EVOLUTION OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY PROGRAM ASSESSMENT TEAM

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BACKGROUND

All Pharmacy programs in the United States must be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE). In 2001 the University of Texas College of Pharmacy (UTCoP) undertook a process to specifically address ACPE Standard #3 (2000) which called for:

- A systematic approach to assess mission & goals and that objectives are being achieved;
- A continuous and systematic process that utilizes formative and summative assessments;
- Evaluation that extends beyond knowledge acquisition to the application of knowledge & skills to patient care;
- Continuous analysis of outcome measures that drives programmatic improvement.

In 2001, a faculty team of five participated in the national AACP Institute on Assessment, and the product of that conference was a proposal for a Program Assessment Team (PrAT) that focused on the professional (PharmD) curriculum. Following an iterative revision process, the proposal was adopted by vote of the faculty in 2002 and the PrAT was initiated.

MISSION

The mission of the Program Assessment Team is the continual monitoring and assessment of the professional (PharmD) program for the purpose of ongoing quality improvement and student learning enhancement.

COMPOSITION

Broad representation is provided by membership from the faculty, students, alumni, and administration. The Assessment Director serves ex officio and the Senior Associate Dean serves ex officio as Chair.

OPERATIONS

The PrAT operates by:

- Working with standing college committees in identifying or developing appropriate assessment instruments for assessing program outcomes;
- Handling the logistics of conducting the assessments across four campuses and six practice regions (students, faculty, and alumni);
- Analyzing results and assisting standing committees in assessing achievement of outcomes and determining next steps for cyclic improvement;
- Providing a comprehensive annual assessment report for the entire college community.

EXEMPLARY

Periodic (typically annual) assessments are conducted by the PrAT for continuous program improvement, all of which are included in the Annual Assessment Report.

MILESTONE EXAMS

Legend

Formative and summative (must pass) comprehensive exams to demonstrate mastery and retention.

P4 ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCIES

Twenty-two dimensions assessed by preceptor faculty in the practice environments and by student (self-assessment).

NAPLEX NATIONAL LICENSURE EXAM

Overall pass rates and area performance (vs national).

AACP STANDARD SURVEYS

National surveys for:
- Graduating PharmD Students (yearly)
- Preceptor Faculty (yearly)
- Faculty (biennial)
- Alumni (3 & 5 years out)…with comparison to peer institutions.

PLACEMENT AT GRADUATION

Areas of practice and further education/training for graduating PharmD students.

CONCLUSION

Since its inception in 2002, the CoP Program Assessment Team has provided a leadership role in assessment of the professional (PharmD) program to meet ACPE standards and for continuous program improvement.