

The Mission and Program Goals and Outcome Measures of the Didactic Program in Dietetics

Mission

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (housed in the Human Nutrition and Dietetics concentration) is to prepare undergraduates to apply the principles of nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, management, behavioral and social sciences to the promotion of optimal health in individuals. Students in this concentration meet the academic requirements for membership in the American Dietetic Association and will meet the academic requirements to compete for a dietetic internship.

Program Goals and Outcome Measures

1. The program will prepare students to complete the DPD course work in a timely manner and to meet the Foundation Knowledge and Skills requirements for the Didactic Component as defined by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education.

- All graduating students will achieve a satisfactory rating for all entry-level competencies as demonstrated by earning a grade of “C” or better in all nutrition courses and cognate courses.
- All graduating students will complete all of the Educational Projects Portfolio requirements prior to graduation.
- The mean rating of “knowledge base” that employers or dietetic internship directors will give program graduates in their employ will meet or exceed the rating of “satisfactory” on surveys.
- 85% of all declared Human Nutrition and Dietetics students entering their Junior year (or coming in as a Junior or Senior transfer students) will graduate within 4 years time.

2. The program will prepare students to develop skills in analytical and critical thinking, communications, and utilization of technology that will prepare them for their careers in dietetics.

- At least 50% percent of graduating students answer “very much” to the survey questions: “To what extent do you think your college education contributed to your nutritional knowledge base and critical thinking skills?”
- At least 75% of graduating students answer good or excellent to the survey question: “How prepared would you rate yourself for the next step in your career, internship or graduate school?”
- At least 75% of graduating students answer good or excellent to the survey question: “How prepared are you to communicate, orally and in writing, with other professionals in the next step in your career, internship or graduate school?”
- At least 75% of graduating students answer good or excellent to the survey question: “How prepared are you to utilize technology in the next step in your career, internship or graduate school?”
- At least 75% percent of graduated students answer “very ready” to the survey question: “As a result of my DPD Program, I feel that I could: Effectively and positively interact and communicate with other health care disciplines?”
- At least 75% percent of graduated students answer “very ready” to the survey question: “As a result of my DPD Program, I feel that I could: Develop and critically review educational materials for target populations?”
- At least 75% percent of graduated students answer “very ready” to the survey question: “As a result of my DPD Program, I feel that I could: Be creative in analyzing approaches used to achieve program outcomes?”
- At least 75% percent of graduated students answer “very ready” to the survey question: “As a result of my DPD Program, I feel that I could: Interact and communicate with clients at appropriate literacy levels?”
- At least 75% percent of graduated students answer “very ready” to the survey question: “As a result of my DPD Program, I feel that I could: Seize and create opportunities to analyze and improve a department’s service?”
- At least 75% percent of graduated students answer “very ready” to the survey question: “As a result of my DPD Program, I feel that I could: Use current technologies for information and communication activities?”

3. The program will prepare graduates who are placed in dietetic internships and successfully pass the national registration exam for dietitians and/or pursue advanced graduate study.

- Alumni achieve over a 5-year period a first-time pass rate of at least 80% on the RD exam.
- At least 60% of the students in the program will apply for a dietetic internship.
- At least 85% of those students applying for a dietetic internship will be accepted.

- At least 10% of the students in the program will enter graduate school

4. The program will prepare students to have opportunities for participation in and/or observation of on-going nutritional research.

- At least 75% of the Dept of Nutrition faculty will work in an on-going capacity producing peer reviewed research.
- At least 50% of students graduating in Human Nutrition and Dietetics will state that they had the opportunity to work on some aspect of research or attend weekly graduate research seminars in the Dept of Nutrition at some time during their program.