

**Detailed Assessment Report for  
2006-2007 Nutrition BS**

## **MISSION**

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The Division of Nutrition at Georgia State University is to prepare professionals who enhance individual and community health through dietetics practice and to contribute to professional and scholarly knowledge in the fields of nutrition and dietetics. Admission to this Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE)-accredited program is at the junior year. The program graduates approximately 30 students each year.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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### **Outcome/Objective 1:**

Communicate effectively

#### **Full Description:**

Communicate effectively.

**A Student Learning Outcome?**     Yes

#### **Associated General Education Outcomes:**

- 1: Written Communication--major
- 3: Oral Communication--major

#### **Accreditation Standards:**

This outcome/objective encompasses Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) Learning Outcomes I.1-I.16.

#### **Related Measures:**

- M. 1: Comprehensive senior examination
- M. 2: Portfolio
- M. 3: Exit questionnaire
- M. 4: Alumni survey

#### **Related Actions:**

- A. 1: Implement e-portfolio decisions
- A. 3: Improve alumni evaluation return rate

### **Outcome/Objective 2:**

Demonstrate science understanding

**Full Description:**

Demonstrate an understanding of the influence of chemical, microbiological, and physiological disciplines as they affect food and nutrition

**A Student Learning Outcome?** Yes

**Associated General Education Outcomes:**

- 7: Critical Thinking--major
- 11: Quantitative Skills--major

**Accreditation Standards:**

This outcome/objective encompasses Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) Learning Outcomes II.17-II.30.

**Related Measures:**

- M. 1: Comprehensive senior examination
- M. 2: Portfolio
- M. 3: Exit questionnaire
- M. 4: Alumni survey

**Related Actions:**

- A. 1: Implement e-portfolio decisions
- A. 3: Improve alumni evaluation return rate

**Outcome/Objective 3:**

Integrate social sciences

**Full Description:**

Integrate psychological, social and economic aspects of the environment and examine how they individually and collectively affect food and nutrition

**A Student Learning Outcome?** Yes

**Associated General Education Outcomes:**

- 9: Contemporary Issues--major

**Accreditation Standards:**

This outcome/objective encompasses Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) Learning Outcomes III.31-III.34.

**Related Measures:**

- M. 1: Comprehensive senior examination
- M. 2: Portfolio
- M. 3: Exit questionnaire
- M. 4: Alumni survey

**Related Actions:**

- A. 1: Implement e-portfolio decisions
- A. 3: Improve alumni evaluation return rate

**Outcome/Objective 4:**

Utilize critical thinking skills

**Full Description:**

Utilize critical thinking skills in the interpretation and application of research methodologies

**A Student Learning Outcome?** Yes

**Associated General Education Outcomes:**

- 7: Critical Thinking--major
- 13: Technology--major

**Accreditation Standards:**

This outcome/objective encompasses Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) Learning Outcomes IV.35-IV.41.

**Related Measures:**

- M. 1: Comprehensive senior examination
- M. 2: Portfolio
- M. 3: Exit questionnaire
- M. 4: Alumni survey

**Related Actions:**

- A. 1: Implement e-portfolio decisions
- A. 3: Improve alumni evaluation return rate

**Outcome/Objective 5:**

Demonstrate promotion of healthy lifestyle

**Full Description:**

Demonstrate an understanding of the science of food and food policy in promotion of a healthy lifestyle and pleasurable eating in diverse population groups

**A Student Learning Outcome?** Yes

**Associated General Education Outcomes:**

- 9: Contemporary Issues--major

**Accreditation Standards:**

This outcome/objective encompasses Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) Learning Outcomes V.42-V.62.

**Related Measures:**

- M. 1: Comprehensive senior examination
- M. 2: Portfolio
- M. 3: Exit questionnaire
- M. 4: Alumni survey

**Related Actions:**

- A. 1: Implement e-portfolio decisions
- A. 3: Improve alumni evaluation return rate

**Outcome/Objective 6:**

Demonstrate understanding of roles of nutrients

**Full Description:**

Demonstrate an understanding of the role of nutrients and food in human health, disease prevention, health promotion, and medical nutrition therapy

**A Student Learning Outcome?** Yes

**Associated General Education Outcomes:**

- 7: Critical Thinking--major
- 11: Quantitative Skills--major

**Accreditation Standards:**

This outcome/objective encompasses Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) Learning Outcomes VI.63-VI.79.

**Related Measures:**

- M. 1: Comprehensive senior examination
- M. 2: Portfolio
- M. 3: Exit questionnaire
- M. 4: Alumni survey

**Related Actions:**

- A. 1: Implement e-portfolio decisions
- A. 3: Improve alumni evaluation return rate

**Outcome/Objective 7:**

Apply knowledge of management principles

**Full Description:**

Apply knowledge of management principles and systems in planning, monitoring, and evaluating dietetic services and practice and implementing of quality improvement programs

**A Student Learning Outcome?** Yes

**Associated General Education Outcomes:**

- 5: Collaboration--major

**Accreditation Standards:**

This outcome/objective encompasses Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) Learning Outcomes VII.80-VII.98.

**Related Measures:**

- M. 1: Comprehensive senior examination
- M. 2: Portfolio
- M. 3: Exit questionnaire
- M. 4: Alumni survey

**Related Actions:**

- A. 1: Implement e-portfolio decisions
- A. 2: Strengthen Learning Outcome #7
- A. 3: Improve alumni evaluation return rate

**Outcome/Objective 8:**

Describe the impact of laws, regulations, costs

**Full Description:**

Describe the impact of laws, regulations, and costs on health care systems and food and nutrition programs

**A Student Learning Outcome?** Yes

**Associated General Education Outcomes:**

- 9: Contemporary Issues--major

**Accreditation Standards:**

This outcome/objective encompasses Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) Learning Outcomes VIII.99-VIII.101.

**Related Measures:**

- M. 1: Comprehensive senior examination
- M. 2: Portfolio
- M. 3: Exit questionnaire
- M. 4: Alumni survey

**Related Actions:**

- A. 1: Implement e-portfolio decisions
- A. 3: Improve alumni evaluation return rate

**MEASURES**

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**Measure 1:**

Comprehensive senior examination

**Measure Full Description:**

This comprehensive senior examination includes questions from each of the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) core knowledge areas (listed as objectives in WEAVEonline). The question distribution is 18 items for Objective 1, 21 items for Objective 2, 17 items for Objective 3, 9 items for Objective 4, 26 items for Objective 5, 26 items for Objective 6, 27 items for Objective 7, and 12 items for Objective 8.

**Related Outcome(s)/Objective(s):**

- Obj. 1: Communicate effectively
- Obj. 2: Demonstrate science understanding
- Obj. 3: Integrate social sciences
- Obj. 4: Utilize critical thinking skills
- Obj. 5: Demonstrate promotion of healthy lifestyle
- Obj. 6: Demonstrate understanding of roles of nutrients
- Obj. 7: Apply knowledge of management principles
- Obj. 8: Describe the impact of laws, regulations, costs

**Findings:**

The average score was 52% on the total examination. The mean scores on the exit exam were generally low for all areas (Objective 1 -- 54%; Objective 2 -- 60%; Objective 3 -- 59%; Objective 4 -- 56%; Objective 5 -- 48%; Objective 6 -- 54%; Objective 7 -- 49%; Objective 8 -- 45%).

**Target Level Achievement:** Partially Met

**Further Action Planned?** Yes

**Measure 2:**

Portfolio

**Measure Full Description:**

The portfolio included 12 artifacts from courses specified by the program director. These included:

**Related Outcome(s)/Objective(s):**

- **Obj. 1:** Communicate effectively
- **Obj. 2:** Demonstrate science understanding
- **Obj. 3:** Integrate social sciences
- **Obj. 4:** Utilize critical thinking skills
- **Obj. 5:** Demonstrate promotion of healthy lifestyle
- **Obj. 6:** Demonstrate understanding of roles of nutrients
- **Obj. 7:** Apply knowledge of management principles
- **Obj. 8:** Describe the impact of laws, regulations, costs

**Target Level:**

proficient

**Findings:**

All students met the portfolio requirements at the exemplary or proficient level (Objective 1 -- 11 artifacts; Objective 2 -- 6 artifacts; Objective 3 -- 7 artifacts; Objective 4 -- 9 artifacts; Objective 5 -- 4 artifacts; Objective 6 -- 9 artifacts; Objective 7 -- 2 artifacts; Objective 8 -- 2 artifacts).

**Target Level Achievement:** Met

**Further Action Planned?** Yes

**Measure 3:**

Exit questionnaire

**Measure Full Description:**

The exit questionnaire is a survey that includes both closed and open-ended questions. It is administered to graduating seniors during the last month of the program

**Related Outcome(s)/Objective(s):**

- **Obj. 1:** Communicate effectively
- **Obj. 2:** Demonstrate science understanding
- **Obj. 3:** Integrate social sciences
- **Obj. 4:** Utilize critical thinking skills
- **Obj. 5:** Demonstrate promotion of healthy lifestyle
- **Obj. 6:** Demonstrate understanding of roles of nutrients
- **Obj. 7:** Apply knowledge of management principles
- **Obj. 8:** Describe the impact of laws, regulations, costs

**Target Level:**

4/5 (Good or more than satisfactory)

**Findings:**

Exiting students generally rated their preparation for outcomes 1-6 as "outstanding" or "more than satisfactory" (Objective 1 – 27/27; Objective 2 –

23/27; Objective 3 – 25/27; Objective 4 – 24/27; Objective 5 – 24/27; Objective 6 – 25/27. Exiting students generally rated their preparation for outcomes 7-8 lower than their preparation for Outcomes 1-6 (Objective 7 – 17/27; Objective 8 – 20/27).

**Target Level Achievement:** Partially Met

**Further Action Planned?** Yes

**Measure 4:**

Alumni survey

**Measure Full Description:**

This survey is mailed to alumni at 1-year after completion and at 3-years after completion. It includes both closed and open-ended questions.

**Related Outcome(s)/Objective(s):**

- **Obj. 1:** Communicate effectively
- **Obj. 2:** Demonstrate science understanding
- **Obj. 3:** Integrate social sciences
- **Obj. 4:** Utilize critical thinking skills
- **Obj. 5:** Demonstrate promotion of healthy lifestyle
- **Obj. 6:** Demonstrate understanding of roles of nutrients
- **Obj. 7:** Apply knowledge of management principles
- **Obj. 8:** Describe the impact of laws, regulations, costs

**Target Level:**

4/5 (Good or more than satisfactory)

**Findings:**

Class of 2004 -- only 3 returned; not enough to evaluate. Class of 2006 -- Alumni generally rated their preparation for outcomes 1-6 as "outstanding" or "more than satisfactory" (Objective 1 – 6/6; Objective 2 – 6/6; Objective 3 – 6/6; Objective 4 – 5/6; Objective 5 – 6/6; Objective 6 – 6/6. Exiting students generally rated their preparation for outcomes 7-8 lower than their preparation for Outcomes 1-6 (Objective 7 – 4/6; Objective 8 – 4/6).

**Target Level Achievement:** Partially Met

**Further Action Planned?** Yes

**ACTIONS**

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**Action 1:**

Implement e-portfolio decisions

**Full Description**

Undergraduate students have begun to put their artifacts and reflections into an electronic template developed in the division this past year.

**Related Objectives:**

- [Obj. 1](#): Communicate effectively
- [Obj. 2](#): Demonstrate science understanding
- [Obj. 3](#): Integrate social sciences
- [Obj. 4](#): Utilize critical thinking skills
- [Obj. 5](#): Demonstrate promotion of healthy lifestyle
- [Obj. 6](#): Demonstrate understanding of roles of nutrients
- [Obj. 7](#): Apply knowledge of management principles
- [Obj. 8](#): Describe the impact of laws, regulations, costs

**Related Measures:**

- [M. 2](#): Portfolio

**Person/group responsible for the action**      DPD Director(Dea Baxter)

**Target date to implement the action**      April 2008(full)

**Priority**      High

**Additional resources**

Graduate Research Assistant with computer expertise

**Action 2:**

Strengthen Learning Outcome #7

**Full Description**

We are relying on the expertise of a part-time instructor to teach this area. We anticipate 3-4 faculty retirements over the next 2-3 years and will focus on hiring a faculty member with this expertise during this time. In the meantime, we will continue working with the part-time instructor to strengthen critical areas.

**Related Objectives:**

- [Obj. 7](#): Apply knowledge of management principles

**Related Measures:**

- [M. 1](#): Comprehensive senior examination
- [M. 3](#): Exit questionnaire

**Person/group responsible for the action**      DPD Director(Dea Baxter)

**Target date to implement the action**      September 2009

**Priority**      Low

**Additional resources**

faculty expertise, as described above

**Action 3:**

Improve alumni evaluation return rate

**Full Description**

Our return rate improved with the use of a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We will try to strengthen our email address records and use an electronic version of the survey.

**Related Objectives:**

- **Obj. 1:** Communicate effectively
- **Obj. 2:** Demonstrate science understanding
- **Obj. 3:** Integrate social sciences
- **Obj. 4:** Utilize critical thinking skills
- **Obj. 5:** Demonstrate promotion of healthy lifestyle
- **Obj. 6:** Demonstrate understanding of roles of nutrients
- **Obj. 7:** Apply knowledge of management principles
- **Obj. 8:** Describe the impact of laws, regulations, costs

**Related Measures:**

- **M. 4:** Alumni survey

**Person/group responsible for the action**      DPD Director(Dea Baxter)

**Target date to implement the action**      April 2008

**Priority**      Low

**Additional resources**

Current email addresses from the Alumni Association; computer expertise to develop/deliver survey

**ANALYSIS**

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**Strength**

Student reflections continue to show strong achievement (confidence) in six of eight areas (communicate effectively, demonstrate science understanding, integrate social sciences, utilize critical thinking skills, demonstrate promotion of healthy lifestyle, demonstrate understanding of roles of nutrients). Students reported higher achievement (confidence) in the health regulation area this year compared to last year. Students continue to report low achievement (confidence) in the application of management principles. These student perceptions were not supported by scores on the comprehensive examination, which were low.

**Attention Needed**

The comprehensive exit exam is designed to mirror the national registration examination that students will take after a 6-12 month internship. While it is difficult to know what the target score on this test should be, we have noted that our scores are lower in the food service management and health regulations areas. While the student reflections were higher for the health regulations area this year, the test scores were not higher. The comprehensive exam is used to sensitize students to their strengths and weaknesses as they leave the program. It does not "count" toward a grade, affect their graduation status, or affect their verification statement award (required to complete internship). We will begin to focus on the management area as we replace retiring faculty members.