

MFSQ Graduate Program Assessment for NDFS Department 2016

As a Professional Masters program the main goal of the Masters of Food Safety and Quality (MFSQ) is to provide professional academic credentials that enable job placement and advancement opportunity for students.

Mastery of subject material by individual students in the MFSQ program is assessed by satisfactory completion of the required course work and by the supervisor of their capstone project. Course work is selected based on student's prior completion of course competency courses and the student's particular areas of interest in relation to food safety and quality.

The MFSQ program is designed for students to complete the required 33 credits on a part-time basis within 3 years for students who already have full-or part- time employment in the food industry, or within 2 years on a full time basis.

The NDFS Department employs a variety of tools to collect feedback on the overall performance of its MFSQ graduate programs

- number of students enrolled full-time and part-time
- percentage of full-time students completing degree in 2 years or less
- percentage of part-time students completing degree in 3 years or less
- graduate placement and professional advancement/achievements
- Alumni and employer surveys

The performance of the MFSQ program for 2015/16 was evaluated using the categories detailed above. The results are summarized below. Results were collected for the period of January 2015 until July 2016.

MFSQ in Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences Department

1. Number of students in enrolled in MFSQ degree
 - a. Full-time: 3
 - b. Part-time: 2
2. Number students completing degree during time frame:
 - a. Full-time: 3
 - b. Part-time: 0
3. Average time to degree completion (years \pm standard deviation)
 - a. Full-time: 2.0 \pm 0.5
 - b. Part-time: Not applicable
4. % students completing degrees in targeted time frames:
 - a. Full-time: 67%
 - b. Part-time: Not applicable
5. Alumni and employer surveys
 - a. Data not collected

Program Quality

1. The numbers of students enrolled is lower than desired. It is believed that a main reason is knowledge of the opportunity to potential students and knowledge of what a professional Masters degree is. In the coming years more marketing must be done for the degree.
2. IDEA ratings for most of the courses taken by MFSQ students remain at or above the statistical norm. Feedback is reported to individual faculty for course improvement.
3. In 2015-2016 we have received individual reports that a few students received jobs quickly after completing the program and one reported getting a new higher quality job.
4. In the coming years, we plan to survey all MFSQ program graduates to assess job placement, job advancement, and their opinions on the USU MFSQ program.