

Investigation of pharmacists' and pharmacy students' perceptions of management studies in the University of Sydney Bachelor of Pharmacy program

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AIM

The aim of the research is to ascertain information from key stakeholders regarding the existing Pharmacy Management subject taught in the fourth year of the Bachelor of Pharmacy curriculum. Specific objectives were to investigate the structure and content of the course and to examine the perception of the management and business knowledge of recent BPharm graduates.

METHOD

A qualitative methodology was employed in an attempt to gain a rich understanding of stakeholder perceptions of PHAR4622. A combination of focus groups and in-depth interview techniques were used to examine these perceptions across three stakeholder groups; current fourth year BPharm students, BPharm graduates and pharmacy managers and owners. A total of 40 participants were sampled, with 15 members current fourth year students, 5 ex-students and 20 pharmacy managers or owners included.

OUTCOMES

Overall, the findings support a complete review of PHAR4622. The unanimous finding across all three cohorts suggests that the current subject is less than ideal in meeting the realities of the retail and hospital work environments. Suggestions were made by respondents for additional subjects, elective subjects, revised content in the existing subject, different assessment methods and integration of pharmacy management into other subjects of the degree. Essential pharmacy management knowledge required by pharmacy graduates was considered to be wide ranging, with an emphasis on financial management, leadership, human resources and retail management.