PHARMACY STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCCESSFUL ACCEPTANCE INTO A PHARMACY POST-GRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAM

Kathryn A. Morbitzer, PharmD, MS, Stephen F. Eckel, PharmD, MHA, BCPS
UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

BACKGROUND

- There were 154 applicants included over four application cycles.
- 115 applicants were within the application cycles evaluated for characteristics associated with invitation for interview and final ranking.
- 39 applicants were contained within the application cycle used for validation of analyses.

RESULTS

- There were 154 applicants included over four application cycles.
- 115 applicants were within the application cycles evaluated for characteristics associated with invitation for interview and final ranking.
- 39 applicants were contained within the application cycle used for validation of analyses.

OBJECTIVE

- To identify characteristics associated with successful invitation to interview and final ranking for the UNCMC’s HSPA residency program.

METHODS

- All candidate’s who applied during the 2015 – 2016, 2016 – 2017, and 2017 – 2018 application cycles were included within the evaluation.
- Data collected for each applicant included: Academic performance, Pharmacy school ranking, Prior pharmacy work experience, Prior research experience, Pharmacy organization involvement, Number of scholarships and awards received.
- Applicants from the 2018 – 2019 application cycle were used for validation of the developed models.
- Statistical analyses performed included: Bivariable analyses for planned stratifications of applicants according to whether applicants were offered an on-site interview and final rank among candidates interviewed.

CONCLUSIONS

- Objective criteria within the realms of academic performance and prior work experience may be useful to streamline the application screening process for post-graduate training programs.
- Pharmacy school GPA was the only objective characteristic found to be associated with applicant final ranking.
- If pharmacy schools trend towards implementing pass/fail curricula, it will be imperative to realize other indicators of academic performance.
- Future research is needed to determine best practices for analyzing subjective applicant attributes.

REFERENCES