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Fostering student professionalism and leadership in distance pharmacy programs

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Abstract

In the last decade, many schools and colleges of pharmacy have expanded their enrollment by adding distance education sites. These new campuses are responsible for delivering an identical or equivalent curriculum and for meeting the *Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education's Standards and Guidelines for the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree*. A number these standards specify that pharmacy programs are responsible for developing student professionalism and leadership in their students. Developing activities to meet these standards can be challenging in the distance campus environment. Opportunities for the development of student professionalism must be incorporated into the didactic and experiential curriculum as well as in activities outside of the curriculum. Professional student organizations offer many opportunities for faculty to foster student professionalism and leadership.

Biography

Williams joined the University of Florida faculty in July 2002 as the Director of the St. Petersburg Campus. Williams received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy in 1996. She then completed both a Pharmacy Practice residency at the University of Kentucky and a Pediatric Pharmacy Practice residency at the University of Kentucky Children's Hospital. As Assistant Dean and Campus Director, Williams enjoys the opportunity to work closely with all of the St. Petersburg students during facilitated sessions and through student organizations. Her research interests include distance education and student outcomes.

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