

## 2015 Data-Based Decisions for USU Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CPD)

The CPD completed a self-study in 2014/15 as part of the ACEND accreditation process. Surveys were disseminated to current students, program graduates and employers as part of the data collection process. Administrators, faculty, preceptors and the program advisor were invited to provide comment during the self-study process.

Data-Based Decisions	Rationale	Costs
<p><u>Information dissemination:</u> A separate program handbook was created for the CPD with program-specific information, including supervised practice requirements. Handbooks are uploaded to the website for ease of access. Students are required to sign off that they have read the handbook and know how to locate it.</p> <p>Preceptors and external constituents are informed of changes to the program via email and in person site visits (completed each semester). Regular feedback is elicited during visits. However, a plan to create a formal advisory board is being formulated.</p>	<p>Student surveys and ACEND review suggested that a single dietetics handbook created confusion for students. By utilizing two handbooks, students have access to the most relevant information. The handbook is easily available. Students are shown the handbook on multiple occasions and sign off that they are aware of and will adhere to the policies contained therein.</p> <p>Preceptors and external constituents are vital to the training and employment of dietetics practitioners. Formal input maintains program integrity and ensures that graduates are prepared to function in the external world.</p>	<p>No additional cost to the program. Webmaster fees are covered by CAAS.</p> <p>The cost of site visits is incorporated into course fee structure for supervised practice labs. Costs for the advisory board will be paid from general dietetics operating funds and anticipated not to exceed \$1000 per year.</p>
<p><u>Improvements to the Curriculum:</u> Food Literacy: Sustainability competencies added</p> <p>Introduction to Dietetics course development</p> <p>Diversification of supervised practice experiences</p>	<p>Evolving scope of practice for dietitians in sustainable and resilient food systems</p> <p>Student/faculty identified need for consistent and timely program and profession guidance</p> <p>Job outlook surveys by The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics</p>	<p>No additional cost. Concepts added to existing courses.</p> <p>Course added to existing faculty teaching load. TA will be covered by current general program fund (cost of \$1200)</p> <p>The majority of new supervised</p>

<p>in research, sustainability, food co-op, and sports nutrition</p>	<p>indicated that dietitians are engaged in wider and more diverse opportunities. The curriculum was expanded to provide experiences that echo the expansion of the profession</p>	<p>practice experiences required a dietitian-level preceptor who could oversee student experiences. Course fees were adjusted to cover this expense.</p>
<p><u>Improvements to Teaching &amp; Learning Methods:</u> Expanded Teaching Methodologies to include flipped classroom, student-led courses, and skill-based assessments</p>	<p>Student surveys indicate support for varied teaching styles and methods of instruction. Educational methodology suggests these methods increase student learning, critical thinking, and student satisfaction with course work.</p>	<p>Some teaching methods require modernization of classrooms and equipment. Course fees were adjusted in 2014 to ensure equipment and facilities will support teaching methodologies.</p>
<p><u>Improvements to Faculty/Preceptors:</u> Course fees adjusted to provide additional preceptors for student training and improve facilities/equipment utilized in supervised practice</p>	<p>Dietetics programs face a national shortage of preceptors and training facilities. The CPD has worked with local facilities to provide FTE offsets and on-site preceptors to ensure students have quality education in appropriate facilities. USU labs (teaching kitchen, assessment lab) require modernization to stay current and provide adequate education experiences.</p>	<p>The cost of this program is substantial (\$6300 per student). In order to ensure that students receive primary benefit from the investment in their own education, the decision was made to pursue course fees as a means of funding this program.</p>
<p><u>Improvements to Academic Counseling:</u> A program advisor and career counselor were added as support personnel</p>	<p>Student surveys support improved access to academic advising, application processes, and career counseling</p>	<p>No additional cost to CPD; Cost covered by NDFS/College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences</p>