

Pharmacy Students’ Perception of Community Pharmacy as a Potential Future Workplace Following Completion of Community Pharmacy Internship

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Introduction

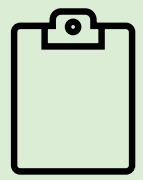
In Denmark pharmacists are educated at two universities: the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) and the University of Copenhagen (KU). Both programs include a six-month internship, which is required to obtain the authorization as a pharmacist. For many students, the community pharmacy internship represents their first exposure to professional practice in a pharmacy setting.

Community pharmacies face ongoing recruitment and retention challenges, highlighting the importance of understanding how internship experiences influence students’ perception of community pharmacy as a potential future career path.

Aim of the project

- ✓ To investigate how pharmacy students perceive community pharmacies throughout their internships.
- ✓ To explore students’ expectations and perceptions of community pharmacy as a potential career path.

Methods

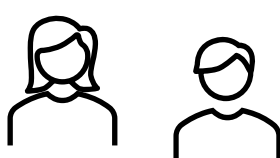
 Cross-sectional study

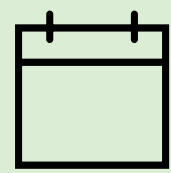
 Universities:
University of Southern Denmark
University of Copenhagen

Questionnaire:



- ✓ 5-point agreement scale (1= strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree)
- ✓ 5-point rating scale (1 = lowest score, 5 = highest score)

 Participants:
n = 128 pharmacy students

 Data collection:
January 2025 – June 2026

Results

A total of 128 students completed the questionnaire, including 70 from SDU and 58 from KU.

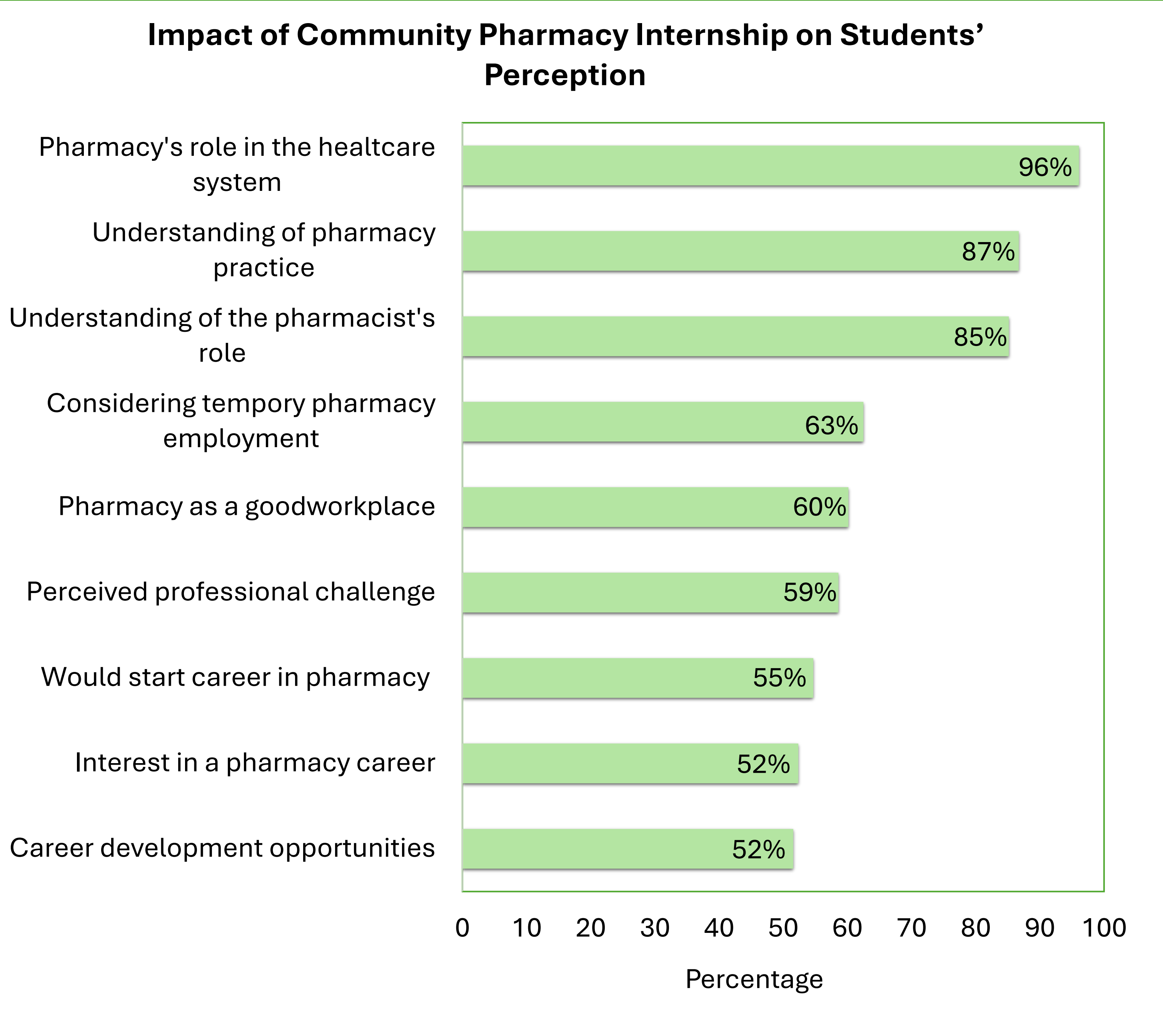


Figure 1: Impact of Community Pharmacy Internship on Students Perception. Percentage of respondents selecting "agree" and "strongly agree" (n=128)

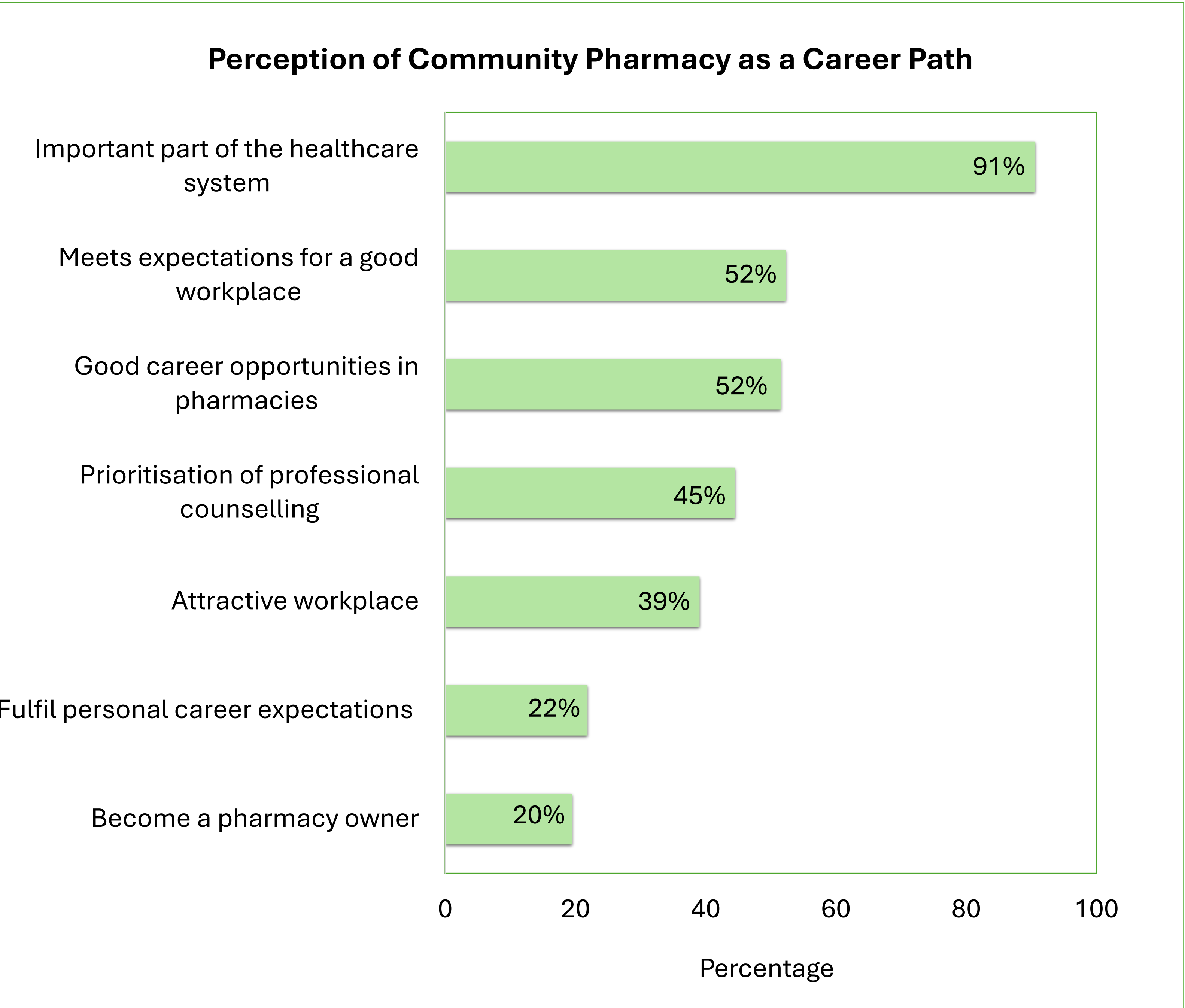


Figure 2: Perception of Community Pharmacy as a Career Path. Percentage of respondents selecting "4" and "5" on a 5-point scale (n=128)

Conclusion:

Students recognized community pharmacy as an important part of the Danish healthcare system, and the internship improved their understanding of pharmacy practice and the pharmacist’s role. Respondents indicated interest in short-term employment or starting their careers in community pharmacies. When considering career-related aspects, the lowest ratings were observed for items related to meeting personal career expectations, becoming a pharmacy owner, and the perception of community pharmacy as an attractive workplace.

References:

Wilke A/S. Det psykosociale arbejdsmiljø for apoteksfarmaceuter [The psychosocial work environment among community pharmacists]. Copenhagen: Wilke A/S; 2023. Pharmadanmark. *Trivselsundersøgelsen for apoteksansatte 2025* [Well-being survey among community pharmacy employees 2025] [Internet]. Copenhagen: Pharmadanmark; 2025 [cited 2026 Aug 9].

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