

**Detailed Assessment Report for  
2006-2007 Health Science-Nutrition MS**

## **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.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

Design, interpret, and conduct ethical research

#### **Full Description:**

Demonstrate entry-level competence in the design, interpretation and ethical conduct of research

**A Student Learning Outcome?**     Yes

#### **Related Measures:**

- [M. 1](#): Capstone project

#### **Related Actions:**

- [A. 1](#): Implement rubric for evaluating proposals

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

Demonstrate communication skills

#### **Full Description:**

Demonstrate technical and scientific oral and written communication skills; use current and emerging technologies for information and communication to enhance the practice and delivery of nutrition care in a professional manner

**A Student Learning Outcome?**     Yes

#### **Related Measures:**

- [M. 1](#): Capstone project

#### **Related Actions:**

- [A. 1](#): Implement rubric for evaluating proposals

### **Outcome/Objective 3:**

Design and evaluate nutrition care plans

#### **Full Description:**

Design and evaluate nutrition care plans and interventions for health promotion and disease prevention and management for individuals and subpopulation groups based on the efficacy and strength of scientific evidence

**A Student Learning Outcome?** Yes

#### **Related Measures:**

- [M. 1](#): Capstone project

### **Outcome/Objective 4:**

Comprehend nutrient intakes and impact on health

#### **Full Description:**

Comprehend the interrelationships between macro- and micronutrient intakes as they impact human health in normal and disease states

**A Student Learning Outcome?** Yes

#### **Related Measures:**

- [M. 2](#): Coursework -- Advanced Normal Nutrition

#### **Related Actions:**

- [A. 2](#): Discuss plan to integrate content with experience

### **Outcome/Objective 5:**

Evaluate health policy

#### **Full Description:**

Evaluate contemporary principles of health policy in the U.S. and other countries to better understand the essential components of delivering health services

**A Student Learning Outcome?** Yes

#### **Related Measures:**

- [M. 3](#): Coursework -- Trends

## **MEASURES**

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### **Measure 1:**

Capstone project

**Measure Full Description:**

There are three possible capstone projects: thesis, project, or portfolio. Evaluation of oral communication competence is evaluated by faculty members during the defense of the thesis or project and the presentation of the portfolio. Evaluation of other competencies is successful completion of the capstone experience.

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

- **Obj. 1:** Design, interpret, and conduct ethical research
- **Obj. 2:** Demonstrate communication skills
- **Obj. 3:** Design and evaluate nutrition care plans

**Target Level:**

Meets requirements

**Findings:**

In the past year, six students successfully completed projects, three students successfully completed theses, and seven students successfully completed portfolios. The division has developed a rubric to begin tracking development of student proposals for theses and research-focused projects. The proposals were selected for review because they are the first stage in applying student research methods coursework and of beginning their individual academic effort. Further, they do not have as much faculty input as the final theses and project reports. The rubric includes the following areas: research hypothesis and objectives clearly stated in the proposal; introduction provides a historical context and literature review of the thesis/project topic; materials and methods clearly stated, well-conceived, and scientifically accurate; compliance issues; and writing mechanics. Scores are exemplary (5 points), proficient (3 points), needs improvement (1 point) and unacceptable (0 points). The faculty members who teach the research methods courses evaluated two proposals (one thesis and one project) that were selected based on availability to test the rubric for usability. The target performance for the proposals would be proficient in all areas. The proposals tested scored (total) 10/25 (needs improvement for "Materials and Methods" and unacceptable for "Compliance") and 18/25 (proficient in all areas).

**Target Level Achievement:** Met

**Further Action Planned?** Yes

**Measure 2:**

Coursework -- Advanced Normal Nutrition

**Measure Full Description:**

Examinations and projects (grades) from Advanced Normal Nutrition courses

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

- [Obj. 4](#): Comprehend nutrient intakes and impact on health

**Target Level:**

80% or better score

**Findings:**

All graduate students met this objective.

**Target Level Achievement:** Met

**Further Action Planned?** Yes

**Measure 3:**

Coursework -- Trends

**Measure Full Description:**

Examinations and projects (grades) from Health Trends courses

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

- [Obj. 5](#): Evaluate health policy

**Target Level:**

80% or better score

**Findings:**

All students met this objective.

**Target Level Achievement:** Met

**Further Action Planned?** No

## **ACTIONS**

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**Action 1:**

Implement rubric for evaluating proposals

**Full Description**

The rubric for evaluating proposals was developed and tested for usability in 2006/7. It will be implemented during the 2007/8 academic year for all proposals. The information from this evaluation will be used to improve the research methods courses that students take and to improve final theses and project reports.

**Related Objectives:**

- [Obj. 1](#): Design, interpret, and conduct ethical research
- [Obj. 2](#): Demonstrate communication skills

**Related Measures:**

- [M. 1](#): Capstone project

**Person/group responsible for the action** Graduate Director(Mildred Cody)

**Target date to implement the action** September 2007

**Priority** Med

**Action 2:**

Discuss plan to integrate content with experience

**Full Description**

The Advanced Normal Nutrition area was expanded this year from one course to two courses to expand content coverage. Students who are in internship experiences have reported that they do not have as much time as "traditional" graduate students to study the theoretical concepts. We will discuss developing some practice-based experiences that will integrate more theory to deepen the understanding and time on topic for interns. We will also see whether the integration helps "traditional" students apply information more effectively. We anticipate measuring these activities using case studies.

**Related Objectives:**

- [Obj. 4](#): Comprehend nutrient intakes and impact on health

**Related Measures:**

- [M. 2](#): Coursework -- Advanced Normal Nutrition

**Person/group responsible for the action** Meera Penumetcha/Barbara Hopkins

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

**Priority** Med

**ANALYSIS**

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**Strength**

Our students are performing well in their content courses and are meeting requirements for their capstone experiences.

**Attention Needed**

The limited usability study for the thesis/project proposal rubrics showed that proposals can be strengthened in specific ways. We anticipate that continued use of the rubric will help to strengthen the research methods courses and the resulting capstone experiences of students.