

CASE STUDY

UTHSC College of Pharmacy Implements COREreadiness

UTHSC College of Pharmacy implements COREreadiness to provide professional development support for students throughout their pharmacy program to better prepare for their clinical rotations and careers.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER.



Dr. Dawn Havrda
College of Pharmacy Associate Dean
~ UTHSC

THE CHALLENGE

UTHSC is the highest ranked College of Pharmacy in the state of Tennessee. With that recognition, it is important for their pharmacy students to meet the highest expectations of professionalism.

Dr. Dawn Havrda, College of Pharmacy Associate Dean, knew the program needed a solution to support students and their professional development to ultimately better prepare them for the pharmacy market.

“We were hearing from our students that they wanted more. Our students felt they were exposed to community and hospital pharmacy practice, however, they wanted to learn about all of the different professions available in pharmacy and the skills they would need to succeed in each of those practice settings. We knew we needed to help them.”

Students required support with essential professional skills including professional expectations, email etiquette, and job interviewing – skills necessary for their careers as pharmacists. Dr. Havrda set out to find a system to support her pharmacy program and assist her students.

THE SOLUTION

UTHSC implemented COREreadiness, a learning management system hosting over 700+ digital short-courses and co-curricular activities. The solution was put in place to better prepare students for their careers by providing professional development and skills-building content.



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“We use COREadiness in our Pharmacy Professional Development courses. We have a Professional Development course in every semester of our four year pharmacy program. Early on in the pharmacy program, students need support learning things like professional expectations and phone etiquette in a pharmacy. There is a great variety of content within COREadiness that we use throughout all four professional years of our program.”

At UTHSC, COREadiness integrates with CORE CompMS and Blackboard. Once students are in CompMS, they are able to access COREadiness through a seamless single sign-on. Eventually, the pharmacy program will tie the system into other areas of learning. As Dr. Havrda explains, “we wanted to start small and then expand. I have noticed that there is content that can be used for experiential courses, such as our IPPE Institutional. So in the future, we will expand and integrate with CORE ELMS.”

One major deciding factor? “As we reviewed the content, it was clear the CORE team had already done the work and created beneficial content. Students respond well to short snippets of content that are to the point and COREadiness provides that support for our program.” She explains, “I just assigned the Brand-Generic course to give them an overview as well as reinforce what they are learning on their rotations. If students did not like the content, I would hear about it.”

THE RESULTS

Student feedback on COREadiness has been entirely positive: “At first, students may not think they need refreshers on professionalism, email etiquette, and job interview tips. Then they realize, they enjoy this content. COREadiness is in the format they want – digital, short, and to the point. Had we put it together ourselves, our students may have found it too long and too detailed.”

The system has not only shown positive results for P1-P3 students, Dr. Havrda notes: “It’s the students we don’t see everyday that are truly benefiting, specifically our P4 students. P4 students that are crossing that bridge into their careers benefit from this tool.”

Faculty have also commented that the Learning Paths in COREadiness are easy to create. They enjoy being able to support their students with access to COREadiness. Also, faculty appreciate the self-assessment because it holds their students accountable. They had not been exposed to a system that demonstrated accountability until now.

Overall, feedback from both students and faculty of COREadiness has been positive and implementing COREadiness has proven to be beneficial for the UTHSC pharmacy program.