

Title: Perspectives from us pharmacy students completing international practice experiences

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Abstract:

**Background**The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education allows pharmacy students to complete Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) outside the United States provided quality assurance of sites is met. As such, the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (CU SSPPS) encourages PharmD students to participate in international APPEs. Since 2008, 182 PharmD students at the SSPPS have completed an international APPE.**Methods**Sites and preceptors are screened to ensure students have the opportunity to demonstrate competence in practitioner skills, professionalism and communication, as outlined in the APPE evaluation tool. Students complete a 6-week experience in the country of their choice. The students are then required to complete a 7-question survey upon return to the US.**Results**Common themes emerged from student data, including differences in regulation within healthcare systems, improved access for all age groups, distribution of medications, and various roles of pharmacies or pharmacists, among the countries visited.**Conclusion**Students who complete international experiences gain valuable insight into healthcare systems abroad while demonstrating professional competence. The CU SSPPS will continue to encourage students to participate in these experiences.**References**Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Accreditation Standards and Key Elements For the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree "Standards 2016". 2016; <https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/Standards2016FINAL.pdf>.