



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Jeff Jessee, Dean of the College of Health and Vice Provost of Health Programs

Cc: Amanda Walch, Committee Chair & Assistant Professor of Dietetics & Nutrition  
Amy Urbanus, Assistant Professor of Dietetics & Nutrition  
Melissa Chlupach, Term Assistant Professor of Dietetics & Nutrition

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

**Program/s in this review:** Dietetics BS

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** The Dietetics BS is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

**Campuses where the program is delivered:** Anchorage

**Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role:**

The Dietetics and Nutrition Program seeks to meet the growing needs of the dietetics and nutrition industry by training entry-level registered dietitians and community nutrition and nutrition science professionals. The Dietetics BS provides the first step to meeting the eligibility requirements to take the national Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) exam. It prepares students for supervised practice. Program graduates can pursue employment as dietetic technicians or continue their education to apply for licensure as dietitians. The employment growth for dietetic technicians is expected to be robust (+22.2%) and the growth for dietitians and nutritionists is expected to be strong (+19.5%). The average number of annual openings is expected to be low (+5 for dietetic technicians and +13 for dietitians and nutritionists). The Dietetics BS is central to the College of Health mission, and it provides a critical supporting role to other health programs. Faculty also make significant contributions to the research mission of the College and University.

**Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity:**

Program demand is moderate. The average number of majors for the Dietetics BS is 15.4 per year. This number is low because students do not apply for admission to the full dietetics major until the spring semester in which they are completing the final prerequisites for the full major. On average, 8.3 students graduate with a Dietetics BS each year (the number of graduates is quite variable, from a low of three in FY13 to a high of 13 in FY18). It is important to note that the program's accreditation limits the size of each student cohort to 10 students. Most students pursue graduate degrees after completing the BS. Student credit hour production is high, from both majors and non-majors (including pre-majors). Instructional costs are fully covered by tuition revenue. On average, every dollar invested in instruction

generates \$1.33 in full tuition revenue. In addition, faculty generate revenue from externally funded research projects.

**Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success:**

The program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for the Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The Dietetics BS is entirely available online. Faculty are experts in innovative program design. They have successfully incorporated high impact teaching practices such as the use of simulation and the integration of cultural competence in coursework. Students are encouraged to participate in first-year experiences. The program developed a learning community to integrate undergraduate research. Students participate in writing-intensive courses and complete collaborative assignments and projects. Throughout the program, students build an ePortfolio which is then used for graduate applications. Overall, the program is deeply committed to student success. Program student learning outcomes are regularly assessed and key recommendations for program improvement are identified, implemented, and evaluated.

**Program Duplication / Distinctiveness:**

There is no other baccalaureate program in Dietetics and Nutrition offered within the University of Alaska system.

**Commendations and Recommendations:**

The Dietetics BS offers a high quality educational program for students seeking to become dietetic technicians. In addition, it provides a path for students to pursue graduate education to become registered dietitians. The program is also essential for other health programs. Tuition revenues are exceptional, and fully cover the program's instructional costs. Overall, the Dietetics BS makes a strong contribution to the College of Health mission. The program should be continued.

**Decision:**

Continuation.