



# Research Week 2021

## Content Validation of a Measure of Student Readiness to Work with People Who Use Drugs

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### Keywords

Addiction, education, survey, substance use

### Abstract

#### Introduction

Healthcare professionals frequently care for patients with substance use disorders (SUDs), but students graduating from health professions programs describe being unprepared to work with this population due to a lack of SUD education. Educational interventions improve student knowledge and attitudes about SUDs, but validated scales on these topics are intended for practicing professionals and do not encompass recent advances in addiction treatment.

#### Methods

We developed survey items intended to assess medical, nursing, and pharmacy student readiness to work with patients with SUDs in the domains of 1) attitudes and 2) competencies. A literature search was completed in order to develop initial measure items. Cognitive interviews were performed with students from multiple healthcare professions to ensure comprehension. All survey questions were then sent to 8 medical, 8 pharmacy, and 8 nursing educators with expertise in addiction. Experts rated scale items as “not important” (coded as 1), “somewhat important” (coded as 2) and “very important” (coded as 3) to the readiness of their students to work with patients with SUDs and noted additional topics that should be included.

#### Results

The initial literature search led to the development of 16 attitudes questions and 34 competency question. Feedback has been received from 3 medical educators, 6 pharmacy educators and 2 nursing educators. Based on feedback, an additional 5 attitudes questions and 15 competency questions were developed. Mean attitude item rating was 2.52 (SD: 0.34). Mean competency item rating was 2.50 (SD: 0.32).

## Discussion

Following the content validation and item reduction of this survey, we intend to administer this measure to a population of 300 medical, pharmacy, and nursing students across 3 West Coast universities to determine its internal reliability. We believe that the finalized survey instrument will better assess health profession student readiness to work with patients with SUDs than existing tools.