

Dietetics MS

Knowledge & Skills Development for Entry-Level Dietitian

Goal Description:

Develop knowledge and skills to meet accreditation standards for a Registered Dietitian (RD).

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Demonstration of Knowledge & Skills for Entry-Level Dietitian

Learning Objective Description:

Graduates will demonstrate the knowledge and skills associated with the standards of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), the accrediting agency of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

National Registration Examination For Dietitians (RD Exam)

Indicator Description:

Graduates who take the National Registration Examination for Dietitians (RD Exam) will pass on the first attempt. This indicator is consistent with the requirements of the Commission on Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), the accrediting body for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Criterion Description:

The report from Pearson VUE will indicate that after graduating from the program, 80% of first-time test takers on the National Registration Examination for Dietitians (RD Exam) passed the exam.

Findings Description:

The official results of the cohort that graduated in December 2015 is not available at this time. Nine graduates have self-reported taking the RD exam within the last eight months. One student has not taken the exam but plans to take it within the next two months. One of the nine self-reported not passing on the first attempt. Based on the self-report, the first time pass rate is 88.9% for this most recent group of graduates, meeting the 80% goal.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Improving RD Exam Pass Rate

Action Description:

At this point, this criterion appears to have been met for 2015-2016. Last year the first time pass rate dropped below 80%. Students must satisfactorily complete all ACEND competencies and make an 80% or better on a Mock RD Exam prior to graduation. To help students prepare for the RD exam, students are required to complete an RD review course prior to graduation. The department is planning on purchasing a class set of Inman’s RD Review (we currently have 2 copies available to students). Inman’s was indicated as the most useful review course by past students. Students would receive the review course in January (second semester) and return the review course in December when they graduate. The review course would then be passed on to the next cohort.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Demonstration of Knowledge & Skills for Entry-level Dietitian

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate knowledge and skills appropriate for entry-level dietitians.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Mock RD Exam

Indicator Description:

The Mock RD Exam, developed by faculty, has proven, over the past four years it has been used, to be an excellent diagnostic tool as well as a predictor of whether or not the student will pass the National Registration Examination for Dietetics (RD Exam) on the first attempt.

Criterion Description:

90% of students who exit the program will score 85% or higher on the Mock RD Exam. A passing grade on the Mock RD Exam of 80% or greater is required before a Letter of Verification will be issued; the Letter of Verification must be issued before a student can sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietetics.

Findings Description:

Of the 10 students in the cohort, 7 students (70%) scored 85% or higher on the Mock RD Exam. All 10 students passed the Mock RD Exam with at least an 80%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Improving Mock RD Exam Scores

Action Description:

The Mock RD Exam will continue to be used as a method of determining if students are ready and prepared to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians (RD Exam). Making above the minimum of 80% on the Mock RD Exam may indicate students are better prepared to pass the RD exam on the first attempt.

To better simulate the actual RD exam, the DI Director purchased the academic version of Visual Veggies for this and future cohorts. Visual Veggies is computer software that simulates the actual RD exam on the computer and provides information to the DI Director on how each student scores in the four domains of the exam.

To improve the number of students making an 85% or greater on the Mock RD Exam, the DI Director is requiring future cohorts to take the pretest offered by Visual Veggies. The DI Director will then have information on the strengths and weaknesses of the cohort in each of the four domains and can tailor class activities/lessons in FACS 5079 to strengthen identified weaknesses.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Supervised Practice Experience

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate knowledge and skills as they participate in supervised practice activities that prepare them for entry-level positions as dietitians.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Final Evaluation of Supervised Practice Experience

Indicator Description:

Students complete rotations in three areas: medical nutrition therapy, community, and foodservice management. At the end of each rotation, the preceptor assesses the student's competence and readiness as an entry-level dietitian.

Criterion Description:

90% of students' final evaluation (completed by RD preceptor) will show the student has met the competencies necessary for an entry-level dietitian.

Findings Description:

All 10 students (100%) made an "A" on their final evaluation form for medical nutrition therapy. Two students (80%) received a "B" in community and 3 students (70%) made a “B” in foodservice management.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Improving Curriculum

Action Description:

The DI Director is reviewing the in-class activities and assignments related to community and foodservice management in the FACS 5079 course. New lessons, activities and assignments are being created to help prepare students to met and exceed competencies at their rotations. Resources from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics are being added to the FACS 5079 curriculum.

Supervised Practice

Goal Description:

Students in the Combined MS and Dietetic Internship Program will progress through supervised practice in clinical, community and foodservice management rotations and a curriculum that will augment knowledge and increase skills to promote excellence in research and dietetic practice.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Program Feedback from Students

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate practical and critical thinking skills from each scheduled rotation and research activity. Rotations are in various clinical, community, food service, and research settings and total 1,200 hours over three long semesters. Content and activities in the rotations are designed to meet the requirements of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), the accrediting agency of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Program Exit Survey

Indicator Description:

At the completion of the program, an exit survey will be given within two weeks of graduation. The exit survey will be used to measure students' feelings of success with the program by evaluating program goals and activities used to meet the competencies.

Criterion Description:

90% of the students will indicate on an exit survey completed at the end of the program that, through program goals, they have acquired practical and critical thinking skills and provide a rating of satisfactory or higher on the survey.

Findings Description:

100% of the 10 students graduating in December of 2015 successfully completed their supervised practice rotations and the exit survey. Eight of the 10 students (80%) indicated that all the rotations were satisfactory for achieving their goals and acquiring appropriate skills. The highest satisfaction was with the clinical rotations and the lowest satisfaction was with the foodservice management rotations.

Program Updates Based on Feedback

Action Description:

All 10 students in the cohort completed the program by December 2015. For this cohort, 80% of students indicated they met their goals during the program. Incoming students create goals they want to achieve throughout the program prior to DI Orientation in August. The DI Director will continue to review the goals with each student and provide feedback on whether or not the goals are realistic and in the scope of the program.

The DI Director also utilizes student feedback in the exit survey to make adjustments to the program. Students were dissatisfied with the length of time spent at Head Start facilities (3 weeks). After reviewing this rotation, the decision was made to reduce the length to 1 week. The students will still be able to complete their activities at Head Start and meet all their community rotation requirements.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

With the first time pass rate lower than in previous years, the DI Director is requiring the next cohort to take the Mock RD Exam offered by either the AND or an approved review site. This is to mimic the actual RD Exam format and questions.

The DI Director has received a course release for the Fall 2015 semester. Part of this time will be used to recruit new sites for students, especially in the area of medical nutrition therapy.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

The addition of Visual Veggies appears to be better preparing students for the RD Exam by actually mimicking the real RD exam. Based on self-reporting, the first time pass rate has improved from 70% in 2015 to 87% in 2016. The students are required to take the Visual Veggies Pretest and Mock RD Exam as part of FACS 5079. The updating of FACS 5079 for this next cohort is designed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of students in the classroom and in rotations.

Plan for Continuous Improvement for 2016-17

Closing Summary:

A new cohort of 10 students has been matched to the program for Fall 2016. The FACS 5079 course is being updated with content and material from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The revised course will help prepare students for their clinical, community, and foodservice management rotations. Two new nutrition tenure track faculty members have been hired and will teach in the MS/DI program. This will allow diversity in faculty teaching the graduate courses. The DI Director is working with the new faculty to make sure ACEND competencies are being met.

Two new food bank sites in Montgomery County and Brazos Valley are currently being obtained for community rotations. This will provide connections with food banks in surrounding areas and promote our MS/DI program. The DI Director plans to continue to search for additional clinical sites to add to our program.

The DI Director has recently purchased the Supervised Practice Kit from ACEND. This kit will be used to update and strengthen DI activities and evaluations to meet the required RD competencies. The DI Director will work with preceptors, faculty, and students when updating the DI program material to ensure a successful outcome.