



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Memorandum of Understanding
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
MS in Nutritional Science Program
College of Health and Human Services
March 2019 (for 2017 self-study and 2018 review)

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the consensus reached by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences MS in Nutritional Science Program, the College of Health and Human Services, and the Division of Academic Affairs, based on the recently conducted program review. It describes the goals to be achieved, and the actions to be undertaken by all parties to this MOU to achieve these goals during the next program review cycle. Progress toward goals is to be addressed in the annual report.

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Nutrition Program offers a Master of Science in Nutritional Science. The degree has three concentrations – Food Science, Latino Health and Nutrition and Nutritional Science– as well as an Internship Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (IPND). The Master of Arts in Family and Consumer Sciences Program was discontinued in Spring 2016.

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences completed its previous program review with a final MOU issued in 2008. In the period since the previous review, the department has acted on action items agreed to in the 2008 MOU by:

1. revising program policies and curriculum to ensure courses can be offered on a regular, timely, and predictable basis, and hiring faculty to support student’s learning, advising, and thesis needs;
2. developing and implementing an assessment plan;
3. improving the graduation rates of the program; and
4. addressing safety issues in the food science laboratory.

A number of strengths were identified in the program review reports.

- The program has updated curriculum in response to recent disciplinary trends and assessment results of the current program. They are planning for future curricular changes to meet the standards of the accrediting body’s Future Education Model (FEM) to be implemented by 2024.
- The program has demonstrated an improvement of the quality of research experiences and outcomes for students in the program. Since AY 2015–16 a growing number of graduate students have presented their research beyond CSULB, at local, regional, state, and national meetings. There has also been an increase in the number of graduate students co-authoring publications with faculty.

- The program has significantly improved the numbers of degrees awarded, from 5 in 2012 to 19 in 2015. Time to graduation has also improved. These changes are in part due to an admission policy change that requires students to have a BS in Nutrition or related field, and another policy change that requires students in the IPND track to complete the degree prior to sitting for the Registration Exam for Dietitians .
- The program developed and implemented a plan for program review across program learning outcomes in 2016-17.
- The program has implemented “closing-the-loop” strategies to improve curriculum after conducting program assessment.
- The program has hired new tenure-track faculty, and is staffed appropriately for a program of its size.

Areas of Concern and Opportunities for Development were noted in the reports.

- External reviewers expressed concern that the thesis supervision workload may not be sustainable in its current format.
- Reviewers identified addition of electives as a possible opportunity to improve the program.
- External reviewers suggested removing the Latino Health and Nutrition specialization within the MS in Nutritional Science, as no students have enrolled in this track.

It is therefore agreed that:

1. The Program will continue to implement an ongoing program of assessment of institutional, programmatic, and student learning outcomes across the Master’s Program, including “closing the loop” strategies.
2. The Program will provide an annual update (due June 1) on progress made towards the actions agreed to in this MOU to the CHHS dean, the Vice Provost for Academic Programs, and the Director of Program Review and Assessment. The review cycle will be from 2017-2024. A comprehensive self-study will be due June 2024 for 2024-2025 Academic Year external review/UPRC report process.
3. The Program will consider offering additional electives and/or developing a current topics course topic to reflect several cutting-edge developments in the field.
4. The Program will continue review and modification of the current curriculum to meet FEM standards.
5. The Program will work with the College to track enrollment and make a final determination on the viability of continuing to offer the Latino Health and Nutrition certification within 5 years.
6. The Program will work with the College to develop a strategic plan that seeks solutions to address workload concerns specific to thesis and project supervision.
7. The Program will work with the College to develop a plan to meet the resource needs of the Program.

This MOU has been read and approved by:

Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Coordinator: Virginia Gray Date: 5/3/19
Virginia Gray

College of Health and Human Services Dean: Monica Lounsbery Date: 5/2/19
Monica Lounsbery

Vice Provost Academic Programs: Jody Cormack Date: 4/30/19
Jody Cormack