

# **Independent Study P&T Course**

## **Ohio Northern University**

### **Project Description & Implementation Overview**

An independent study course was created throughout the 2013-2014 school year to be implemented in the spring semester of 2014 (January 2014 – May 2014). This course was advertised to all current student pharmacists years P1-P5 who had an interest in learning more about the process of the P&T competition, the art of P&T and all it encompasses in general. This course was designed to help student pharmacists get a better understanding of the competition and the foundation and policies encompassing it, including topics such as drug information, pharmacoeconomics and drug literature review.

### **Purpose of the Project**

The purpose of this project was to broaden the knowledge base and interest in the P&T competition and AMCP as an organization. The AMCP chapter's goal for this independent study was to get more student pharmacists involved in future P&T competitions. We hoped to increase enrollment in both the competition and in our chapter as a whole. By bridging the knowledge gap between student pharmacists and this field of pharmacy and practice we hoped to gain more teams for our local P&T competition next year. Overall we wanted to make the process of competing in a P&T competition more universally known and easily understood.

### **Project Budget: Expenses and Revenues**

Funding for this project was accomplished in the form of credit hour expenses that were paid by each student pharmacist enrolled to the university. The fee for the course accounted for the tools necessary to project lectures and have online access for the student pharmacists. This fee also covered the professors' time that they provided to present lectures to the student pharmacists on different subject areas. Dr. Karen Kier piloted the program and conducted the majority of the lectures. With the help and planning of our P& T chair, Erica Tolle, the course was coordinated. Expenses outside of this independent study included prizes, thank you gifts, and refreshments that were provided for our local chapter competition, but these were not directly attributed to this pilot program.

### **Who and How Many Chapter Members are Involved?**

The project was created and orchestrated by our chapters current P&T chair with the co-ordination with Dr. Karen Kier. The P&T Chair and Chapter President discussed a need for increased awareness and education in regards to this competition and getting P1s and P2s on board with the event. We wanted to do this in order to increase interest in the competition moving forward. Other chapter members are involved in the independent study course and have helped with some of the duties concerning it (for example, the AMCP Chapter President helped to organize other professors' lectures). Our chapter is the only chapter to conduct this type of project that we are aware of.

### **Who Should be Targeted? Audience or Involvement? How Do You Find Them? How Do You Contact?**

Our audience was student pharmacists year P1-P5 who had an interest in P&T and possible involvement in future competitions. We targeted the student pharmacists by sending emails advertising this independent study course. Student pharmacists joined this class by expressing interest and signing up to take the course during spring semester registration. We were able to get ~90 student pharmacists interested and registered for the independent study course.

### **What Materials are Needed? Outside Resources, Ordering, etc?**

Materials in the form of time commitment were needed by both the professors who were involved and the student pharmacists using the course. We had to create an online program (MoodleRoom) to give students access to resources and the lectures they needed. We also had to reserve rooms on campus for live lectures and for the P&T competition. Materials such as thank you gifts, refreshments, and other items we needed for our local P&T competition were taken out of our budget for our local competition but were indirectly related to this project. Gifts for the judges included a 25\$ gift card, a thank you card, a gift from the University and an assortment of chocolates costing a total of around \$30 per judge and a combined total including Dr. Kiers thank you gift of \$140. The lunch for the local competition was only served to judges, participants and the chapter's executive board – for around \$150.

### **Timeline for Implementation and Execution**

- Faculty member requested approval from the dean and from the department chair of the pharmacy practices part of the college through email.
- 2 months from start of semester: meet with faculty hosting independent study to arrange presentations to classes about opportunity, setting up “MoodleRoom” & arranging registration.
- 1 month from start of semester: announce independent study to all pharmacy classes by going into classrooms to explain P&T, expectations for class & instructions for registration. Also provide contact information for student pharmacists & faculty member organizing independent study class. Meet with professors to request lectures about Drug Information, Economics, Research Study Designs, etc.
- Start of semester: host a kickoff event for AMCP Foundation's P&T competition where competing teams present to independent study participants & competition judges.
- Ongoing: continue meeting with professors to organize lectures & post online resources for student pharmacists.

### **Follow-up with Faculty Members/Volunteers/Participants**

Follow up at the end of the P&T course will be done to see what student pharmacists liked/disliked about the course and what they feel we could do to improve it, and if it will be continued. We gave the judges of our local P&T competition and Dr. Kier thank you notes and small gifts for helping with our event and this independent study course.

### **Project Evaluation:**

#### **What Went Well? What Didn't? How Would You Improve for the Next Year?**

##### What went well

- Registration for student pharmacists
- Interest among student pharmacists for the course
- The local chapter competition
- Overall flow of the course and competition
- Faculty help with piloting this program

##### What didn't work/Improvements

- Our local chapter needs growth although this program was successful
- Getting more student pharmacists to participate in the competition next year

### **Project Checklist:**

- Establish a coordinator and a committee (executive board members and faculty)
- Organize all of the lectures by meeting with faculty
- Set up online access to the course and register the course with the School to make it available to student pharmacists (with the help of the corresponding faculty)
- Advertise to student pharmacists
- Organize and coordinate the local chapter competition including getting judges set up, the event details figured out and helping the team/teams with the process and questions.
- Send out thank you notes and get feedback on the program

**From:** Erica Tolle <[e-tolle.1@onu.edu](mailto:e-tolle.1@onu.edu)>

**Date:** October 22, 2013 at 11:34:10 AM EDT

**To:** rxstudents email forward <[rxstudents@onu.edu](mailto:rxstudents@onu.edu)>

**Subject: Independent Study Course Open To All Students!**

If you need elective hours or are interested in gaining 1 credit hour simply to learn more about DI, therapeutics, and the economics associated with compiling a formulary... keep reading!

AMCP's Pharmacy & Therapeutics competition is a local and national competition that encompasses skills such as drug information, economics, therapeutics and pathophysiology. ONU has a team competing for us, but we want to educate the rest of the student body on the logistics of a P&T Committee such as one found in a hospital! Dr. Karen Kier is offering independent study credit hours to those who simply want to learn more by watching our current team! We are asking those who sign up for this independent study to attend around 5 separate lectures (dates and times TBA) in which ONU professors will educate students on each section of a P&T Competition along with attending ONU's local competition in January to critique our team.

If anyone is interested in learning more about this dynamic competition and gaining elective hours for your time, simply email me back and we can set up your elective hour for the spring semester!

Here is the link to AMCP's website and information about the P&T Competition for anyone who is interested! <http://www.amcp.org/amcp-foundation/pt/>

Thanks and have a great Tuesday!