

**REPORT ON AY2022-2023 ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT**

**Submission date:** 11/14/2023

**Assessment Plan covered in the report:** Dietetics & Nutrition MS

**College:** College of Health

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

**Submitted by:** Carrie King, Professor, Dietetics & Nutrition, cdking@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.***

1. Apply foundational sciences to food and nutrition knowledge to meet the needs of individuals, group and organizations. Met faculty expectations.
2. Apply and integrate client/patient-centered principles and competent nutrition and dietetics practice to ensure positive outcomes. Met faculty expectations.
3. Apply food systems principles and management skills to ensure safe and efficient delivery of food and water. Met faculty expectations.
4. Apply community and population nutrition health theories when providing support to community or population nutrition programs. Met faculty expectations.
5. Demonstrate leadership, business and management principles to guide practice and achieve operational goals. Met faculty expectations.
6. Integrate evidence-informed practice, research principles, and critical thinking into practice. Met faculty expectations.
7. Demonstrate professional behaviors and effective communication in all nutrition and dietetics interactions. 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)**

Summative assessment methods include exams, presentations, projects, case studies, research reports, exit interviews and supervised practice rotation evaluations. Students evaluate each course and rotation to provide feedback to the instructors and preceptors. At the end of each academic year, the program director collects the aggregate results, completes data analysis and prepares a summary report which is the basis for discussion at the year-end advisory board meeting and DN faculty meeting about program strengths and weaknesses, and changes that will be implemented in the next academic year. At the start of each academic year the DN faculty further discuss assessment results and plans for continuous program improvement. The graduate program held a site visit in September 2023 from the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics.

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

Collectively, student academic achievement data combined with course evaluation feedback indicates that students are meeting student learning outcomes, receiving training that is progressive, preparing them for current issues in the nutrition and dietetics profession and they feel supported by program faculty in their learning.

The research questions that are developed collaboratively by students and their advisors are challenging and appropriately reflect student learning at the Master's degree level. Students continue to struggle with learning how to write in a professional, technical format (i.e., the final report for a graduate project or thesis).

**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)**

The DN faculty completed a review of the curriculum map in January 2023 for the graduate program. As a result of the review, DN A660 Contemporary Practice in Dietetics and Nutrition has been added to the program curriculum and is being taught for the first time in fall 2023. The addition of this course was recommended by faculty to replace DN A675 Advanced Nutrient Metabolism as a thorough review of the UAA DN curriculum and curriculum at similar programs at other institutions indicated that a broader course that covered multiple topics (i.e., nutrigenomics, sustainability and agriculture, nutrition and physical activity across the life span, nutritional biochemistry and cultural competency)

would better prepare students for modern practice. DN A660 also replaces DN A601 Professional Practice in Nutrition and Dietetics, which course evaluations indicated that students felt that the content in this course was redundant with other course content. The implementation of DN A660 reflects content related to all seven student learning outcomes in the DN graduate program. It is anticipated that student assignments and course evaluations at the end of fall 2023 will demonstrate a synthesis of knowledge and skill development across the range of dietetics and nutrition practice areas.

The medical nutrition therapy (DN A641, DN A642) course content was completely revised based on supervised practice preceptor feedback, student feedback and faculty discussion. The revisions were implemented with a very small cohort and additional time is needed to determine if the updates will better prepare students for ambulatory and acute practice.

Faculty will hold an in service in January 2024 to review the research instruction process in the program.

**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)**

In the pre-professional track, the first program graduate to take the national registration exam following graduation in May 2023 passed the exam on the first try. Two program graduates'

research was accepted as a poster at the national Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics conference.

In both program tracks, the research mentoring process continues to improve as reflected in student research proposal defenses and submission of IRB applications for the majority of the class (83%, n=5) following completion of DN A630 Applied Research in Nutrition and Dietetics.

In January 2023 the DN faculty completed professional development in TILT (provided by the College of Health instructional designer) to support student learning through better communicating the purpose of assignments and expected outcomes.

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### **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 [uua\\_oaa@alaska.edu](mailto:uua_oaa@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 MS Dietetics and Nutrition program continues to demonstrate strong student outcomes and a noteworthy commitment to program improvement. The diligent efforts of faculty in preparation for and successful completion of the Fall 2023 site visit are commendable. With expansion of the MS program, the pipeline of undergraduate students from within and outside of UAA will be an integral component of program success. Tracking of student achievements and dissemination of student research are valuable indicators of student success. Continued collaboration with COH student advising and recruitment will strengthen the program's efforts to recruit and retain MS students.

**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 MS Dietetics and Nutrition program continues to demonstrate exemplary efforts in the areas of program improvement. Evaluation of student academic achievement data, course feedback, inclusion of the advisory board, commitment to faculty development, and analysis of curricular design are hallmarks of this program's commitment to improvement. A successful accreditation site visit further reflects the strong work and commitment of this department.

**Dean's signature:**

*Cary C Moore*

**Date:** 1/8/2024