

MDA Assessment Report

Nov 1, 2019

Program Numbers

1. Demand for the MDA continues to be high This year (2019), there are 36 in the cohort which is the largest class to date. The total number of MDA students from fall 2012 through fall 2019 is 176. A TA continues to support the MDA courses for the second year and is funded from tuition generated by the increased student numbers. See spreadsheet below for yearly numbers.

MDA Cohort start	# students	Years to Completion							% graduating at 1 year	% graduating within 2 years
		1	1.33	1.67	2	2.33	2.67	3+		
Fall 2012	9	6	1	1	0	0	1	0	67%	89%
Fall 2013	12	8	1	1	1	1	0	0	67%	92%
Fal 2014	11	5	3	1	2	0	0	0	45%	100%
Fall 2015	31	17	7	4	1	1	1	0	55%	94%
Fall 2016	25	13	5	6	0	0	0	1	52%	96%
Fall 2017	19	6	3	3	4				32%	84%
Fall 2018	33	17							52%	
Total/ave (2012-2018)	140	72	20	16	8	2	2	1	51%	
Fall 2019	36									
	176	Total # students including current cohort								
	121	Total # grads (2012 cohort thru 2018 cohort graduates)								

2. Completion rates and time frame continue to be very good. For cohorts that began in 2012 through 2018, there is a total of 121 graduates with:
 - a. 52% completing within 1 year
 - b. Approximately 90% completing within 2 years

The remaining students are continuing and almost all anticipate graduation under or around the 2-year mark. There is somewhat of a trend for the average time to completion to be longer than several years ago. This is likely a reflection of the greater percentage of students are coming directly from the USU dietetic internship. These students often need an extra semester or two to complete coursework or the MDA project since they are beginning jobs as dietitians at the same time they are starting the MDA.

Program Quality

1. I conducted exit interviews with 8 MDA graduates in fall 2019. Feedback was very positive along with some good ideas for making some minor changes. An aspect of the MDA that students mentioned multiple times as a positive experience were their practicum projects. They reported that the proposal development was well supported by the instructor and done in manageable pieces; and that it provided experience in identifying a project area and the background information to assess the need for the project and identifying research and resources that supported their project area. They valued being able to conduct the project in their workplace and indicated they had better skills now with collecting and interpreting evaluation data. They

also reported benefitting from the experience of providing leadership of the project in their workplace and it provided an opportunity to interact with others in their workplace that they hadn't previously worked with. Graduates also talked about appreciating the electives they are able to select from. I appreciate the number of online electives now available to MDA students which has increased tremendously since I began directing the program in 2012.

2. IDEA ratings remain high and feedback from these evaluations along with mid-course student surveys continue to be used to improve coursework.
3. Three advisory committee meetings were held in late Fall 2018 for feedback on the MDA regarding integration with the DI in future years to meet the Commission on Dietetic Registration requirements. As part of these discussions, feedback was sought on topics currently taught in the MDA. There was enthusiastic support of the topics taught and the need for these skills in dietitian managers and leaders, and that they continue to be included in the curriculum when the programs integrate.