

# Dietetics MS

## G - Dietetic Professional Preparation

### Goal Description:

*To prepare graduates who are competent to practice as entry-level dietitians upon completion.*

**Providing Department:** Dietetics MS

### RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

##### Completion of Professional Competencies

##### Learning Objective Description:

*Dietetic interns will successful complete all professionalism competencies including resume, mock interview, and Linked In profile.*

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

##### Professional employment

##### Indicator Description:

*Of graduates who seek employment, 70% percent are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation”. (RE 3.3.b.2)*

##### Findings Description:

From the 2020 - 2021 cohort when contacted one year post graduation (November 2022), 100% were employees in a nutrition and dietetics-related field.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

##### Improve the ability to assess the employment of new graduates.

##### Action Description:

We will work to educate students prior to graduation on the importance of employee feedback post-graduation. We can also send more frequent email reminders.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

##### MS/DI Program Completion

##### Learning Objective Description:

*Dietetic Internship students will successful complete 32 credit hours of courses and 1200 internship hours of clinical, foodservice, community, research and professionalism. Students will demonstrate knowledge and skills as they participate in internship/field activities that prepare them for entry-level positions as dietitians.*

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

##### Employed Graduates' Satisfaction

##### Indicator Description:

*Eighty percent (80%) or more of employed graduates will rate themselves as prepared or well prepared for their first dietetics related position.*

##### Criterion Description:

Graduates from the 2021 class were asked in November of 2022, "During your first year of employment, how would you rate your level of preparedness? as 3.0 - prepared or 4.0 - well prepared for their first dietetics-related position."

##### Findings Description:

The average was 3.0 the majority of students felt prepared for their first dietetics-related position.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

##### **Graduates Preparation for employment**

###### **Action Description:**

We will continue to prepare students through internships for employment by providing diverse rotations.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

##### **Employers Satisfaction**

###### **Indicator Description:**

*During the first year of employment, 85% or more of graduates will be ranked by employers as satisfactory or more than satisfactory with the entry-level preparation of graduates.*

###### **Findings Description:**

The 2021 - 2022 cohort was followed up with in November 2022. Four graduates provided employer information. All were contacted and 100% reported satisfactory or more than satisfactory with the entry-level preparation of the graduates.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

##### **Employers satisfaction**

###### **Action Description:**

We have received excellent reviews from employers on the past interns' performance. However, we receive very low response rates. I will emphasize the importance of these assessments before graduation in hopes the past interns will be more willing to share their employees' information.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

##### **Employers satisfaction**

###### **Action Description:**

We have received excellent reviews from employers on the past interns' performance. However, we receive very low response rates. I will work to emphasis the importance of these assessments prior to graduation in hopes the past interns will be more willing to share their employees' information.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

##### **Program completion within 24 months**

###### **Indicator Description:**

*At least 80% of program interns complete program/degree requirements within 24 months (150% of the program length)". (RE 3.3.b.1)*

###### **Findings Description:**

*In 2022, 100% of program interns completed program/degree requirements within 24 months (150% of the program length)". (RE 3.3.b.1)*

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

##### **Graduation Rates**

###### **Action Description:**

Students consistently graduate on time. We will continue supporting them and providing the necessary resources to continue this progress.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

##### **Practice Registered Dietitian Exam**

###### **Learning Objective Description:**

*Dietetic interns will take a practice Registered Dietitian exam, three times, successfully passing it at minimum of one time with a 70% or greater.*

## RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

### 5 Year Pass Rate for RD Exam

#### Indicator Description:

*Over a five-year, at least 80% of graduates will pass the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionist within one year following first attempt*

#### Criterion Description:

The one-year pass rate for the past seven years has been 92%, so this is a realistic target measure for graduates and indicates that the DI program prepares graduates to pass the RD exam successfully. For the public, the program supplies competent entry-level dietitians who are prepared to serve southern Texas communities.

2020 - 2022 - 27/30 90%

2019-2021-30/31 97%

2018-2020- 29/31 94%

2017-2019 – 26/30 87%

2016-2018 – 26/29 90%

2015-2017 – 26/28 93%

#### Attached Files

 [RD 2021-Acend 5yr Summary-2328 InternPgm.pdf](#)

#### Findings Description:

Testers, within one year of the first attempt between the years 2020 - 2022, 90% passed (27/30). However, our first-attempt pass rate has significantly declined to 48%. This trend has been consistent since 2020 and National testing pass rates.

#### Attached Files

 [RD 2022-Acend 1yr Summary-2328 InternPgm.pdf](#)

 [RD 2022-Acend 5yr Summary-2328 InternPgm.pdf](#)

## RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

### Five year pass rate of the RD Exam

#### Action Description:

Our 5 year pass rate has slightly fall since 2020. However, we are implementing two-day intensive workshops, additional practice RD Exam questions, and refining the content in the curriculum to focus on the RD Exam.

## RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

### CDR Credentialing Exam

#### Indicator Description:

*90% percent of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion”.*

#### Criterion Description:

The 90% target measure was set because it is an achievable yet rigorous measure based on previous program data regarding the timeframe in which graduates took the RDN exam. From 2015 – 2021, 98% of graduates took the RDN exam within one year of completing the DI program, suggesting that graduates are prepared and confident in their knowledge to pass the exam successfully. For the public, the program supplies competent RDs who can serve the community in a timely manner.

2021-9/9 100%

2020 – 10/ 100%

2019 – 10/ 100%

2018 – 10/ 100%

2017 – 10/ 100%

2016 – 10/ 100%

2015 – 9/9 100%

Attached Files

 [RD 2021-Acend 1yr Summary-2328 InternPgm.pdf](#)

**Findings Description:**

The testers within one year of the first attempt were 6/9 or 67% for 2022. Our three-year average was 27/30 or 90%.

Attached Files

 [RD 2022-Acend 5yr Summary-2328 InternPgm.pdf](#)

 [RD 2022-Acend 1yr Summary-2328 InternPgm.pdf](#)

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

**One year pass rate of RD Exam**

**Action Description:**

We have added a two-day intensive review session from Breeding and Assoc. a reputable company in our field. However, our first-time pass rate was significantly lower than in previous years. Faculty is working to refine course work to provide more emphasis on the content of the RD Exam. Also, the interns will receive more practice RD Practice exam questions in 5079 Dietetic Practicum course.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2**

**Practice Registered Dietitian Examinations**

**Indicator Description:**

Dietetic Interns are given multiple opportunities to take practice Registration exams. In the Fall and the Spring the take FACS 5079, in the Fall semester they have the opportunity to take the practice exam three times. They are offered another attempt during the Spring semester.

**Criterion Description:**

In the Fall of 2020, 87.5% of the class (14 of 16) passed at least one attempt of the Registration exam (results on Blackboard).

**Findings Description:**

In the Fall 2022, 100% of the class (18/18) passed at least one attempt of the Registration exam (results on Blackboard).

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

**Practice Registered Dietitian exam**

**Action Description:**

There is a high pass rate on the practice RD Exam. I will provide the students with additional practice and I am sourcing more challenging questions for the practice exams.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Program's One Year Pass Rate**

**Indicator Description:**

*The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%*

**Findings Description:**

*The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists for 2022 was 6/9 passed (67%)  
The three year average 2020 - 2022 is 90%.*

Attached Files

 [RD 2022-Acend 1yr Summary-2328 InternPgm.pdf](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Action - Program's One Year Pass Rate**

**Action Description:**

We have added a two-day intensive review session from Breeding and Assoc. a reputable company in our field. However, our first-time pass rate was significantly lower than in previous years. Faculty is working to refine course work to provide more emphasis on the content of the RD Exam. Also, the interns will receive more practice RD Practice exam questions in 5079 Dietetic Practicum course.

## G - Graduate Competency

**Goal Description:**

*To prepare dietetic professional who will develop and implement evidence based nutrition to enhance the health and wellness and quality of life of individuals in the community, the nation, and the world*

**Providing Department:** Dietetics MS

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**MS/DI Program Completion**

**Learning Objective Description:**

*Dietetic Internship students will successful complete 32 credit hours of courses and 1200 internship hours of clinical, foodservice, community, research and professionalism. Dietetic interns will practice in course work and internship to apply evidence based practice in all settings.*

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Employers review on abilities**

**Indicator Description:**

*Ninety percent (90%) of employers will indicate that graduates can work through nutrition-related problems and ideas (e.g. can think critically) with a rating of satisfactory or more than satisfactory*

**Findings Description:**

Based on the information provided by the 2020-2021 cohort in November 2022, four employers were contacted, and 100% reported a rating of satisfactory or more than satisfactory with the graduates' abilities to work through nutrition-related problems and ideas (e.g. can think critically).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Action - Employers review on abilities**

**Action Description:**

The program received excellent feedback from the employers. However, we received less than half of the participants provided their employer information. In the future, I will discuss this process and its importance with the DI students. I will encourage them to provide this information in their one-year survey so we can maintain a high-quality program.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

##### **Use of Evidence-based Medicine**

###### **Indicator Description:**

*At least eighty percent (80%) of graduates will agree or strongly agree they use evidence-based nutrition to improve the health and wellness of individuals.*

###### **Criterion Description:**

In the 2020-2021 cohort, when contacted one-year post graduation (November 2022), the majority 6/7 reported they strongly agree that they use evidence-based nutrition to improve the health and wellness of individuals. The average score was 3.85 on a 4-point scale.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

##### **Graduates use of evidence-based medicine**

###### **Action Description:**

Graduates report they utilize evidence-based practice in entry-level careers. We will continue to provide education and resources in these areas.

## **New Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

### **Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):**

#### **Closing Summary**

- Continue to meet with preceptors to survey their needs to accept interns
- Continue to meet with potential preceptors for rotation sites, and survey their needs for accepting dietetic interns
- The DI Director and dietetic interns will attend local and state-level dietetic association meetings to represent SHSU and network with other RD professionals to build new preceptor relationships.
- Design at least one lecture for each content area of the RDN exam
- Purchase RDN Review course to use with graduating cohort of dietetic interns
- Invite members to be part of the Dietetic Internship Advisory Board - this will be initiated Fall 2022
- Set date to meet with the Dietetic Internship Advisory Board this fall - this will be initiated Fall 2022
- ACEND self-study will be due July - December 2022 - Self study is submitted 8/6/22, and site visit is scheduled for 11/13-15
- ACEND in-person visit will be November 2022
- Create Alumni DI Group - to improve follow up with Alumni DI. - This is set, we hope to plan future events with this group.

### **Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

These items will be continuously worked on:

- Continue to meet with preceptors to survey their needs to accept interns
- Continue to meet with potential preceptors for rotation sites, and survey their needs for accepting dietetic interns
- The DI Director and dietetic interns will attend local and state-level dietetic association meetings to represent SHSU and network with other RD professionals to build new preceptor relationships.
- Design at least one lecture for each content area of the RDN exam
- Invite members to be part of the Dietetic Internship Advisory Board
- Set date to meet with the Dietetic Internship Advisory Board this fall

- Create Alumni DI Group - to improve follow up with Alumni DI. - This is set, we hope to plan future events with this group.

Completed items:

- Purchase RDN Review course to use with the graduating cohort of dietetic interns
- ACEND self-study will be due July - December 2022 - Self study is submitted 8/6/22, and site visit is scheduled for 11/13-15
- ACEND in-person visit will be November 2022

## **New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

### **Closing Summary:**

These items will be continuously worked on:

- Continue to meet with preceptors to survey their needs to accept interns
- Continue to meet with potential preceptors for rotation sites and survey their needs for accepting dietetic interns. Continue to identify preceptors and build relationships for the internship.
- The DI Director and dietetic interns will attend local and state-level dietetic association meetings to represent SHSU and network with other RD professionals to build new preceptor relationships.
- Design at least one lecture for each content area of the RDN exam
- Invite members to be part of the Dietetic Internship Advisory Board
- Set a date to meet with the Dietetic Internship Advisory Board
- Create an Alumni DI Group - to improve follow-up with Alumni DI. - This is set, we hope to plan future events with this group.
- Enhance marketing for new students. This will be implemented with a pre-select program for Fall 2024 cohort.
- Continue to expand the educational content throughout the program for the RD exam.
- Identify additional resources for RD Exam practice questions.
- Based on the feedback received from ACEND during the 2022 site visit the program will return to the goals and objects as defined by ACEND. These include:
  - Program Goal #1: Program graduates will be able to address individual and community nutritional needs as competent entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists.
    - At least 80% of interns complete program requirements within 25 months (150% of planned program length).
    - Of graduates who seek employment, at least 70% percent are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation.
    - At least 90% percent of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.
    - The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.
  - Program Goal #2: Program graduates will demonstrate an evidence-based approach to their practice to enhance the health, wellness, and quality of life of individuals in the community, the nation, and the world.
    - On the Employer Survey, at least 90% of employers will indicate that program graduates can work through nutrition-related problems and ideas using critical thinking by rating their satisfaction level with a 3.0 - satisfactory or 4.0 - more than satisfactory.
    - During the first year of employment, at least 80% of employed graduates will rate themselves as 3.0 - prepared or 4.0 - well prepared for their first dietetics-related position.
    - At least 80% of MS/DI program graduates will respond with a 3.0 – they agree or 4.0 - they strongly agree that they used evidence-based nutrition to improve the health and

wellness of individuals.

- On the Employer Survey, at least 90% of employers will indicate that MS/DI program graduates are prepared for entry-level employment during their first year by rating their satisfaction level with a 3.0 - satisfactory or 4.0 - more than satisfactory.