ASSESSMENT IN THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

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Educational Assessment

- Educational assessment is the process of documenting in measurable terms students’ knowledge, skills, attitudes and beliefs to evaluate their learning.

- Assessment can focus on the individual learner, the learning community (class, workshop, or other organized group of learners), the institution, or the educational system as a whole.
Big Picture Questions

- What do we want our students to learn?
- In what ways can we help students achieve these outcomes?
- What other factors might we consider?
- How can we measure whether students have achieved these outcomes?
- How do we know whether students have retained what they’ve learned?
Examples of Assessments

- direct measures of student learning
  - students are expected to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities they have learned

- indirect measures of student learning
  - students report for themselves their perceptions of what they have learned

- importance of triangulation
Direct Measures of Student Learning

- written exams, projects, papers
- e-portfolios
- practical exams in Patient Assessment
- facilitator evaluations of clinical skills and communication skills in Pharmacotherapeutics Lab
- intern evaluations completed by preceptors
Indirect Measures of Student Learning

- Students’ Evaluations of the Curriculum (SECs)
  - The climate in this course was conducive to learning.
  - The instructional pace of this course was appropriate.

- Self-Assessments of Competencies
  - Introductory → full competence in professional outcomes

- Annual Student Surveys
  - Pre-pharmacy experiences, academics, facilities and resources, services, College and University climate
Indirect Measures of Student Learning

- **Course Instructor Surveys**
  - The course was well organized.
  - The instructor communicated information effectively.
  - The instructor showed interest in the progress of students.

- **Focus Groups, Interviews**
  - General feedback
What changes have been made?

- Non-Rx Pharmacotherapeutics I and II, Lab
- Patient Assessment Skills Lab
- Integrated Basic and Applied Pharmacokinetics
- Pharmacotherapeutics Lectures
- establishing Pharmacy student organizations at distance campuses
How does this relate to accreditation?

- Our accrediting agencies:
  - UT – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
  - COP – Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
- Setting standards for education, expectations for student learning
- Importance of accreditation
What does this mean for you?

- Importance of completing assessments
  - Our reliance on you
  - Your honest feedback
  - Your unique perspective
- Ongoing programmatic improvement
  - Benefits for you and future students