

SENATE RESOLUTION #2794

TITLE: ASUW Support for the Creation of a Nutrition and Dietetics Master's Degree

DATE INTRODUCED: March 29, 2022

AUTHOR: President Swilling

SPONSORS: Senators Castronovo, Ewalt, Laverell, and Smith



1. Student Government is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
2. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees approved a Notice of Intent
3. for the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health at the University of
4. Wyoming (UW) on March 24, 2022, as shown in Addendum A; and,
5. WHEREAS, upon the approval of a Notice of Intent, University Regulations specify that the
6. program shall be reviewed by the campus community, including ASUW; and,
7. WHEREAS, this program would allow the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to
8. create a new Master of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics; and,
9. WHEREAS, this program would be delivered primarily on campus with a distance
10. education component and would integrate clinical and community-based supervised
11. experiential learning throughout the state of Wyoming; and,
12. WHEREAS, there is high demand for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN) in Wyoming,
13. given that they fulfill an essential health function in many different settings, including
14. schools, public health agencies, hospitals, and local communities; and,
15. WHEREAS, increased awareness of food insecurity on the UW campus necessitates an
16. emphasis on nutrition and the quality of foods available to students, not just the quantity; and,
17. WHEREAS, beginning in 2024, the national association that oversees licensing for RDNs is
18. moving to require a master's degree as a prerequisite to certification; and,
19. WHEREAS, this will further increase the demand for additional masters programs in
20. Nutrition and Dietetics; and,
21. WHEREAS, this program will be a collaborative effort between the College of Agriculture

PASSED 25-0

22. and Natural Resources and the College of Health Sciences, developing the University of

23. Wyoming's stated goal of increasing interdisciplinarity between colleges; and,

24. WHEREAS, the proposed curriculum will emphasize important skills such as clinical

25. nutrition, community nutrition, and foodservice management, which are essential for

26. Wyoming communities; and,

27. WHEREAS, a variety of data gathering to determine career growth and student demand

28. has been done, including "a focus group with nearly 20 Wyoming RDNs at the 2019

29. Wyoming Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics conference [that] found that many hospitals,

30. organizations, and agencies in Wyoming that employ RDNs find it challenging to hire and

31. retain qualified nutrition professionals. The consensus of this focus group was that a program

32. dedicated to training RDNs in Wyoming is welcomed and needed."; and,

33. WHEREAS, the employment outlook for RDNs is expected to increase much faster than

34. average according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and,

35. WHEREAS, the expected costs of the new program are \$153,824 per fiscal year, while the

36. program is expected to generate an additional \$217,430 in revenue, meaning that this will be

37. a revenue-generating program for the University; and,

38. WHEREAS, as recognized by the NOI, "currently, students from our BS dietetics program

39. are leaving the state of Wyoming to obtain graduate degrees and internships; thus, taking

40. tuition dollars and highly needed entry-level health professionals out of the state."; and,

41. WHEREAS, this program will also allow students to take a "4+1 degree path", meaning they

42. could receive both a BS and an MS in a five-year time frame, allowing for faster progression

43. through their education; and,

44. WHEREAS, this program will be subject to review by the Accreditation Council for

45. Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), and it is the stated intention of the program

46. leads to apply for accreditation candidacy prior to commencement of the first year of the

47. degree (Fall 2024) and full accreditation within two years of that date.

PASSED 25-0

48. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming

49. (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW fully supports the creation of a Nutrition and

50. Dietetics Master's Degree; and,

51. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that this resolution of support shall be sent to the Office

52. of Academic Affairs, the authors of the Notice of Intent, and the University of Wyoming Board

53. of Trustees prior

54. to the final vote on the creation of this program; and,

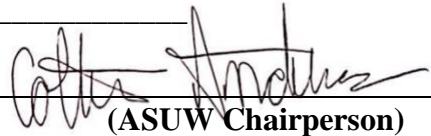
55. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that ASUW thanks all those who helped create this

56. plan.

Referred to: Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy

Date of Passage: April 5, 2022

Signed:


(ASUW Chairperson)

"Being enacted on April 5, 2022

hereto

, I do hereby sign my name

and approve this Senate action."


ASUW President

Addendum A

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Notice of Intent Nutrition & Dietetics Master's Degree, Ahern

☒ PUBLIC SESSION

☐ EXECUTIVE SESSION

PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED BY COMMITTEE:

☐ Yes

☒ No

FOR FULL BOARD CONSIDERATION:

☐ Yes

[Note: If yes, materials will also be included in the full UW Board of Trustee report.]

☐ No

☐ *Attachments/materials are provided in advance of the meeting.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The College of Agriculture & Natural Resources is proposing a new Master of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. This program will be delivered primarily on campus with a distance education component (online coursework) and clinical and community-based supervised experiential learning throughout the state of Wyoming. In the last two years of the program, students will enroll in a majority of online courses while completing their experiential learning requirements at sites such as hospitals, medical clinics, schools, University of Wyoming Extension offices, and public health agencies. There is high demand for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN) in Wyoming. Beginning in 2024, all RDNs must have a master's degree, thus the need for this proposed program. The recommendation of the Provost is that the Notice of Intent for a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics be approved by the Board of Trustees.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE:

A Notice of Intent to the Board will allow the program proposers to complete review internally with the shared-governance bodies (Faculty Senate, ASUW, and Staff Senate), and Academic Forum (Deans and Directors). Academic Affairs supports the degree proposal. The Request for Authorization will be submitted for the Board's consideration and approval later in the Fall of 2022.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS COMMITTEE MEETING:

Approval of the Notice of Intent for the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to approve the Notice of Intent for the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics for full board consideration.

Notice of Intent

Name of the proposed Academic Program and the mode of delivery:

The Master of Science (MS) in Nutrition and Dietetics degree will be delivered primarily on campus with a distance education component (online coursework) and clinical and community-based supervised experiential learning throughout the state of Wyoming. In the last two years of the program, students will enroll in a majority of online courses while completing their experiential learning requirements at sites such as hospitals, medical clinics, schools, University of Wyoming Extension offices, and public health agencies.

Description of the new Academic Program including an outline of the anticipated curriculum and learning outcomes:

The proposed program will be a quick-start (4+1) program delivered by the Human Nutrition and Food (HNF) faculty in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), in collaboration with the College of Health Sciences. The program will prepare entry-level Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) to practice in areas of clinical, community/public health, and foodservice nutrition.

Anticipated Curriculum: Students will gain the knowledge and skills required of RDNs through a strong foundation of clinical nutrition, community nutrition, and foodservice management. Anticipated curriculum will require:

- Completion of general university studies
- Nutrition and dietetics curriculum courses
- Integration of didactic coursework with supervised learning experiences (SLEs)
- SLEs in clinical nutrition, community nutrition, and foodservice management
- Critical thinking and scientific skills needed for clinical practice, management, and leadership

Student Learning Outcomes: Learning outcomes are based on the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) set forth by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) professional standards and competencies for RDNs, which are knowledge of:

1. Environmental, molecular factors, and food in the development and management of disease
2. Anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, and food safety
3. Chemistry and food science as it pertains to food and nutrition product development and when making modifications to food
4. Pathophysiology and nutritional biochemistry to physiology, health, and disease
5. Social, psychological, and environmental aspects of eating and food

Information about content and how the Academic Program may relate to other offerings:

The proposed program is being developed jointly by experts in nutrition and dietetics. This program is a replacement of the existing BS dietetics program concentration, currently offered through FCS. This existing BS degree prepares students for entry into an accredited dietetic internship program necessary prior to becoming an RDN. Beginning on January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration requirements to take the RDN registration exam will change from a bachelor's to a master's degree, and this proposed program will offer a career specific MS in order to accommodate the changes of the dietetics profession. Thus, the proposed degree would encase a BS, MS, and internship in order to fulfill the requirements for students to become RDNs in an efficient time period.

A plan for obtaining a market analysis of anticipated student demand and enrollment, and a plan for evaluation and analysis of post-graduation employment market demand:

According to Gray Associates' data, Human Nutrition and Food has an overall score in the 98th percentile with moderate student demand, while Dietetics has an overall score in the 70th percentile with low to moderate demand. Although Dietetics has a low to moderate student demand, the employment outlook for RDNs is expected to increase much faster than average according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition to the Gray Associates data, a focus group with nearly 20 Wyoming RDNs at the 2019 Wyoming Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics conference found that many hospitals, organizations, and agencies in Wyoming that employ RDNs find it challenging to hire and retain qualified nutrition professionals. The consensus of this focus group was that a program dedicated to training RDNs in Wyoming is welcomed and needed.

Preliminary budget, including potential funding sources, projected expenses and revenues, and potential faculty, academic professionals, lecturers, professors of practice, and staff:

- *Total projected additional expenses = \$153,824*
 - 1 faculty/lecturer position in Human Nutrition and Food/Dietetics Unit (\$64,000 + fringe = \$89,024)
 - 3 adjunct clinical coordinator positions – on-site hospital/clinical dietitians to coordinate clinical placements located throughout state (\$6,000 x 3 coordinators in fall semester = \$18,000; \$6,000 x 3 coordinators in spring semester = \$18,000)
 - 1 administrative staff member dedicated to program onboarding, assessment, and external site contracts (e.g., hospitals) (\$45,000 + fringe = \$63,000)
- *Total projected additional revenues due to added course requirements for the MS = \$217,430*
 - Increased tuition generation per year:
 - Per resident student in program = \$11,528
 - \$377/graduate credit X 28 credits = \$10,556
 - \$162 additional per dual course credit X 6 credits = \$972
 - Per non-resident students in program = \$31,958
 - \$1067/graduate credit X 28 credits = \$29,876
 - \$347 additional per dual course credit X 6 credits = \$2,082
 - Estimate: 5 resident students and 5 non-resident each year = \$217,430 additional tuition
 - Foundation dollars will also be used to provide partial scholarships for students during their 5th year and can help fund the clinical coordinator positions

Proposed timeline for staged implementation over five years, including campus and Board review:

- February 2022 – Proposal/Notice of Intent submitted for review to the Provost's office
- March 23-25, 2022 – Proposal presented at Board of Trustees meeting
- August 2022 – Feasibility study and pro forma budget submitted to Academic Affairs
- September 2022 – Present feasibility study for campus review
- December 2022 – Materials for the Request for Authorization and Letter of Commitment submitted for review to the Provost's Office
- Spring 2023 – Administrative staff position search initiated and complete
- March 2023 – Request for Authorization and Letter of Commitment submitted for review to the Board of Trustees
- Feb & September 2023 – CARFs submitted
- Fall 2023 - Human Nutrition and Food Unit faculty/lecturer position posted, Office of Registrar notified to add program to Master List of Degrees, Admissions notified to add program to "Pick List"
- Fall 2023/Spring 2024 – ACEND site visit, granted candidacy accreditation
- Spring 2024 – Hiring of new faculty/lecturer position
- Fall 2024 – First year delivery of Nutrition and Dietetics master's degree
- Fall 2025 – Second year delivery of Nutrition and Dietetics master's degree
- Spring/Fall 2026 – ACEND site visit, granted full accreditation

Information on other required approvals, such as accreditation bodies and the Higher Learning Commission: We are constructing this program based on standards and expectations put forth by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). It is our intention to apply for accreditation candidacy prior to commencement of the first year of the degree (Fall 2024). In addition, we intend to apply for full accreditation through ACEND within the first two years of program implementation.

Evidence of how the new Academic Program aligns with the University's mission, strategic plan, and existing academic degree program array:

Alignment with UW's mission: The proposed MS in Nutrition and Dietetics aligns with UW's mission by preparing individuals to serve communities throughout Wyoming, other states within the US, and the globe. This education will not only promote an environment that values and provides diversity, internationalization, free expression, academic

freedom, personal integrity, and mutual respect, but will foster student opportunities for personal health, growth, and leadership development.

Alignment with UW's strategic plan: We believe this program aligns with all 5 of the University of Wyoming's goals in the Five-Year Strategic Plan (Breaking Through) and with the current strategic goals of: institutional excellence, student success, and service to the community. Here, we will highlight the goals that most closely align to our proposed program. Goal 1 emphasizes the promotion of "academic programs that address workforce needs of the state and region." As indicated by the Gray Associate's data and feedback from Wyoming Academy of Nutrition and Dietetic members, there is a high need for RDNs in Wyoming and nationally. Goal 2 addresses the need to "engage and graduate well-rounded and creative thinkers, capable of meeting unpredictable and complex challenges". The nature of this program will produce students who understand nutrition, equipping students to understand and support children, families, and those in need in a holistic way. The MS in Nutrition and Dietetics will also provide opportunities for students to engage in internships throughout the program. Goal 3 encourages programs to "build a statewide community of learners by collaborating with schools, community colleges and tribal nations to connect students and citizens". The proposed MS program supports these efforts through student placement in student learning experiences across the state. We hope to partner with these communities in an effort to better prepare our students to provide instruction to diverse populations. Goal 4 focuses on the University as a whole through maintaining and strengthening its "marketing effectiveness, financial resources, and human capital." This program will supplement these efforts by offering a competitive and novel educational experience.

A rationale that clearly defines the need for the new Academic Program. The rationale should include evidence that the Academic Program will not produce unnecessary duplication of existing programs:

The proposed MS in Nutrition and Dietetics would allow students to develop skills necessary for careers as RDNs. It will prepare students adequately for the Commission in Dietetics Registration (CDR) national registration examination. In addition, the interdisciplinary nature of the degree will provide students with the background necessary to be high- quality dietitians (as identified by research and accrediting bodies) and serve the needs of children and families across the state and beyond. This program moves UW towards the forefront of nutrition and dietetics education standards and ensures our students will be highly sought after.

Evidence the Academic Program will not produce unnecessary duplication of existing programs:

In many senses, this is not a new Academic Program but instead a transition of an undergraduate level program to a graduate level program to meet the changing education requirements for RDNs at the national level. Currently, only one program exists in the area of dietetics education on campus that serves the needs of students, and it is located in FCS. The current nutrition and dietetics program offerings are:

- B.S. in Human Nutrition and Food
 - Provides students a foundation for a Master's, pre-med, pre-physical therapy or prepares them for a career in food product development and management, Cooperative Extension Service, consumer education, sales and marketing, and public relations.
- Minor in Human Nutrition
- Dietetics Program Concentration

- Prepares students for entrance into an accredited dietetics internship.

Currently, students from our BS dietetics program are leaving the state of Wyoming to obtain graduate degrees and internships; thus, taking tuition dollars and highly needed entry-level health professionals out of the state. The program would combine the current BS dietetics program concentration with an MS coupled with the dietetic internship. The proposed program would enable students to fulfill the education requirements to become RDNs all within the state of Wyoming and within an efficient timeframe. The freestanding BS dietetics program concentration will be phased out and its curriculum will be adjusted and moved into the proposed master's level program. Without implementing this new master's level program at UW in response to the shifting national educational requirements in dietetics education, the current BS dietetics program would be in jeopardy of decreased student enrollment and could become an irrelevant program for students.