

*Program Review Short Progress Report* (updated 1/26/22)

## **PROGRAM REVIEW SHORT PROGRESS REPORT**

- 1. Reporting Institution: Eastern Illinois University**
- 2. Program Reviewed: BS Nutrition & Dietetics**
- 3. Date: 2.2.2023**
- 4. Contact Person: Dr. Julie Dietz, Chair**
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- 5. Summary of Program Goals and Objectives and Progress at Meeting Goals (including any concerns identified at the conclusion of the last eight-year review):**

The BS Nutrition & Dietetics was established in Fall 2019 as a result of the dissolution of the School of Family and Consumer Sciences and is now housed in the College of Health and Human Services. In January 2022, the Nutrition & Dietetics Program merged with the Department of Public Health to form the Department of Public Health & Nutrition; the BS Nutrition & Dietetics remains a stand-alone BS program within that department.

The mission of the *BS in Nutrition and Dietetics* is to provide foundational knowledge and skills through innovative and rigorous experiences for graduates to successfully obtain a career as an entry-level registered dietitian nutritionist. The program is committed to instilling in students the ability to be critical and independent thinkers while working in a collaborative environment, considering all aspects of the person, becoming leaders in a diverse environment, and promoting an appreciation of and dedication to the profession of dietetics.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

The student learning outcomes are stipulated by the Accreditation Council for the Education of Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) in the form of Foundational Knowledge and Skills statements (KRDN):

- Integrate scientific information and research into practice
- Communicate effectively the beliefs, values, attitudes, and behaviors for the professional dietitian level of practice
- Develop and deliver information, products, and services to individuals, families, and communities
- Strategically apply the principles of management and systems in the provision of services to individuals and organizations

During the past 4 years, our primary goals have centered around establishing, assessing, and responding to program specific student learning goals, and developing new recruitment and retention strategies. We have operationalized these efforts as follows:

- Curricular revisions to ensure alignment with current ACEND requirements, to go into effect in Fall 2023.
- Development of, and refinement of, a minor in Nutrition & Dietetics

- Development of an interdisciplinary minor in Workplace Wellness (with Public Health and Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation)
- Development of an Accelerated Program which bridges to the master's degree program and allows 9-12 hours of coursework to be double counted toward both degrees.
- Development of a course of study plan for non-Nutrition & Dietetics majors (in partnership with the University Pre-Health Advisor) to allow students to complete the Nutrition & Dietetics minor and earn Didactic Program in Dietetics certification, making them eligible to apply to the Dietetic Internship graduate program.
- Course scheduling changes such as scheduling one section the Personal Nutrition course in the second half of the semester to allow more access to courses for students who change their course schedules after the traditional full semester add deadline.
- Expanded eligibility for the Departmental Honors program to include Nutrition & Dietetics majors and minors.

Future efforts will prioritize:

- Creative course scheduling, including part-of-term and delivery modality to maximize course availability while managing faculty load.
- Developing both general interest and specialized 1 s.h. elective courses which can be offered in rotation to both enhance Nutrition & Dietetics students' learning experiences and meet needs in other units in the College. For example, a 1 s.h. course on Diabetes, previously taught exclusively as a special topics course for Dietetics majors has been approved as a stand-alone course and is accessible to any student with the prerequisite course, which is a sophomore level Personal Nutrition course.
- Continued focus on enrollment, both recruitment and retention, including establishing connections with appropriate programs at community college partners and identifying underserved prospective student populations.
- Establishing interdisciplinary and interprofessional curricular relationships with other health-related programs on campus where nutrition background could enhance their students' professional prospects.

After two years of significant decreases in major counts, in part due to COVID, **Fall2022 enrollment showed a 188% increase over that of Fall 2021 in enrolled students with a declared major in Nutrition & Dietetics.**

Academic Year	Fall	Spring
19-20	33	30
20-21	22	17
21-22	16	20
22-23	30	27

**Comments from the College Dean:**

The Dietetics and Nutrition program's transition into the Department of Public and Nutrition from the School of Family and Consumer Sciences has been marked by stable and increased enrollments with over twice the number of students in Fall 2022 than they had in Fall 2021. The development of a minor in nutrition and dietetics, an interdisciplinary workplace wellness minor, and schedule changes combined with the development of an accelerated option toward the dietetics internship graduate program appears to have been successful in attracting students who are interested in nutrition and dietetics. The program actively engages students and prepares them for their professional careers through experiential learning opportunities. The programs' student learning goals align with the Accreditation Council for the Education of Nutrition and Dietetics and highlights the faculty member's commitment to student-centered academic excellence.

We recommend a decision of **Program in Good Standing**.

**VPAA Decision:**

- Program in good standing
- Program flagged for priority review
- Program enrollment suspended

**VPAA Explanation:****Nutrition & Dietetics, B.S. (Short Report)**

The summary above outlines the program's commendable progress in developing several pathways for student success in pursuing the study of Nutrition and Dietetics. These paths include an accelerated program for entry into the graduate program, two different minors (one of which partners with Public Health and Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation), and building flexibility into the course schedule. Enrollment has rebounded impressively after a temporary dip, from 16 in Fall 2021 to 30 in Fall 2022.