

## Coordinated Program in Dietetics Assessment Report

### Academic Year 2015-2016

The annual review of program occurred in May-August of 2016. The program continues to meet accreditation guidelines by providing education appropriate to all 36 standards established by the accrediting body for dietetics programs, ACEND. Standards can be accessed at: <http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=6442485341>

A full report on standards and assessment can be requested by emailing the director of the dietetics program. The following standards did not meet benchmarks and have an associated action plan:

Standard	Reason for discrepancy	Action Plan
CRD 1.2	Students have minimal understanding of statistics and research methods and thus struggle to write a research plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty will enhance discussions of research process into earlier courses</li> <li>• Faculty considering an additional statistics course for curriculum to help students understand analysis</li> </ul>
CRD 2.6 CRD 2.7	This was an unusual occurrence; professor requests one more year to track outcomes and study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor scores and student performance</li> </ul>
CRD 2.8	Students reported that the class was very time-consuming making it difficult to achieve at their usual level of academic attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The professor restructured the class to allow students more shared effort and reduce burden</li> </ul>
CRD 2.9 CRD 3.1	Students reported that this was their first large-scale research paper and required more guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor retooled class structure to permit in-class writing and peer feedback. Students turn in small portions of the research project each week for ongoing feedback and assistance.</li> </ul>
CRD 2.10	Students reported confusion on the guidelines for the assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructions on this assignment clarified</li> </ul>
CRD 3.3 CRD 3.4 CRD 3.5 CRD 3.6	Preceptor expectations vary widely among practice sites. This results in less certain outcomes and difficulties for students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide in-person preceptor training with focus on student expectations</li> <li>• Request mid-rotation evaluations to help preceptors communicate expectations to students and plan for achievement</li> </ul>
4.10	Students have minimal opportunity to practice didactic skills before needing to apply skills in practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restructured education/counseling courses to provide more direct practice on skills related to patient care, including a video recording of a counseling session for feedback</li> </ul>

Education benchmarks remain unchanged for the following year and will be re-assessed in May 2016.

### Program-wide changes

The Coordinated Program in Dietetics at Utah State University continues to meet national standards. The following achievements highlight program quality:

- 100% first-time pass rate for graduates on the national RD exam for 2 consecutive years
- 100% of graduates in 2016 completed the program in the anticipated timeframe of 2 years

List years sequentially from least recent to most recent	(A) # of Students Taking the Exam for the First Time	Students Passing the CDR Exam		Pass Rate Percentages	
		(B) # of Students Passing on Their First Try	(C) # of Students Passing within One Year of Their First Try (if available)	(B/A) First-Time Pass Rate	(C/A) One-Year Pass Rate (if available)
2009	9	9	9	100%	100%
2010	13	13	13	100%	100%
2011	10	10	10	100%	100%
2012	7	4	7	57%	100%
2013	14	13	14	93%	93%
2014	13	13	13	100%	100%
2015	12	12	12	100%	100%

### Looking forward

Although the program is successful and continues to provide excellent training, two issues will influence the ongoing success of the program.

#### Issue #1: Transition to Master's level program

In August 2016, the new accreditation standards for a major shift in the dietetics program were released by the accrediting agency, ACEND. The standards require students to have a master's degree before sitting for the RD exam, beginning in 2024. The Coordinated Program in Dietetics at Utah State University has initiated efforts to meet these new standards.

#### Issue #2: Program Concentration

At present, the program has a lifecycle nutrition focus but several stakeholders have suggested a transition to clinical nutrition. Utah has several dietetics programs and no other program has the facilities or faculty as well-stationed as USU to provide a clinically-focused program.

Given these factors, the director and dietetics faculty have proposed the following goals for 2016-2017 Academic Year. These initiatives will be included in program assessment for the upcoming year.

- Create a stakeholders survey to determine appropriate degree focus.
- Prepare a Master's degree proposal for committee consideration