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Date: March 9, 2020

To: Cathy Sandeen, Chancellor

From: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

Cc: Jeff Jessee, Dean of the College of Health; Vice Provost for Health Programs
Amanda Walch, Committee Chair & Assistant Professor of Dietetics & Nutrition
Amy Urbanus, Assistant Professor of Dietetics & Nutrition
Melissa Chlupach, Term Assistant Professor of Dietetics & Nutrition
Susan Kalina, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Claudia Lampman, Vice Provost for Student Success

Re: **AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings – Dietetics BS**

I have reviewed the dean's findings and the completed Expedited Program Review Template for the Dietetics BS. The Provost's Office did not receive an Optional Program Response Form from the program.

Recommendations

My recommendation is to accept the decision and recommendations of the dean. The next Program Review will be included in the regular ongoing program review schedule.

Decision

Recommend Continuation

UAA College of Health
University of Alaska Anchorage

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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.

AY20 Expedited Program Review Template
Updated 2-5-2020

Submission date: February 10, 2020

Program/s in this review: BS in Dietetics

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage (delivered statewide through distance technologies)

Members of the program review committee:

- Amanda Walch, Assistant Professor Dietetics & Nutrition (chair), UAA Anchorage
- Amy Urbanus, Assistant Professor Dietetics & Nutrition, UAA Anchorage
- Melissa Chlupach, Assistant Professor Dietetics & Nutrition, UAA Anchorage

1. Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role (700 words or less)

Relevancy
The mission of the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Dietetics is to guide the future of dietetics in Alaska by preparing students for supervised practice with the goal to become competent entry-level dietitians. The BS in Dietetics at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is the only program and path to receiving an undergraduate degree from an accredited program in dietetics. Obtaining this degree allows students to take the Nutrition and Dietetics Technician Registered (NDTR) exam and/or enter into the accredited internship (supervised practice) program in order to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). As the only accredited dietetics program in the state, we are charged with the responsibility to fulfill the dietetics and nutrition workforce needs in Alaska.

The BS program in Dietetics fulfills the mission of UAA, the College of Health, and the School of Allied Health by discovering and disseminating knowledge through teaching, advancing the health and wellbeing of people and communities, and educating allied health professionals to serve Alaskans.

Workforce Development and Employment Opportunities
The Dietetics and Nutrition (DN) department is working to help fulfill one of UAA's 2020 goals of graduating more students to fill Alaska's needs. The State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development projects an increased demand for dietetics and nutrition graduates at the baccalaureate level of 13.9% in 10 years. The RDN growth rate is projected at 19.5 % in 10 years. All (100%) students admitted to the full major in dietetics from the past five years have graduated with a BS in Dietetics in the 36 month allotted period.

Some specific areas of practice in Alaska that are potential job markets include food and nutrition assistance programs (e.g., Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children - WIC), hospitals, and institutional foodservice (e.g., Anchorage School District), and clinical support care at local hospitals.

The University of Alaska Board of Regents has a goal of doubling the number of health graduates by 2025. To help fulfill this goal, the Dietetics and Nutrition department is working with the College of Health (COH) marketing team to build a robust marketing plan and continues to enhance the online learning experience as well as develop new courses with an interprofessional focus.

Support of Other Academic Programs and Partnerships with Outside Organizations
The BS program in Dietetics also supports other academic programs throughout the university, including Early Childhood Education, Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Nursing, Health Sciences, Health Physical Education and Recreation, Medical Assisting, as well as the Alaska Native-themed university requirement and a Tier III GER. In addition, the BS program in Dietetics has partnerships with outside agencies, businesses, and organizations, including Bean's Cafe, Special Olympics, the Alaska Dietetic Association, the Alaska Food Policy Council, and the Anchorage School District.

Extramural Funding
To date, our BS program in Dietetics has an 80% tuition revenue that is higher than instructional costs. With the addition of our MS program in Dietetics in AY19, our department as a whole is self-sustained through tuition and general funds and is not funded by extramural support.

2. Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity (7 year trend; 1400 words or less)

The BS in Dietetics program began in 2011 with initial accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), followed by a site visit in 2014 when it received full accreditation as a new program. Students beginning as pre-dietetics majors are able to apply to the full major (BS in Dietetics program) after certain courses and prerequisites are met, typically when the students begin their Junior year. The Institutional Research (IR) data reflects only full majors that are accepted into the program. Based on ACEND restrictions, the program is allowed a cohort of a maximum of 10 students each academic year. As seen in the 7 year data history, some years had fewer students, and other years (with approval from ACEND) had greater than 10 students. During the first program year we accepted a smaller cohort due to the new program status. Over the 7 years, however, we had an average 8.3 students graduate each year. Our trend will continue to go up to a maximum of 10 students since it remains a high demand program.

The data shown in the Credits Per Degree (Average Credits Earned) is on par with our expectations. Our students average 110 credits per degree (less than the 120 required as this counts UAA credits only) over an average of 10 semesters (which does not count summers). Our program is science intensive and students that begin as pre-majors can graduate in 4 years (8 semesters). However, if they do not start out in our program, it typically takes an extra year to complete all required science courses. We anticipate the average credits per degree and the average semesters in which to complete the BS in Dietetics will remain consistent over the next several years. We will continue to identify potential students early in their academic career through entry-level gateway courses taught by DN faculty (DN A151 - Nutrition Through the Life Cycle, DN A155 - Survey of Alaska Native Nutrition, DN A203 Nutrition for Health Sciences and Health A151 - Breaking Trail on Your Health and Social Services Career), as well as interprofessional COH experiences in which the Dietetics and Nutrition department participate. Identifying students' interests, goals, and academic path early may reduce the average credits and semesters and aid in student success.

The seven-year majors/program enrollment data shows only full majors in our program. It is important to note that our accrediting body, ACEND, has placed a restriction on program capacity and we are only allowed to accept 10 students into each cohort annually due to limited clinical placement sites. Thus, the numbers shown are for full majors only (those accepted can/should receive the BS in Dietetics degree); these numbers do not include our pre-majors or nutrition minors. We have 62 pre-majors in AY19, 58 pre-majors in AY20, and 51 nutrition minors in AY20. We anticipate similar numbers in the next several years for both and pre-majors and minors.

Course pass rates have steadily risen over the past 7 years. At the beginning of our program, we started at just over 84% and quickly jumped a few percentage points, and are now sitting in the 88 to 89% pass rate range. Our trend has shown an increase and we anticipate a continued upward trend. Now that our department is fully staffed, we have the capacity to work closer with our students and support them in additional ways to help ensure their success. Prior to AY19, we relied heavily on adjunct faculty and it was difficult to know and provide all the support needed by the adjuncts and their students.

Our Student Credit Hour Production (SCH), both in major and out-of-major, remains high. As shown in the table, our non-majors make up approximately 57% of our student credit hours and approximately half of the course enrollment. As mentioned earlier, we are a high demand program and fill many of our courses to capacity. Additionally, one of our courses (DN A203) is required by many health majors, we offer two courses

that meet the Alaska-Native themed general education requirement (GER) (i.e., DN A155 and DN A325), and also offer a Tier III GER course (DN A415). With our majors and these additional options for UA students, we anticipate continued high SCH and enrollment numbers.

Although our SCH production is high, the data shows a steady decline over the past 7 years. There are a few likely reasons. Enrollment at UA has decreased over the past several years, which is reflected in the SCH of our department since a few of our courses are taken by other majors. Additionally, one course taken by most health majors (DN A203) has been increasingly taught by campuses across the UA system. This is extremely relevant since the courses being offered on other campuses are not exclusively taught in the classroom; many of them are taught online. As such, and with the addition of sections outside of our department, our SCH have declined.

Our Instructional Cost has decreased over the same time period, showing a dip in 2018 and subsequent jump in 2019. Over the past one and a half years our department lost an Associate Professor and hired 3 Assistant Professors. The numbers reflect the time periods when the Associate Professor left and the others joined.

Our 80% Tuition Revenue remains high despite the variability over the past 7 years. We anticipate continued high tuition production for future years. It is important to note that in every year, the 80% tuition level exceeds the associated instructional cost, indicating this program is self-supporting. Also, we plan to address the DN A203 community campus course offerings in the future to ensure the course is taught by a professional in the field, as it is a required course for our accreditation. This may also boost our SCH production.

An additional field we would like to highlight is the FTES/FTEF. Over the past 7 years we have been consistent, despite the addition of faculty members in the department. Similarly, our class size has remained constant and very close to capacity. We anticipate both of these remaining in similar ranges over the next several years.

We have excellent numbers for External Demand, or for students who continue with school after their BS degree and are awarded a second degree. The data indicates that over the past 6 years the majority, in fact in several years 100%, of our students who graduate continue their education and are awarded a second degree. The exception is in 2018 - this is likely due to the students who entered into our MS in Dietetics and Nutrition program - they still have one year left in the program before graduation. Our numbers are anticipated to remain high given that most of our undergraduate students continue into the DI or MSDI program. Finally, we would like to note the upward trend in Tuition Revenue/SCH, which shows the BS in Dietetics program is strong, and the classes and major are in high demand.

3. Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success (1500 words or less)

Accreditation
The program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for the Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). At our last site visit in 2014, the program was accredited for the maximum of 7 years. Our program completes an annual review for accreditation and reports on student learning outcomes, program graduates, curriculum improvements, teaching methods, and resources. Our next site review is in 2021, and we anticipate continued accreditation for the maximum timeframe.

Innovative Program Design
The program offers all courses in an online format, either synchronous or asynchronous, and integrates experiential learning experiences (i.e., simulation) in various courses. This allows the program to be delivered statewide yet still allows for student and faculty collaboration through innovative technology such as Zoom and VoiceThread. Faculty are experienced in online education delivery and modalities and participate in Quality Matters, Tech Fellows, and the Faculty Learning Community programs offered at UAA. Faculty have also developed interprofessional courses with other programs, such as Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Health Sciences, and Nursing.

Faculty integrate cultural competence into coursework (e.g., cross-cultural communication from an Alaska Native perspective and integrating Alaska Native values into online teaching) to ensure cultural sensitivity. Additionally, updates are made to courses so they are more accessible to students, ensuring opportunities for success for our diverse populations.

The BS in Dietetics is a high demand program that continues to fulfill workforce needs across the state. Based on ACEND assessment data from the inception of the program, 100% of our students move on to complete a graduate-level dietetic internship or the MS in Dietetics and Nutrition program, primarily at UAA. At any given time, there are 10 or more employment positions open to our graduates throughout the state. Our classes are required by multiple degree programs, including Nursing, Health Sciences, and many Allied Health programs. We also offer two courses that satisfy the Alaska Native-themed GER (DN A155 Survey of Alaska Native Nutrition and DN A325 Food & Nutrition in Modern Alaska) and an upper division Tier III GER course (DN A415 Community Nutrition). Although our enrollment trend is between 17 and 20 students each year, this does not include the 54 pre-majors and a number of nutrition minors. As seen from the IR data, our SCH and tuition generation remains high and nearly all of our students continue into our Dietetic Internship (DI) or MS in Dietetics and Nutrition (MSDI) program and are awarded the second degree.

Program Assessment
Our program seeks input biannually from our community advisory council (Preceptor Council) and revisions are made as needed. Faculty within the program discuss the strength and weaknesses of the overall curriculum, experiential learning, and other accreditation metrics on an annual basis and make changes accordingly. Per ACEND and the US Department of Education, our student learning outcomes and competencies are updated every five years.

Key findings of the AY19 BS in Dietetics assessment:

1. Twenty student learning outcomes (91%) were met or exceeded.
2. Two (of the 22) student learning outcomes (SLO) were not met, including:
    - SLO 3.5 Describe basic concepts of nutritional genomics was 15% below target.
        - Faculty have modified learning modules and coursework in several classes to address this gap.
    - SLO 4.2 Evaluate a budget and interpret financial data was 1% below target.
        - Faculty have modified the existing course assignment.
3. All students admitted to the full major Dietetics program completed the program within the 36 month allowed time frame.
4. The RDN exam one-year pass rate increased to 95.2%.
5. Application of UAA BS Dietetics graduates to the UAA DI and MSDI programs increased to 100% of graduates.

The most recent student feedback (the past two years) about the program includes:

- Recommendation for improving the ePortfolio
    - ePortfolio templates were updated in fall 2019
- Positive feelings about all courses in the areas of clinical, food service and community nutrition
- Recommendation for additional work in labs/biomarkers, additional “face to face” time if possible, and a multi-semester course for Advanced Nutrition
    - Course modules and learning activities were enhanced in fall 2019 in multiple classes
- Mixed feelings of online format; convenient, but would like more collaboration/networking and hands-on learning opportunities (this is a pattern of feedback)
    - Additional courses included group work, community-based learning, and synchronous or recorded instruction

- Positive feelings about program faculty

Student Success
DN courses, faculty, and students engage in high impact teaching practices within the program, including:

1. First-year experiences
   - We encourage students to attend three events in their first year, including the College of Health orientation, the DN social, and the Health Summit in March. We also require our students to take a profession of dietetics course.

2. Learning Communities
   - One learning community in our program is the integration of research. Our course curriculum and sequencing allow the students to learn different aspects of writing, the scientific process, finding and critiquing peer-reviewed literature, engaging in the research process, and applying or translating research evidence into patient care. These experiences are completed alone, with peers, and with professionals in the field. Integrating learning across courses and involving students has been shown to increase success both in the classroom and professionally.

3. Writing-Intensive Courses
   - The program has three writing-intensive courses, all at the 400-level and in differing aspects of the profession (i.e. research, advanced nutrition, and public health nutrition). Prior to these courses, students take lower-division courses that teach and prepare them on how to write in general (e.g. GER courses) and write in the dietetics profession, about the scientific process, understanding and applying peer-reviewed research, and other components in order to aid in their success.

4. Collaborative Assignments and Projects
   - All core DN courses include collaborative assignments and projects. Examples include:
     - DN A151 - small group work with case studies
     - DN A301 - assignments completed in small groups
     - DN A312 - a counseling project completed with a partner
     - DN A415 - small group work with community organizations, education materials, and other professional groups

5. Undergraduate Research
   - Our program and faculty are involved with undergraduate research - one faculty is an integral part of the BUILD EXITO and OURS programs, while all other faculty work one-on-one with DN students and engage them in various parts of their research.

6. Diversity/Global Learning
   - Many of the courses explore cultures (DN A155 & DN A325), life experiences (DN A151 & DN A407), and worldviews (DN A325 & DN A415) different from their own.
   - All courses integrate cultural competence within a learning module or activities.

7. ePortfolios
   - The program utilizes an ePortfolio to track ACEND competencies in each course and throughout the program. Additionally, the application process into full BS major requires the use of an ePortfolio to highlight student work and completion of requirements for admission.
   - Students engage in self-reflective practice activities to develop and maintain ongoing competence and professional behaviors as they complete their competencies and apply to

the full major .

8. Service Learning, Community-Based Learning
   - There are several courses within the curriculum that includes service or community-based learning, including:
     - DN A275 - a culinary nutrition lesson delivered with a partner in the community setting
     - DN A415 - students work with an organization to provide an assessment of their nutrition-related program, a possible intervention to implement, and apply for a grant to help fund the intervention

9. Internships
   - The BS in Dietetics continues to expand experiential learning within several of the core, upper-division courses. We anticipate that the expectation with the next set of revisions by the USDE we include greater hour-based requirements for practicum and competency-based education, both of which we are practicing but will continue to improve.

10. Capstone Courses and Projects
    - The program has one integrated capstone course, DN A415 Community Nutrition.
    - Several courses integrate capstone projects at the end of the course, including DN A270, DN A275, DN A301, and DN A430.

There is significant student support and academic advising in the program. UAA has a wealth of resources available to students to assist in meeting Student Learning Outcomes including the Consortium Library and assigned librarian, campus computer labs, and Academic Innovations and eLearning. Students are supported by five full-time faculty members in the department, all of whom have an office located on the main campus and who keep regular office hours. The department also has an administrative assistant who supports the students by arranging rooms, setting up advising appointments, and provides overrides as needed.

Student Accomplishments
The following are specific examples of student accomplishments:

1. One-hundred percent of students admitted to the full major BS Dietetics program completed the program within the 36 month allowed time frame.
2. The RDN exam one-year pass rate increased to 95.2%.
3. Application of UAA BS Dietetics graduates to the UAA DI and UAA MSDI programs increased to 100% of graduates.
4. Thirty-seven percent of DN students graduated with honors over the past 5 years.
5. Several students were awarded an undergraduate research grant through the OURS program.

4. Program Duplication / Distinctiveness (300 words or less)

The BS in Dietetics is the only dietetics and nutrition program available in the State of Alaska; there is no duplication of this program in the UA system. A program goal is to increase the number of RDNs statewide by offering online courses and opportunities allowing students to live in their home community, whether urban or rural, and have the ability to successfully complete the program and earn a degree.

5. Summary Analysis (500 words or less)

The program has significant strengths. It offers high quality online courses that utilize a variety of instructional methods. The faculty are diverse in their expertise and highly experienced in online education. Faculty are able to

develop strong relationships with students and have the ability to provide significant interaction and feedback to students. Additionally, program faculty work very closely with the MSDI program to help students matriculate through all of the educational requirements to become an RDN. The program is closely connected with the dietetics community in Alaska and collaborates with the UAA Dietetics and Nutrition Preceptor Council (i.e., program advisory committee), which allows faculty to adjust curriculum for entry-level competency.

The BS in Dietetics program is accredited through the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The Program Director completes annual reviews for ACEND, all of which provide continued program quality and improvement. The most recent self-study and site review extended the program the full 7-year accreditation status.

Ideas for moving forward within the DN undergraduate program include:

- Continue to seek input from state and nationwide professionals
- Collaborate with other academic programs and our UAA Dietetics and Nutrition Preceptor Council
- Increase experiential learning
- Increase the emphasis on interprofessional health education
- Develop additional DN elective courses to highlight selected topics within the profession

The BS Dietetics expedited review committee recommends **continuation** of the BS in Dietetics program.