

Office of Budget and Planning: Institutional Research

Business Practice: Reporting PharmD students without a baccalaureate degree

Reports on student enrollment often aggregate students by academic level (i.e. undergraduate, graduate, or graduate professional). How undergraduate students in the PharmD program are reported can vary in these reports due to the way in which they are recorded in the information system.

Students in the PharmD begin their academic career in a one of two ways. They can enter directly as a graduate-professional, usually after having earned a baccalaureate degree in a relevant discipline. They can also enter as an undergraduate student, having met the admissions criteria, but not earning a baccalaureate degree. The following table indicates the value of the pertinent data fields in the Student Records data warehouse for these two cases:

CASE 1		CASE 2	
CAREER_LEVEL	Undergraduate	CAREER_LEVEL	Graduate-Professional
ACAD_LEVEL_BOT	Junior/Senior	ACAD_LEVEL_BOT	Professional Intermediate
ACAD_CAREER	Pharmacy Professional	ACAD_CAREER	Pharmacy Professional
ACAD_PLAN	Pharmacy PharmD	ACAD_PLAN	Pharmacy PharmD

In both cases, the ACAD_CAREER (Pharmacy Professional) and the ACAD_PLAN (Pharmacy PharmD) are the same. In other words, the students are taking the same classes. After the second year of the program, those students who entered as undergraduate are moved to graduate-professional. This is done by the Registrar's Office after receiving a list of eligible students from the college.

When reporting on students in the PharmD program, there are two different options in their treatment.

1. Report undergraduate students in the PharmD program as graduate-professional by using the ACAD_CAREER or ACAD_PLAN data fields and ignoring the ACAD_LEVEL_BOT data field
2. Report undergraduate students in the PharmD program as undergraduate by using the ACAD_LEVEL_BOT data field and ignoring the ACAD_CAREER and ACAD_PLAN data fields

When reporting statistics about the university at an aggregate level, option 1 should be used, reporting these students as graduate professional. The only time when option 2 should be used is when it is necessary for practical purposes to identify those students without a baccalaureate degree.

College of Pharmacy Practices

Students that enter as undergraduate follow the same application and admissions practices as other PharmD program applicants. They also take the same classes as other PharmD students. They pay the PharmD tuition rate. The college tracks the undergraduate PharmD students for their business needs.

The College of Pharmacy notifies the Registrar's Office which students to change in the information system from undergraduate junior academic level following matriculation in the PharmD program. The College of Pharmacy also notifies the Registrar's Office which students to change in the information system from undergraduate to graduate professional following completion of the second year of the PharmD program. However, the undergraduate student does not automatically earn a baccalaureate degree as part of the curriculum of the PharmD program.

For college budget purposes, these students are included with graduate professionals when reporting HCE's in the enrollment projection process. However, a separate email is sent to OBP with an estimate of the undergraduate PharmD students. OBP treats these students as graduate professional for tuition attribution purposes.

Office of Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid does not have a special practice for processing these students. As undergraduate students, they are eligible for financial aid like any other undergraduate student. This means that they are eligible for certain federal aid, such as the Pell grant and subsidized/unsubsidized Stafford loans. Graduate professional students are eligible for graduate financial aid.

Impact of this business practice

Many reports currently available on the Registrar's Office or the Office of Budget and Planning websites are following Option 2. However, the Enrollment and Degrees Data Display (and not Michigan Metrics) are using Option 1 when displaying aggregated statistics related specifically to the PharmD program. Where possible, reports utilizing Option 2 should be converted to the criteria of Option 1.

In addition, these students are reported as undergraduate to IPEDS and HEIDI so it will be necessary to modify this reporting as well.

Document Action

Created: January 10, 2017

Edited: March 21, 2017 Incorporating feedback from the College of Pharmacy
August 30, 2017 Modified to include more detail on field names in databases and to update the Impact section.