

**AACP**  
**Pre-pharmacy Students and Seats**  
**Survey Results**

May 14, 2019

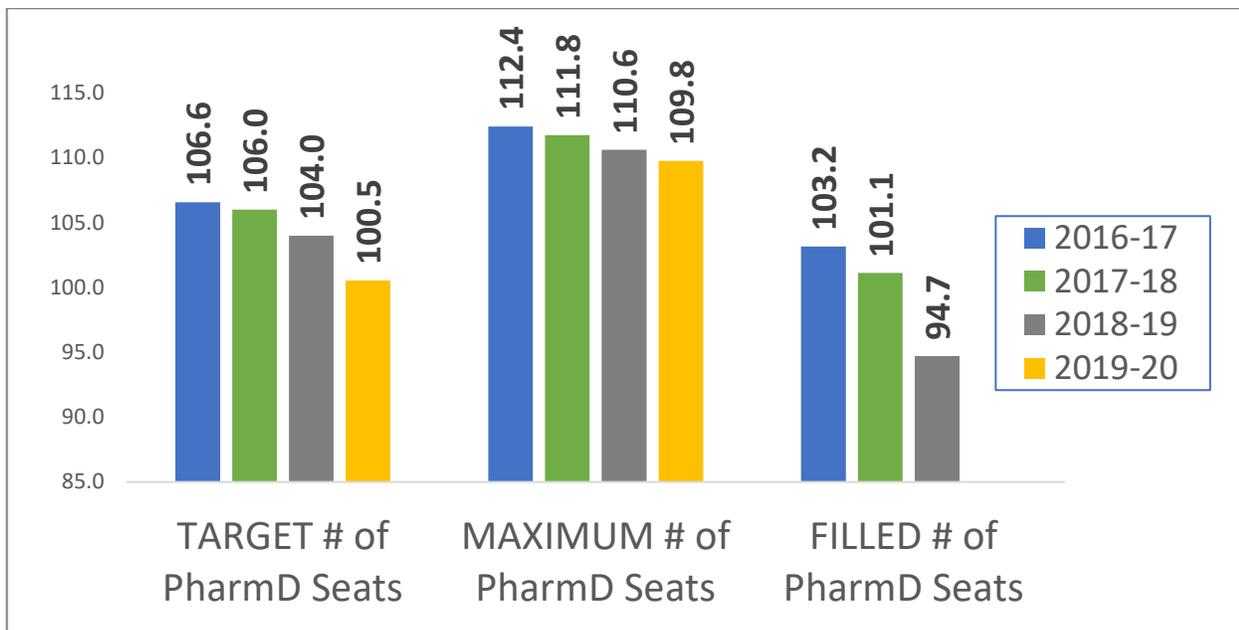
## Overview

This report summarizes the results of the AACP pre-pharmacy students and seats survey released in spring 2019. The goal of the survey was to capture the number of known, pre-pharmacy students in the pipeline, as well as the target and maximum number of Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree seats available versus filled in recent years. A total of 133 out of 143 colleges and schools of pharmacy in the United States responded to the required items on the survey reflecting a 93 percent response rate. Only aggregate survey responses are reported. Contact AACP student affairs staff at [cas@aacp.org](mailto:cas@aacp.org) with questions about the report.

## Seats Available Versus Filled

Survey respondents were instructed to enter the number of PharmD degree seats available (target and maximum) and the number of PharmD degree seats filled per entering P1 class between the academic years of 2016-2017 and 2019-2020, regardless of whether the seats were filled by or reserved for early assurance students or other, special student populations.

**Figure 1: Mean Number of PharmD Seats Available versus Filled by Academic Year**



*N=127 out of 133 respondents*

On average colleges and schools of pharmacy have reduced both the maximum and target number of seats per entering P1 class in recent years. The mean number of target seats per school declined from 106.6 to 100.5 and the mean number of maximum seats available per school declined from 112.4 to 109.8 between the 2016-2017 and 2019-2020 academic years. The mean number of seats filled per school also declined on average from 103.2 in 2016-2017 to 94.7 in 2018-2019. The mean number of seats filled for the upcoming 2019-2020 entering class is not yet available.

**Figure 2: Changes in PharmD Target Class Size (2016-2017 through 2019-2020 Academic Years)**

% of Schools with <b>REDUCED</b> Target Class Size	23%
Range in the number of reduced target seats	-1 to -50
Mean number of reduced target seats	-19.1
% of Schools with <b>NO CHANGE</b> to Target Class Size	66%
Range	N/A
Mean	N/A
% of Schools with <b>INCREASED</b> Target Class Size	11%
Range in the number of additional target seats	+1 to +35
Mean number of additional target seats	+5.0

*N=127 out of 133 respondents*

Of those colleges and schools of pharmacy that reported a target class size for both the 2016-2017 and 2019-2020 academic years, 23 percent chose to reduce their target class size by 1 to 50 seats with a mean reduction of 19.1 target seats. Sixty-six (66) percent reported no change in the number of target seats during that time and 11 percent chose to increase their target class size from 1 to 35 with a mean of 5 additional target seats.

**Figure 3: PharmD Target Class Size versus Seats Filled per Academic Year**

	2017-2018 Academic Year	2018-2019 Academic Year
% of Schools with Seats Filled <b>BELOW</b> Target Class Size	56%	60%
Range in the number of unfilled target seats	1 to 49 unfilled	1 to 85 unfilled
Mean number of unfilled target seats	11.3 unfilled	17.7 unfilled
% of Schools with Seats Filled <b>EQUAL</b> to Target Class Size	15%	16%
Range	N/A	N/A
Mean	N/A	N/A
% of Schools with Seats Filled <b>ABOVE</b> Target Class Size	29%	24%
Range in the number of filled seats over target	1 to 17 over	1 to 13 over
Mean number of filled seats over target	5.2 over	4.8 over

*2017-2018 Academic Year: N=127 out of 133 respondents*

*2018-2019 Academic Year: N=109 out of 133 respondents*

2017-2018 Academic Year: Of those respondents that provided the number of target seats and number of seats filled for the 2017-2018 academic year, 56 percent did not meet their target class size, 15 percent met it, and 29 percent exceeded it. Of those institutions that did not meet their target class size, the range in the number of unfilled target seats was 1 to 49 and the mean was 11.3. Of those institutions that exceeded their target class size, the range of seats over the target was 1 to 17 and the mean was 5.2.

2018-2019 Academic Year: Of those respondents that provided the number of target seats and number of seats filled for the 2018-2019 academic year, 60 percent did not meet their target class size, 16 percent met it, and 24 percent exceeded it. Of those institutions that did not meet their target class size, the range in the number of unfilled target seats was 1 to 85 and the mean was 17.7. Of those institutions that exceeded their target class size, the range of seats over the target was 1 to 13 and the mean was 4.8.

**Figure 4: PharmD Maximum Class Size versus Seats Filled per Academic Year**

	2017-2018 Academic Year	2018-2019 Academic Year
% of Schools with Seats Filled <b>BELOW</b> Maximum Class Size	77%	79%
Range in the number of unfilled maximum seats	1 to 62 unfilled	1 to 119 unfilled
Mean number of unfilled maximum seats	14.6 unfilled	20.1 unfilled
% of Schools with Seats Filled <b>EQUAL</b> to Maximum Class Size	13%	17%
Range	N/A	N/A
Mean	N/A	N/A
% of Schools with Seats Filled <b>ABOVE</b> Maximum Class Size	10%	4%
Range in the number of seats filled over maximum	1 to 13 over	2 to 5 over
Mean number of seats filled over maximum	5.1 over	3.5 over

*2017-2018 Academic Year: N=127 out of 133 respondents*

*2018-2019 Academic Year: N=108 out of 133 respondents*

2017-2018 Academic Year: Ten (10) percent of responding colleges and schools reported exceeding their maximum class size by a range of 1 to 13 students with a mean average of 5 students during the 2017-2018 academic year. By comparison 77 percent of respondents did not fill their maximum class size by an average 14.6 students and a range of 1 to 62 students. The remaining 13 percent of respondents reported filling their maximum class size with the precise number of students.

2018-2019 Academic Year: Four (4) percent of responding colleges and schools reported exceeding their maximum class size by a range of 2 to 5 students with a mean average of 3.5 students during the 2018-2019 academic year. By comparison 79 percent of respondents did not fill their maximum class size by an average 20.1 students and a range of 1 to 119 students. The remaining 17 percent of respondents reported filling their maximum class size with the precise number of students.

## Pre-pharmacy Students in the Pipeline

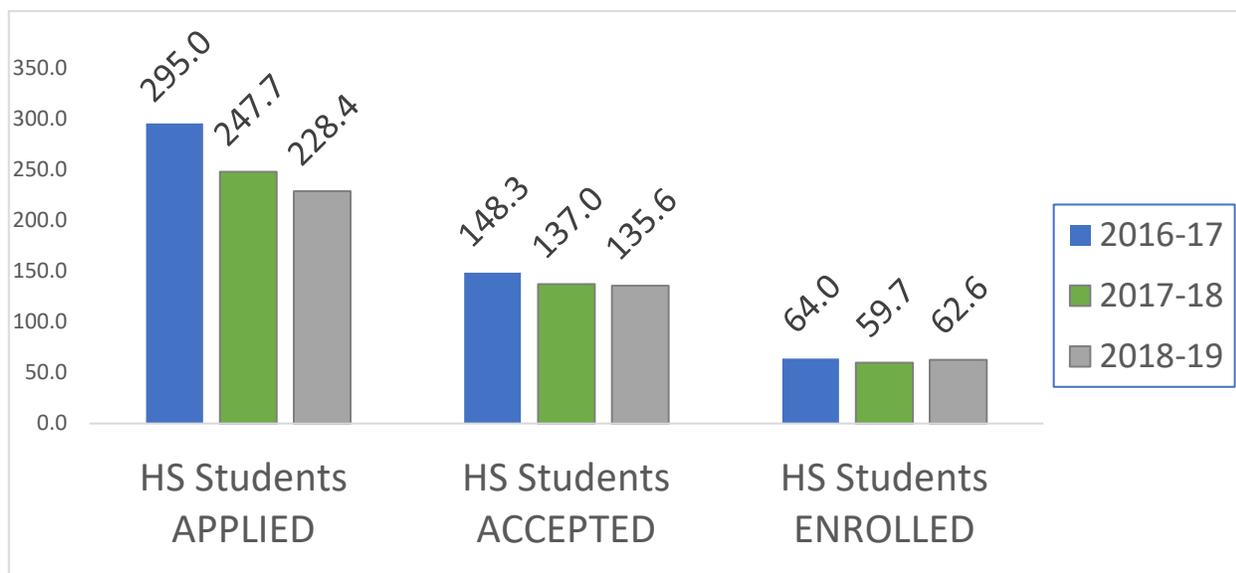
The AACP survey also captured the estimated number of pre-pharmacy students in the pipeline by type.

**Figure 5: Number of Pharmacy Schools with 0-6/7 or Early Assurance (EA) Program for High School Students**

Result	Responses	Percentage
YES	48	36.0%
NO	85	63.9%

Total # of pharmacy college/school respondents: N=133 out of 143

**Figure 6: Mean Number of High School Students in 0-6/7 & Early Assurance (EA) Programs by Academic Year**



# of respondents that accept 1 or more HS students into a 0-6/7 or EA program: N=48

# of respondents that accept 1 or more HS student into a 0-6/7 or EA program and reported data for 1+ years: N=31

A high school EA student may be counted in more than one category or year.

Figures 5 and 6 refer to high school students who applied to or were considered for an 0-6/7 or early assurance (EA) program in a college or school of pharmacy before they enrolled in the institution as college freshmen. Students who successfully complete all pre-pharmacy and interview requirements advance to the professional phase of the PharmD curriculum via an expedited process. Students who were only considered for an EA program after they enrolled in the institution as undergraduates are excluded from Figure 6.

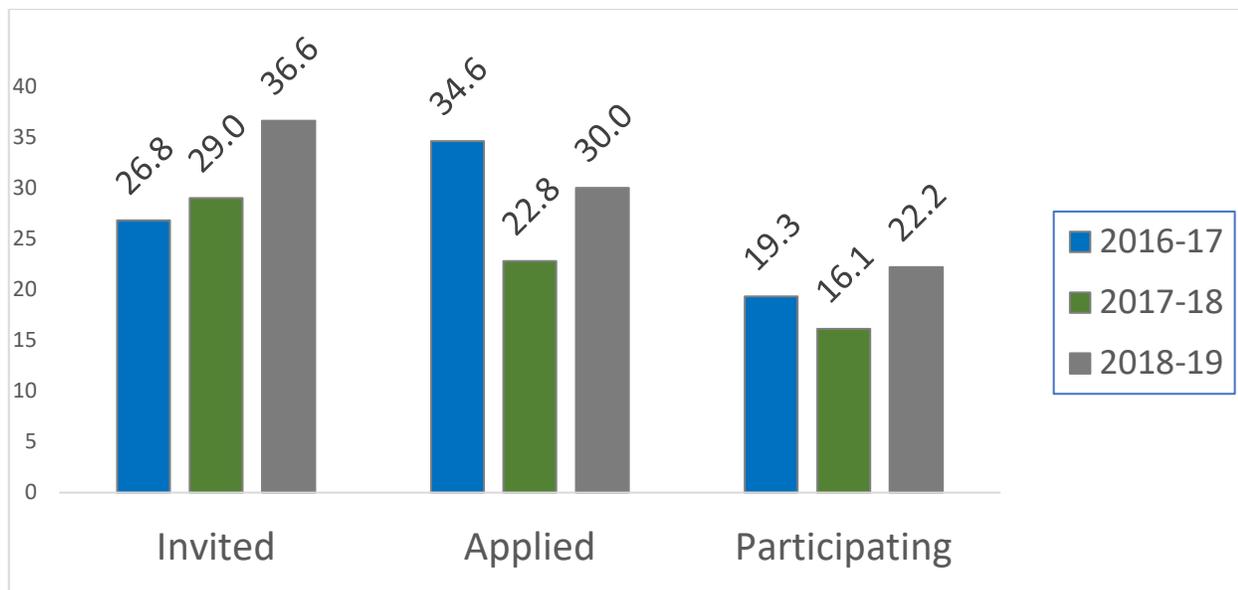
Forty-eight (48) of the respondents indicated they offered a 0-6/7 or PharmD early assurance program for high school students. Thirty-one (31) of the 48 provided data on the number of high school students who were invited to, applied to, and/or participated in a PharmD early assurance program at the institution. The mean number of high school students who applied to these programs decreased every year for the past 3 years from 295.0 in 2016-2017 to 228.4 in 2018-2019. The mean number of high school students who were accepted also decreased from 148.3 in 2016-2017 to 135.6 in 2018-2019. While the mean number of high school who enrolled in an 0-6/7 or EA program prior to advancing to the professional PharmD curriculum increased slightly from 59.7 in 2017-2018 to 62.6 in 2018-2019, the latest mean was still lower than the 64.0 for 2016-2017.

**Figure 7: Number of Pharmacy Schools with an Early Assurance (EA) Program for College Students**

Result	Responses	Percentage
YES	35	26.3%
NO	98	73.6%

Total # of pharmacy college/school respondents: N=133 out of 143

**Figure 8: Mean Number of College Students in Early Assurance (EA) Programs by Academic Year**



# of respondents that accept 1 or more college students into an EA program: N=35

# of respondents that accept 1 or more college students into an EA program and reported data for 1+ years: N=21

A college EA student may be counted in more than one category or year.

Figures 7 and 8 reflect undergraduate college students who were invited to, applied to, or participated in an early assurance program in a college or school of pharmacy after they enrolled in the institution as freshmen. Students must generally meet minimum eligibility requirements (e.g., GPA, SAT/ACT scores) to be considered for a PharmD early assurance program. If accepted to or participating in an EA program, these students advance to the professional phase of the PharmD curriculum via an expedited process after they successfully complete all of the pre-pharmacy and interview requirements.

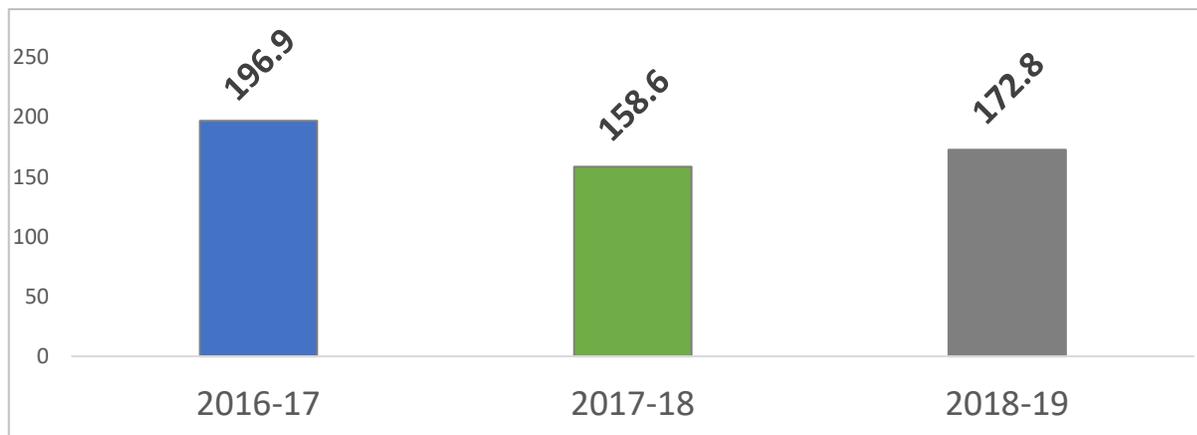
Thirty-five (35) of the respondents offered a PharmD early assurance program for college students. Twenty-one (21) of the 35 provided data regarding the college students who were invited to, applied to, and/or participated in a PharmD early assurance program by academic year. The mean number of college students invited to an EA program increased from 26.8 in 2016-2017 to 36.6 in 2018-2019. The mean number of college students who applied to the EA program fluctuated from 34.6 in 2016-2017 to 22.8 in 2017-2018 and then to 30.0 in 2018-2019. The mean number of college students participating in an EA program grew from 19.3 in the 2016-2017 academic year to 22.2 in 2018-2019. The latest positive shift in the number of college students participating in an EA program may reflect a greater and deliberate effort by colleges and schools to promote this preferred pathways to undergraduates.

**Figure 9: Number of Pharmacy Schools that Track “Regular” (non-Early Assurance) Pre-pharmacy Students**

Result	Responses	Percentage
YES	61	45.8%
NO	72	54.1%

*Total # of pharmacy college/school respondents: N=133 out of 143*

**Figure 10: Mean Number of Regular (non-Early Assurance) Pre-pharmacy Students by Academic Year**



*# of respondents that track regular prepharmacy students: N=61*

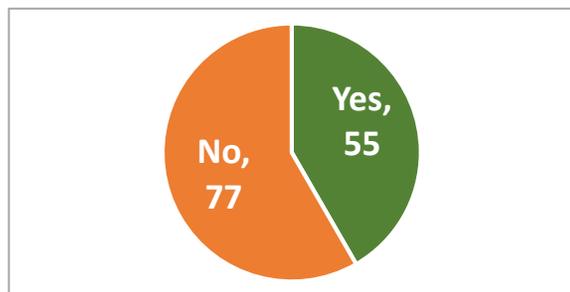
*# of pharmacy schools that reported regular pre-pharmacy student data for 1+ years: N=45*

*A regular pre-pharmacy student may be counted in more than one year.*

"Regular" pre-pharmacy students are defined by AACP as undergraduate students who have demonstrated an interest in the pharmacy profession (e.g., via an application, pre-health advising form, or enrollment form) or have declared a pre-pharmacy major or track but have not participated or enrolled in a 0-6/7 or early assurance program.

Sixty-one (61) of the respondents tracked regular, pre-pharmacy students in the pipeline. Forty-five (45) of the 61 provided the number of regular, pre-pharmacy students at the institution per academic year. The mean number of regular pre-pharmacy students enrolled in 2018-2019 was 172.8, as compared to 158.6 in 2017-2018 and a peak of 196.9 in 2016-2017. There are limitations to this data. Colleges and schools may not have an accurate mechanism to track all regular, prospective students in the pipeline. Therefore, estimates may not reflect a current or comprehensive count. AACP also does not know whether the most recent uptick in the number of regular applicants will be sustained or translate into more PharmD applicants in the future.

**Figure 11: Articulation Agreements Between Pharmacy Colleges/Schools and Feeder Institutions**



Fifty-five (55) respondents had developed formal articulation agreements with one or more feeder institutions in which pre-pharmacy students were given preference and/or had reserved seats in the professional phase of the PharmD program.

*Total # of pharmacy school respondents: N=132 out of 143*