

## **MFSQ Graduate Program Assessment for NDFS Department 2019-2020**

As a Professional Master's 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 3-4 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 Fall 2019 to Summer 2020 was evaluated using the categories detailed above. The results are summarized below.

### *MFSQ in Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences Department*

1. Number of students in enrolled in MFSQ degree
  - a. Full-time: 2
  - b. Part-time: 1
2. Average time to degree completion (years  $\pm$  standard deviation)
  - a. Full-time: None completed during this time frame.
  - b. Part-time: None completed during this time frame.
3. % students completing degrees in targeted time frames:
  - a. Full-time: Not applicable
  - b. Part-time: Not applicable
4. Alumni and employer surveys
  - a. Data not collected

### Program Quality

1. The numbers of students enrolled remains lower than desired. It is believed that potential students are either unaware of the MFSQ program, unfamiliar with the

concept of professional (i.e. non-research) Masters degrees, and/or unable to attend due to location and time of classes. Active student recruitment was not possible due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and meeting/conference cancellations. An online advertisement through an industry periodical resulted in several requests for information, but no enrollments. Additional opportunities and outlets for program marketing will be explored in the coming year.

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. A survey will be given to students who begin the program in Fall 2020 to better understand their needs, program strengths and weaknesses, and to develop appropriate evaluation criteria for the future.