

2015 Data Based Decisions Report for Nutrition Science

Initiative 1. Eliminate NDFS 5220: Endocrine Aspects of Nutrition

This decision was based on student exit interviews and our overall course map indicating that the material was largely redundant. Students interested in a more detailed course involving endocrinology are now advised to take ADVS 5630 as an elective.

Initiative 2. Creation of NDFS 5230: Communication of Current Topics

NDFS 5230 was developed in response to our faculty program assessment and student exit interviews. As a faculty, we recognized a program deficiency in this important topic and corresponding student skill set. Students also indicated their desire for another communication intensive course and in response this course was created to meet these needs.

Initiative 3. Changing NDFS 5250: Occupational Experience From a Required to an Elective Class

NDFS 5250 is a 1-credit course wherein students describe their experience working a real world job related to Nutrition Science. However, the course has devolved into some students working jobs at the very periphery of actual Nutrition Science and erosion of the original course intent. Student exit interviews and faculty discussion indicated that making this class an elective would eliminate this problem and improve the quality of this course.

Initiative 3. Elimination of NDFS 5300: Advanced Micronutrient Nutrition

This decision was made through examination of our course map, student exit interviews, and faculty discussion. These data sources clearly indicated that the material taught in this course was redundant and elimination of this course would allow faculty resources to be diverted into teaching more relevant, non-redundant courses.

Initiative 4. Creation of NDFS 5310: Fundamentals of Nutrition Research

This course was created based on student exit interviews and faculty discussion. We have learned through student exit interviews that many students are going on to pursue professional/graduate degrees. Establishment of this course will aid these students in this pursuit by making them better prepared to be involved with modern nutrition research.

Initiative 5. Creation of NDFS 6600: Current Topics in Obesity

NDFS 6600 was created in response to student exit interviews and faculty discussion. Obesity has become the most important topic in Nutrition Science. Although covered in other NDFS courses, this graduate level class will allow for more in-depth study.

Initiative 6. Need for a nutritional neuroscience course (TBN)

This need for this course was identified based on student exit interviews and faculty discussion. The faculty and exiting students recognized that coverage this topic was a deficiency in the program. This class will be developed and taught by a recently hired, new faculty member.