Supplementary Information (SI) for Chemistry Education Research and Practice. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2024

Supplementary Information

Doctoral Education in Chemistry: Faculty perspectives on programmatic elements' goals and outcomes

Benedicta Donkor, Melissa A. Collini and Jordan Harshman

Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849, United States

Corresponding author email address: jharshman@auburn.edu

Contents

| Table S1. Codebook on the codes and definition to the primary goals and outcomes of the individual programmatic elements. 2 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Table S2. Number of faculty who responded to "goal – what is the primary goal of the programmatic elements" and "outcome – what do students actually gain from the programmatic elements" along with the respective percentage to the total number of participants interviewed |
| Table S3. Faculty that were explicitly asked about both the primary goals and outcomes of the individual programmatic elements. 7 |
| Appendix A. Method (additional)9 |

Goals and Outcomes Tables

Table S1. Codebook on the codes and definition to the primary goals and outcomes of the individual programmatic elements.

| Code | Description |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Goals of Elements | Describing goals of individual elements, i.e. |
| | responses to what is the goal of the individual |
| | programmatic elements. |
| Goal itself | Responses to "what is/are the goals of the |
| | individual programmatic elements?" |
| Actually get | Responses to "what do students actually gain |
| | from the individual programmatic elements?" |
| Advisor accountability | Keep the advisor from negatively harming |
| | students, provide checks and balances on their |
| | power over students, extra set of eyes |
| | watching, they become your defense against |
| | the dark arts, vouch for them |
| Advisor or Lab pairing | Exposure to a PI before they actually join a |
| | research group, allow students to get exposure |
| | to a different people, different potential |
| | mentors, select an advisor, or the advisor |
| | chooses a student, the advisor gets a chance to |
| | see the students. |
| Affective outcomes | To gain an appreciation, confidence, |
| | emotional growth, satisfaction, self- |
| | confidence and pride, excitement, empathy |
| | (they will judge professors less harshly |
| | because they themselves are being judged at |
| | the same time), get happy, motivate them, |
| | interest, gains understanding of what effort it |
| | takes to produce and validate new results, |
| | persistence, perseverance, resilience, |
| | recognition, not to be ashamed of my accent |
| Career preparation | Preparation for their career, develop a career, |
| | essential skill for employment, serve the |
| | vocational skill, training students so that they |
| | will have options, mentoring students into |
| | teaching careers, develop skills and |
| | knowledge and abilities and ways of |
| | reasoning that would be productive in their |
| | careers, it prepares for a huge variety of |
| | career path, put on their CV to get an |
| | academic job, get the experience that they can |
| | put on a resume, getting a letter of |
| | recommendation, need other references |
| Celebratory fanfare | Celebration, fanfare |

| Communication skills | Communication, being able to write, to be able to summarize the work, to put all research together, present work, the ability to converse on a topic at a high level, giving presentations, practice talks, speaking at a public lecture, discuss research, oral talk, outreach opportunities (science |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Critical or Independent thinking | Contributing their own ideas, think independently, able to synthesize this information together, independent thought, to develop their critical thinking skills, think for themselves, answer questions from curious people, they have to be able to not just doing experiment but what does it mean and what does it mean to have next steps and what can you propose to advance the area, to critique papers, develop independence in research, grow on their own, taking more ownership of the project and contributing their own ideas, feel a sense of ownership of the project, independent scientist, lead projects later on, you learn things well when you teach it, self- learners |
| Ethics | Discus ethical issue, discussion on general ethical issue, train them in rigor and ethics in doing research |
| Evaluation and feedback | Evaluation, get feedback, to keep the student on track, review everything that they've accomplished, self-reflection. Communicating expectations to the student. |
| Free food | Free food |
| Help faculty or department | They can get tenure, to help their (faculty) own research succeeds, to help the undergraduates, make our jobs sort of easier at the university, cheap labor, to save money, make sure NSF and NIH and other agencies are happy. |
| Technical knowledge | To gain a body of knowledge, to know the status of the field, the language of the field, to lay the foundation of knowledge, breadth of knowledge, foundational and fundamental chemical knowledge, knowledge base, depth of knowledge, technical knowledge, searching the literature for assistance in either designing experiments, get exposed to science outside of |

| | their specific research interests, to expose |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | them to other people's work, expertise-deep |
| | grounding of own area of research, |
| Mentorship | Mentor, mentoring skill, mentorship, guiding |
| • | them as they learn, help the student, give |
| | direction, guides them, gain the advice and |
| | support, some level a cheerleader, moral |
| | support become role models having them |
| | there as a sounding board venting off |
| | frustrations maybe within mentorship but |
| | someone/a committee who is primarily |
| | responsible for the students' progress |
| | as a second that's hald assountable for all this |
| | someone that's neid accountable for all this |
| | stuff. If it mentions specific skills for them to |
| | learn we put that in the other goals codes |
| Networking and Collaboration | Interconnect with each other, to know what |
| | everybody in the lab are doing, to learn from |
| | other people, to get various kinds of experts |
| | deeply engaged, to get exposure to a different |
| | people, collegiality, be able to mitigate people |
| | disgruntle, to work with the other students in |
| | the lab, how different people's projects |
| | interconnect with each other, if collaborations |
| | are specifically mentioned, establishing |
| | collaborations, interdisciplinary teams, |
| | Working with others |
| Novel or significant research | New knowledge they've developed as a result |
| 8 | of their efforts, proposing new ones, |
| | developing new technologies, creating new |
| | knowledge, co-inventor, developing a new |
| | methodology or developing a new different |
| | technique creating new knowledge formulate |
| | new ideas and concepts on the fly engaging |
| | in creative activities to make their own mark |
| | on science, very high-impact work. Move an |
| | area forward, push the limits of solones |
| Demonstration of the second second | Evending, manager stinger d, salarry new twitting |
| Personal resources | Funding, money, supend, salary, pay tultion |
| Planning or organizational | Organizational skills, prepare themselves and |
| skills | documents, plans for the completion of their |
| | Ph.D., they're organizing a seminar, planning, |
| | developing, or designing an experiment, time |
| | management skill, learn some structure from |
| | that, multitasking |
| Droblem colving dvilla | |
| Problem-solving skins | To solve problems, solve problems, problem |
| FIODICIII-SOIVIIIg SKIIIS | To solve problems, solve problems, problem solving skills, address some gap, to address |

| Research resources | Support of extramural funding that is required |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| | funding funding for research |
| Scholarly record | It leaves a permanent record of the work |
| Scholarry record | serves the function of providing tangible |
| | evidence, it puts a nice bow on it. Ph.D. level |
| | research document, getting publications. |
| Stress or harm mental health | Just stress and a lost Saturday morning, |
| | torture students psychologically, students see |
| | it as a hurdle |
| Supplement advisor | add secondary kind of research advice for |
| | what they're doing, get second opinion about |
| | their research |
| Teaching skills | To give them experience in teaching, learn |
| | how to teach, to explain to somebody else, |
| | and teaching oneself, independent learner |
| Technical research skills | Formulating or defining a problem, designing |
| | experiments, executing experiments, |
| | interpreting experiments, pivoting or revising |
| | experiments based on outcomes, identifying |
| | patterns, identifying new strategies, having |
| | students do research, to engage in research, |
| | discover how slowly things go in some fields |
| | and how fast in other fields activity, Interpret |
| | the data, gain practical experience. "How |
| | science is done" -counts for Research. If they |
| | are taiking from mentor perspective, it is |
| Liniform laval | To bring them up to a uniform level coness the |
| Uniform level | abort harmonize everybody's background |
| | fill in gang from their undergraduate |
| | education |
| Weed Out | to remove had students like a weeding out to |
| weed Out | ensure some quality control in the people that |
| | make it to the end of our program checkpoint |
| | for ensuring that they're going to meet that |
| | standard |
| Workable environment | Advisors create an environment where it's a |
| | good learning environment, a good lab |
| | environment, build a team and make it work, |
| | whether they feel comfortable in a group or |
| | lab. Not creating an opportunity for research |
| | necessarily but creating a positive |
| | environment. |

| Table S2. Number of faculty who responded to "goal – what is the primary goal of the |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| programmatic elements" and "outcome - what do students actually gain from the programmatic |
| elements" along with the respective percentage to the total number of participants interviewed. |

| Programmatic Elements | Goals | Percentage | Outcomes | Percentage | |
|--------------------------|-------|---------------|----------|---------------|--|
| | | out of the 45 | | out of the 45 | |
| | | Participants | | Participants | |
| | | (%Goals) | | (%Outcomes) | |
| Advisor | 37 | 82.22 | 23 | 51.11 | |
| Advisory Committee | 30 | 66.67 | 9 | 20.00 | |
| Annual Evaluation | 23 | 51.11 | 13 | 28.89 | |
| Candidacy Process | 32 | 71.11 | 16 | 35.56 | |
| Coursework | 34 | 75.56 | 22 | 48.89 | |
| Dissertation and Defense | 32 | 71.11 | 13 | 28.89 | |
| Group meetings | 34 | 75.56 | 11 | 24.44 | |
| Lab rotation | 20 | 44.44 | 13 | 28.89 | |
| Publication | 17 | 37.78 | 15 | 33.33 | |
| Research | 44 | 97.78 | 39 | 86.67 | |
| Seminar | 28 | 62.22 | 16 | 35.56 | |
| Teaching Assistantship | 32 | 71.11 | 18 | 40.00 | |

| Goals and | Programmatic Elements | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|
| Outcomes | RS | AD | PB | GM | CE | CW | DD | LR | AC | AE | SM | ТА |
| | (39) | (23) | (15) | (11) | (16) | (22) | (13) | (13) | (9) | (13) | (16) | (18) |
| Technical Research Skills | 46 | | 13 | | | 14 | | | | | | 6 |
| Critical or Independent thinking | 38 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 19 | | | | | 8 | | 6 |
| Technical Knowledge | 21 | 4 | 7 | 36 | 6 | 86 | 8 | | | | 50 | 28 |
| Novel or significant research | 21 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Communication skills | 18 | | 60 | 36 | 19 | | 46 | | | 8 | 50 | 33 |
| Career Preparation | 15 | 9 | 27 | | | 5 | | | 11 | 8 | | 17 |
| Planning or organizational skills | 13 | | 13 | | 13 | | 8 | | | | 6 | 6 |
| Problem-solving skills | 10 | | | 9 | 6 | | | | | | | 6 |
| Mentorship | 5 | 91 | | 18 | | | | | 67 | 23 | 6 | 11 |
| Personal resources | 3 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | 33 |
| Research resources | 3 | 26 | | | | | | | | | | 6 |
| Networking and Collaboration | 3 | 4 | | 18 | | | | | | | 13 | |
| Scholarly record | 3 | | 20 | | | | 8 | | | | | |
| Teaching skills | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | 28 |
| Affective outcomes | | | | | | | | | | 8 | | 6 |
| Evaluation and feedback | | 4 | 7 | 45 | 19 | | 8 | | 22 | 69 | 6 | |
| Stress or harm mental health | | | | | 6 | | | | | | 6 | |
| Supplement advisor | | 4 | | | | | | | 33 | | | |
| Advisor Accountability | | | | | | | | | 22 | | | |
| Advisor or Lab Pairing | | | | | | | | 100 | | | | |
| Workable environment | | 4 | | | | | | 8 | | | | |
| Uniform level | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | |
| Celabratory fanfare | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ethics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Free food | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Help faculty or department | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weed Out | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table S3. Faculty that were explicitly asked about both the primary goals and outcomes of the individual programmatic elements.

* The goals and outcomes in this table is sorted by the highest percentage of participants that mentioned same goals and outcomes for research. Numbers are the percentages of faculty who responded to both questions rounded to the nearest whole number.
**RS - Research, AD - Advisor, PB - Publications, GM - Group meeting, CE - Candidacy process, CW - Coursework, DD - Dissertation and Defense, LR - Lab rotations, AC - Advisory committee, AE - Annual evaluation, SM - Seminar, TA - Teaching assistantship. The elements are sorted based on faculty rating of their relative importance. The numbers in () represents the total number of faculty explicitly asked both questions.

Appendix A. Method (additional)

Development of Interview protocol

In the first round, BD and MAC conducted interviews with a cohort of 7 participants. Subsequently, an interim halt was introduced in the interview process to facilitate the development of a codebook and to identify any necessary refinements to the interview protocol. Following an initial analysis of these 7 interviews, minor adjustments were made to the interview protocol, involving the reordering of certain questions and enhancing question clarity. For the second round of interviews, involving 12 participants, BD and MAC employed the refined interview protocol. The interview was paused, and data analyzed. The interview protocol was adjusted to prioritize the discussion of programmatic elements that had received comparatively less attention, positioning them at the onset of the interview for the remaining interviews. Notably, programmatic element, research was addressed first, irrespective of the number of participants who had previously discussed it, given its status as the most pivotal programmatic element.

Codebook Development/Data Analysis

Codes similar in definition were combined. For example, the mentorship code encompasses two different types of mentorship. The initial one is students receiving mentorship (where faculty are guiding, mentoring, advising or helping students) while the second is students giving mentorship (where faculty train students to become mentors). However, these two codes were combined as they were all forms of mentorship. Other codes combined were collegiality and networking which were all combined into the networking code. The collegiality code comprised of collegiality, working with other students in the lab, being able to mitigate people disgruntle, etc. while networking was more of interacting with others (colleagues or professors), and getting exposed to other people. The two codes were similar in the sense that they were about students interacting in one way or the other with people inside and outside of their field, hence, combined.

In comparison of the goals and outcomes identified in this study to literature, we identified 12 workforce skills; nine were found to be represented almost exactly in the name of the code and the definition identified by BD and MAC and the remaining three were found to be represented, at least in part, by other codes. For instance, personal attributes from the previous study¹¹ were partially covered by affective outcomes in this study, while collaboration skills and networking were combined in our study. Management skills in the previous study aligned more with the mentorship component, where students learn to mentor others (in our study). The personal growth and development of the previous study better aligned with aspects of our evaluation and feedback, along with some part of critical or independent thinking (becoming independent part). Organizational awareness aligned with the career preparation and ethics in this study. Therefore, we replaced these skills with corresponding goals and outcomes from our study that better match the workforce skills identified in the previous study¹¹ as shown in **Figure 2**.

Participant Selection

For the recruitment of participants, we followed a random sampling method across various strata to ensure a diverse representation of chemistry doctoral programs throughout

different regions of the United States. We compiled a comprehensive list of the 202 chemistry doctoral programs in the U.S., which were then categorized into five geographic regions: Northeast, Southwest, West, Midwest, and Southeast. We aimed to gather a sample of faculty that reflected a broad range of personal identities (including race and gender) and academic identities (such as area of interest, university affiliation, and academic rank). Following 19 interviews, we evaluated the distribution of participants concerning personal and academic identities to identify underrepresented groups in our sample, ensuring that diverse perspectives from all demographics were acknowledged and included.