

Dietetics MS

Goal 1 - Knowledge & Skills Development for Entry-Level Dietitians

Goal Description:

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

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Demonstration of Knowledge & Skills for Entry-Level Dietitians

Learning Objective Description:

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

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

National Registration Examination for Dietitians

Indicator Description:

After successful completion of the program, graduates will take the Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Graduates passing this exam earn the credentials of Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN).

Criterion Description:

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

Findings Description:

The five year pass rate for 2011-2015 is 98%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Knowledge and Skills Development - RDN Exam

Action Description:

Students must now complete RDN practice exams throughout the program prior to taking the mock RDN exam. The program director will identify weaknesses and adjust lectures to address weaknesses.

Goal 2 - Program Completion

Goal Description:

Students will complete the program in a timely manner.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Program Completion on Time

Performance Objective Description:

Graduates will complete the program within 24 months.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Program Completion within 24 months

KPI Description:

At least 80% of program graduates will complete the program/degree requirements within 24 months.

Results Description:

100% of program graduates completed the program/degree requirements within 24 months.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Program Completion

Action Description:

We will continue to monitor students throughout the program to ensure they are meeting the requirements and will remediate when necessary so all students continue to graduate within 24 months.

Goal 3 - Employment within the Field

Goal Description:

Employment in nutrition and dietetics or related fields following graduation.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Employment - Performance after Graduation

Performance Objective Description:

Employers will indicate on surveys the level of satisfaction with the entry-level knowledge and skills of graduates.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Employer Satisfaction

KPI 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.

Results Description:

With a response rate of one, we have a 0% satisfaction with entry-level preparation.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Employer Satisfaction

Action Description:

To increase the response rate, we will send reminder emails to employers to complete the online employer survey.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Employment - Student Employment

Performance Objective Description:

Students will seek and successfully find employment within the nutrition and dietetics or related fields. Students will indicate employment on alumni survey sent to students 1 year following graduation.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Student Employment in Dietetics or Related Field

KPI Description:

Seventy percent (70%) of program graduates are expected to be employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation.

Results Description:

80% of program graduates were employed in dietetics within one year after graduation.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Student Employment

Action Description:

Students must now complete their resume, practice job interviews, and research employment opportunities prior to graduation.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

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.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

A new cohort of 11 students has been matched to the program for Fall 2017. FACS 5079 now includes professionalism and other relevant content to prepare students for the RDN exam and to function as competent entry-level dietitians. The new nutrition faculty are teaching the graduate students throughout the program and guiding them through their research projects. Brazos Valley is now one of our food bank sites and we are working on an affiliation agreement with the Good Shepherd Mission in Huntsville. We continue to search for additional clinical sites to add to the program and have interest from Houston Northwest Medical Center and Ben Taub Hospital. The program has been updated to meet the 2017 Standards from ACEND.

Plan for Continuous Improvement for 2017-18

Closing Summary:

We will work on new affiliation agreements with hospitals and also seek out opportunities with other facilities in clinical and speciality areas such as diabetes and eating disorders. We plan on continuing to increase the number of students in our program. How quickly we grow the program will depend on our preceptor availability. The new Nutrition Assessment Lab will allow for more opportunities with SHSU resources, such as Recreational Sports and the Health Center, as well as provide a simulation environment to teach the students necessary skills prior to attending clinical rotations. By strengthening the students clinical skills before they begin clinicals at the hospital, we hope the students will gain confidence and be more productive during their clinical rotations.