are selected to participate in the final competition held at the annual AMCP meeting. Each of the 8 finalist teams are awarded a \$4,000 stipend. The first, second and third place teams are determined at the annual AMCP meeting and their chapters are awarded additional amounts of \$4,000, \$3,000, and \$2,000, respectively.



AMCP Foundation P&T Competition Sponsors

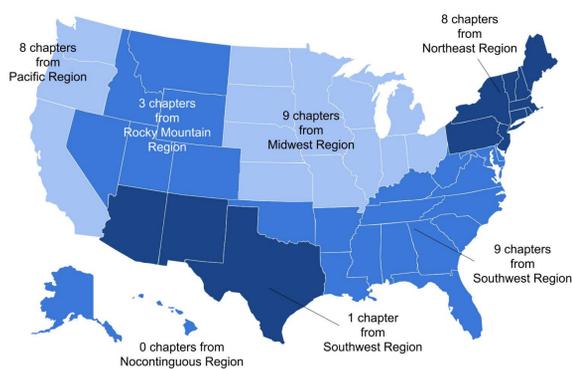


RESULTS

Respondent Chapter Characteristics

Survey Period	
February 5 th – March 11 th , 2016	
Total Number of Chapters Surveyed	
62	
Total Number of Chapters Responding	
38	
Survey Response Rate	
61.29%	

Geographic Location of Survey Respondents

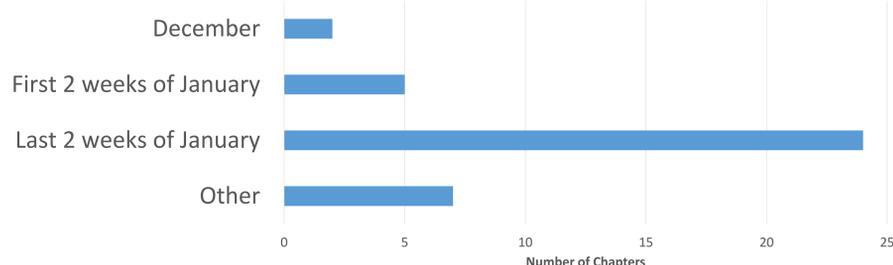


	2014 – 2015	2015 – 2016
Number of Chapters Registered to Participate	55	54
Number of Chapters Submitting Materials	40	43
Response Rate Among Participating Chapters	56.3% (31/55)	64.8% (35/54)

	Median**	Range
Number of Student Members Per Chapter*	30	10 - 211
Number of Teams that Intended to Participate in the Local Competition	3	0 - 20
Number of Teams that Typically Participate in the Local Competition	2	0 - 15

* Four respondents did not provide valid responses.
 ** When number was given as a range, the median number was recorded.

Local Competition Date



Other includes: First year chapter; having only one team intended to compete in the local competition.

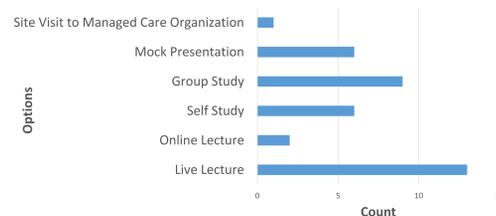
Curricular Content to Prepare Students for the P&T Competition

Required Course Content in the General Curriculum

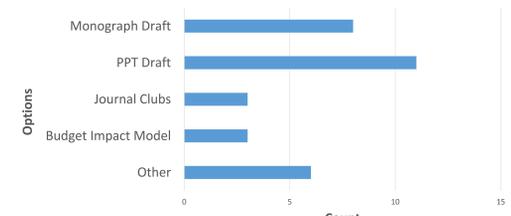


Other includes: Systematic reviews, clinical practice guidelines and decision analysis.

Elective Course Structure

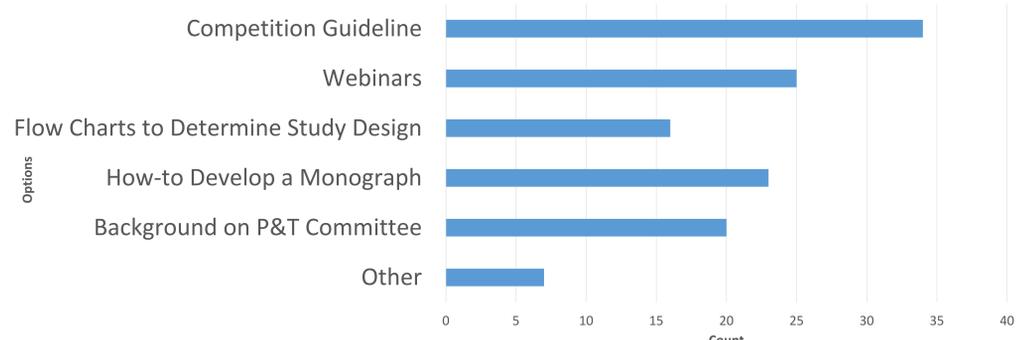


Elective Course Deliverables



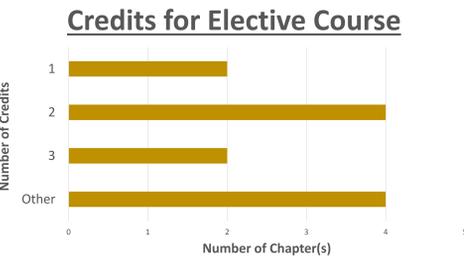
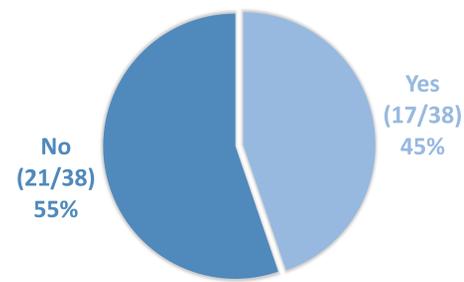
Other includes: Case study, research proposal, full P&T deliverable, dossier evaluation check-point, meta-analysis, understanding of managed care and healthcare landscape.

AMCP Foundation Resources Used to Prepare for P&T Competition

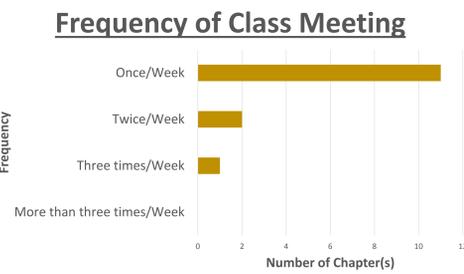


Other includes: General advice on P&T committee expectations, effective writing and presentation, managed care slides from the diplomat resource page, CER toolkit was optional, review of last year's material that were submitted by the students, guest speaker to introduce how to prepare for P&T competition.

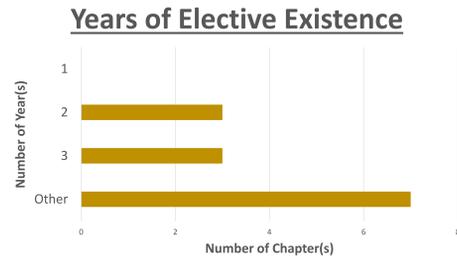
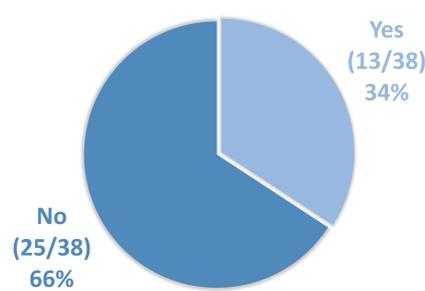
General Curriculum Provides Student Preparation for AMCP P&T Competition



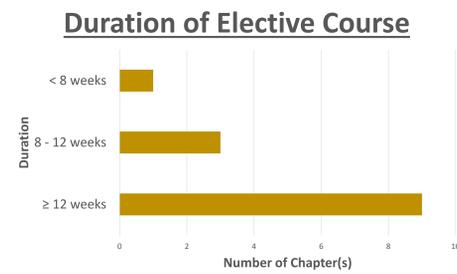
Others include: Required lecture series, separate courses in managed care/special problem, independent study, different credits for different courses.



Specific Elective Course is Offered to Prepare Students for AMCP P&T Competition



Others include 4, 6, 8, 10 years



	Chapters with a Dedicated Elective Course for Preparation (n= 13)	Chapters without a Dedicated Elective Course for Preparation (n=25)
Previously Placed in Top 3	30.8% (4/13)	4.0% (1/25)
Previously Placed in Top 8	46.2% (6/13)	36.0% (9/25)

Most Useful/Valuable Resources to Prepare for the P&T Competition

Resource	Percentage	Count
Competition Guidelines	39.47%	15/38
Webinar	34.24%	13/38
Others: Prior experience	2.63%	1/38
expert lectures	5.26%	2/38
manufacturer dossier	2.63%	1/38
literature database	2.63%	1/38
Delfini grading scale	2.63%	1/38

- ### Additional Activities Contributing to Chapter Success
- Guest speakers from managed care organizations
 - Faculty advisors with AMCP Foundation P&T Competition experience
 - Participation in P&T meetings
 - Affiliation with PBM organizations
 - Lecture series for the P&T competition
 - Seminars on therapeutic area and sessions on pharmacoconomics
 - Guidance from pharmacy residents

- ### Suggestions for Additional Material from AMCP Foundation
- Provide examples of winning team materials (monograph, video of presentation, etc.)
 - Provide additional information on developing a budget impact model/economic model
 - Provide more instruction on the CER tool and how to utilize the website for pharmaco-economic section
 - Limit the amount of material/length of report submitted for judging
 - Provide webinar on the process and submission for the competition
 - Announce the case study and provide the judging criteria a few weeks earlier
 - Extend the competition deadline to allow students more time to prepare for the competition, as some schools do not start spring semester until early February

Study Limitations

- The survey instrument was not validated, and a response rate of 61% may introduce bias and limit generalizability of study results.
- Chapter advisors may change from year to year, and new chapter advisors may not be familiar with the school curriculum to provide additional insights regarding the resources available to the P&T competition.

Acknowledgements

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Summary and Conclusion

- Participation in the annual AMCP Foundation P&T Competition remains robust, with 40 and 43 student chapters participating in the 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 competitions, respectively.
- Approximately 45% of responding student chapters reported that students receive content for competition preparation within the general curriculum, while 34% of chapters reported elective course work specifically dedicated to prepare students for the P&T competition.
- AMCP Foundation webinars and the official competition guidelines were reported by chapter advisors as the most useful/valuable resources for preparation for the competition.
- Opportunity exists to provide additional resources and materials to AMCP student chapters to enhance the educational success of AMCP Foundation P&T Competition and improve preparation of managed care pharmacists of the future.