

2016-2017 Student Learning Outcome Assessment Report

HES –Human Nutrition and Dietetics

1. Contact Name: Mechelle Bailey, RDN, Director
Didactic Program in Dietetics
School of Human Environmental Sciences
University of Arkansas
HOEC 118
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone: 479-575-6726
Fax: 479-575-7171

2. Department Mission: The mission of the Didactic Program at the University of Arkansas is to produce graduates who have the academic preparation necessary for success in a supervised practice program in nutrition and dietetics, graduate school and other career opportunities.

3. Program Goals

- 1) The program will produce graduates to be competent for entry into supervised practice and other post-graduate professional programs through high-quality educational offerings.
- 2) 80% of students will complete the program within 12 semesters which is 150% of the 8 semester degree program.
- 3) 65% of students who apply for a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation will be accepted.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcome 1: Apply knowledge in the areas of evidence based guidelines, systematic reviews, and scientific literature in the Nutrition Care Process model and other areas of dietetics practice.

A. Assessment Measure

1. Direct Measures: The mean exam scores of program graduates of the University of Arkansas Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) will exceed the national mean on the Registration Examination for Dietitians in each of the following areas: total score, food & nutrition domain, and food service system & management domain.

B. Acceptable Targets for Direct Measures

1. Acceptable: 80% of all students taking the Registration Examination for Dietitians will exceed the national mean on the Registration Examination for Dietitians in each of the following areas: total score, food & nutrition domain, and food service system & management domain.

Results and Analysis: Twenty-four graduates of the U of A took the Registration Examination for Dietitians in 2016. Twenty-one passed the exam within one year of the first attempt (87.5% pass rate). In calendar year 2016, there were 29 attempts at taking the RD exam by 26 students (students can take the exam an unlimited number of times). 21 of those attempts resulted in a passing score. Of those 21 attempts, 18 achieved a total mean greater than the national average (86%). On the Food & Nutrition Scaled Score, 15 of 21 scored greater than the national average (71% of students) and on the Food Service System & Management Scaled Score, 12 of 21 scored greater than the national average (57% of students).

Student Learning Outcome 2: Solve problems by applying evidence based guidelines in the delivery of programs and services to individuals, groups and populations.

A. Assessment Measures

1. Direct Measures: Students demonstrate problem-solving skills in the capstone projects and/or case studies embedded in NUTR 3213, 4243, 4263, 4273 & 4223. The projects and case studies will be scored by the course instructors utilizing a course specific rubric during the semester (see Appendix – Rubrics).

B. Acceptable Targets for Direct Measures

1. Acceptable: 80% of all students will achieve an 80% or better on all case studies as graded using the “Rubric: Evaluation of Written Case Study (NUTR 4263 & 4273)” and “Rubric: Life Cycle Project – Fact Sheet NUTR 4223/5223” (see Appendix – Rubrics).

Results and Analysis:

NUTR 3213 (Fall 2016). This course was taught by an adjunct instructor who neglected to include a capstone project in the course.

NUTR 4223 (Fall 2016). The capstone project for this course was changed after many years from a Fact Sheet Project to a Research Paper. Please see attached rubric used. Of the 47 students who completed the course, 38 (or 81% of the students) scored 80% or greater on the research paper

NUTR 4263 (Fall 2016). Four case studies were completed by each of 36 students enrolled in the fall 2016 course. That provided a total of 144 case studies that were graded. 92% of the case studies graded achieved an 80% or better.

NUTR 4243 (Spring 2017). Instructor has not yet completed grading and one portion of the capstone project is due this week.

NUTR 4273 (Spring 2017). A total of 118 case studies were graded this semester (3 cases studies/student with 10 students electing to complete a 4th/optional case study). 89% of those case studies were graded at an 80% or better

A. Assessment Measures

2. Direct Measures: This student learning outcome will also be assessed using results from the ServSafe Exam given to students in FDSC 2503.

B. Acceptable Targets for Direct Measures

2. Acceptable: 95% of students will pass the ServSafe Exam within the FDSC 2503 course.

Results and Analysis:

FDSC 2503 scores are not yet available for ServSafe Exams

Student Learning Outcome 3: Implement critical thinking to strategically apply the physical and biological science foundations as well as the behavioral and social science foundations to the dietetics profession.

A. Assessment Measures

1. Direct Measures: Critical thinking skills of NUTR 4223, 4263, 4103, & 4273 are assessed using the “Rubric: Critical Thinking Skills (NUTR 4223, 4263, 4103, & 4273)” (see Appendix – Rubrics).

B. Acceptable Targets for Direct Measures

1. Acceptable: 70% or more of all students will earn a 15 (or above) out of 20 possible points using the rubric for NUTR 4223, 4263, 4103 & 4273 courses.

Results and Analysis:

As this Student Learning Outcome was added at the revision of the assessment plan this semester and courses had already been developed and were under way, data was not collected.

Student Learning Outcome 4: Demonstrate effective and professional communication in a range of situations: 1) Oral communication in one-on-one, group, and formal presentation settings, and 2) Written communication to convey clearly ideas and thoughts.

E. 1) Assessment Measures - Oral

1. Direct Measures: Nutrition courses (NUTR) 3213, 4103, 4223, and 4243 all include capstone experiences which require the completion of an oral report. An oral communication rubric will be used by human nutrition/dietetics faculty to assess oral communication skills (see Appendix –Rubrics).

F. Acceptable Targets for Direct and Indirect Measures - Oral:

1. Acceptable: 80% of students will score 300 points out of 400 total points averaging a 75%.

Results and Analysis:

As this Student Learning Outcome was added at the revision of the assessment plan this semester and courses had already been developed and were under way, data was not collected.

A. 2) Assessment Measures - Written

1. Direct Measures: Nutrition courses (NUTR) 3213, 4103, 4223, and 4243 all include capstone experiences which require the completion of a written report. A “Written Communications” rubric will be used by human nutrition/dietetics faculty to assess written communication skills (see Appendix – Rubrics).

B. Acceptable Targets for Direct Measures -Written

1. Acceptable: 80% of the students would score 15 points out of the 20 points total averaging a 75%

Results and Analysis:

As this Student Learning Outcome was added at the revision of the assessment plan this semester and courses had already been developed and were under way, data was not collected.