

REPORT ON AY2022-2023 ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

Submission date: 11/14/2023

Assessment Plan covered in the report: Dietetics BS

College: College of Health

Campuses where the program(s) is delivered: Anchorage KOD KPC MSC PWSC

Submitted by: Amy Urbanus, Assistant Professor, Program Director BS Dietetics, alurbanus@alaska.edu

After responding to the questions below, the program should email this form to the dean, with a copy to the appropriate community campus director(s) if the program is delivered on a community campus.

- 1. Please list and number the Program Student Learning Outcomes your program assessed in AY23. For each outcome, indicate one of the following: Exceeded faculty expectations, Met faculty expectations, or Did not meet faculty expectations.**

Example: 1. Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and formats – Exceeded faculty expectations; 2. Adopt critical perspectives for understanding the forces of globalization and diversity – Met faculty expectations.

Domain 1. Integrate scientific information and translation of research into practice - Met faculty expectations

Domain 2. Demonstrate beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors for the professional dietitian nutritionist level of practice - Met faculty expectations

Domain 3. Develop and deliver nutrition-related information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations - Met faculty expectations

Domain 4. Apply principles of management and systems in the provision of services to individuals and organizations - Met faculty expectations

Domain 5. Develop skills, strengths, knowledge and experience relevant to leadership potential and professional growth for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner - Met faculty expectations

2. Describe your assessment process in AY23 for these Program Student Learning Outcomes, including the collection of data, analysis of data, and faculty (and other, e.g., advisory board) conversations around the findings. (1000 words or less)

The BS in Dietetics program follows outside accreditation (ACEND) standards and process for assessment. ACEND mandates that accredited Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPD) educate students on 31 specific Knowledge Requirements for Dietitian Nutritionists (KRDNs) and are divided into five domains. The program student learning outcomes represent these five domains. Assessment method, learning activity and student outcome targets for each KRDN are established by faculty and reviewed annually. Data is collected for each KRDN as well as end of course and program graduate evaluations. Outcomes are reviewed annually with faculty and DN advisory council; any action steps needed to improve learning outcomes are decided by faculty and incorporated into the Program Improvement Plan.

3. What are the findings and what do they tell the faculty about student learning in your program? (1000 words or less)

Thirty of thirty-one student learning outcomes/KRDN's in Domain 1-5 were met in AY23. Data collected demonstrates students in the BS in Dietetics program are meeting and exceeding the required knowledge to be a future registered dietitian nutritionist or dietetics technician. Concepts of nutritional genomics (KRDN 3.5) continue to be a challenge for students. Although this one KRDN was not met in AY23, outcomes have slowly improved based on a 9-year comprehensive review and program improvements continue to be identified by faculty in an effort to meet the student learning outcome.

Program one and three year post graduation evaluations continue to address the desire/need for additional pediatric curriculum. Pediatric curriculum is woven throughout the entire program as required by ACEND, and specific learning activities are identified by faculty. Although learning activities address the pediatric population, evaluations indicate students are not aware of how a specific learning activity may address their future practice with this population.

4. Based on the findings, did the faculty make any recommendations for changes to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? Yes

- i. **Please describe the recommended action(s), what improvements in student learning the program hopes to see, the proposed timeline, and how the program will know if the change(s) has worked. If no recommendations for changes were made, please explain that decision. (1000 words or less)**

Domain 3: KRDN 3.5: Added a background worksheet/assignment in Fall 2023 to DN A401 Medical Nutrition Therapy on nutritional genomics to set a foundation of knowledge for a larger project to be completed DN A475 Advanced Nutrition.

Domain 1-5: Improvements in accessibility in all dietetics online courses to improve overall student learning outcomes and success.

Domain 3: Fall 2023: Learning activities in DN A151 Nutrition Through the Lifecycle, DN A301 Nutrition Assessment and DN A402 Medical Nutrition Therapy II that address infants, toddlers, preschool children and adolescents are specifically identified using the term "pediatric" to assist students in connecting and identifying pediatric curriculum.

5. In the past academic year, how did your program use the results of previous assessment cycles to make changes intended to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? Please check all that apply.

- Course curriculum changes
- Course prerequisite changes
- Changes in teaching methods
- Changes in advising
- Degree requirement changes
- Degree course sequencing
- Course enrollment changes (e.g., course capacity, grading structure [pass/fail, A-F])
- Changes in program policies/procedures
- Changes to Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)
- College-wide initiatives (e.g., High-Impact Practices)
- Faculty, staff, student development
- Other
- No changes were implemented in AY23. *(If no options above were selected)*

If you checked "Other" above, please describe. (100 words or less)

6. Do you have any information about how well these or other past improvements are working? Are they achieving their intended goals? Please include any data or assessment results that help you demonstrate this. (1000 words or less)

Past assessment cycle improvements included initiating a pediatric community advisory committee (registered dietitians working in Alaska with the pediatric population) to help address past graduate evaluations indicating a need for additional pediatric curriculum. This committee was formed and met in AY22. Program curriculum was reviewed and no curriculum changes were recommended. Changes being implemented in AY23 noted under #4 above were developed in response to this committee work.

Faculty utilized the College of Health Instructional Designer to assist in accessibility training and improvements for courses. This has resulted in accessibility improvements in most Dietetics courses.

Faculty development in the area of Nutrition Focused Physical Exam to assist in the addition of additional learning activities in AY23. Graduate exit evaluations in AY23 did not identify this as a need as had been in previous assessment year cycles.

DEAN SECTION (Due to the program on January 15)

After completing the Dean Section and signing it, the dean should email this form to the program, and copy uaa_ooo@alaska.edu for posting. If the program is delivered on one or more community campus, the dean should consult with the appropriate community campus director(s) on the response and copy the appropriate community campus director(s) when emailing the response to the program.

1. Based on the program’s responses above, what guidance and support do you have for the program moving forward? (200 words or less)

The strengths of this program are many as is the level of commitment to program assessment, the generation and tracking of program goals, and adherence to accreditation requirements and standards. Student learning outcomes are determined by the accrediting body and thirty of thirty-one standards were met. Interventions to address the one standard that did not meet expectations were designed and implemented by faculty with clear incorporation into the ongoing assessment plan. Since program outcomes consistently meet faculty expectations, this strong program is encouraged to consider what opportunities exist to identify standards that might exceed faculty expectations.

2. Discuss what the program is doing particularly well in terms of its processes for the assessment and improvement of student learning, for example, the use of a common rubric or prompt, a signature assignment, etc. (200 words or less)

The BS in Dietetics and Nutrition continues to demonstrate dedicated and exceptional efforts towards program improvement. The program clearly states and evaluates PLSO’s in alignment with accreditation requirements. The program has implemented recommendations from previous assessment reviews specific to pediatric course content development. Faculty development opportunities in accessibility training were offered in a proactive effort to support student learning. This program is highly valued within the COH and serves as an exemplar in program improvement efforts.

Dean’s signature:

Cary C Moore

Date: 1/8/2024