

Coordinated Program in Dietetics Assessment Report

Academic Year 2019-2020

Executive Summary

The annual review of program occurred in May-December of 2020. The program continues to meet accreditation guidelines by providing education appropriate to all 36 standards established by the accrediting body for dietetics programs, ACEND. Standards can be accessed at: <http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=6442485341>

Mission Statement

The mission of the CPD Program at Utah State University is to enhance the health of family, communities and nations by graduating students who are prepared to advance the profession of dietetics through scientific understanding, compassionate practice, and community engagement.

Learning Assessment Matrix and Course Map

Details on competency assessment can be accessed at: <https://usu.box.com/s/u82230lb3rkdixlh11duw04gi8vv195b>

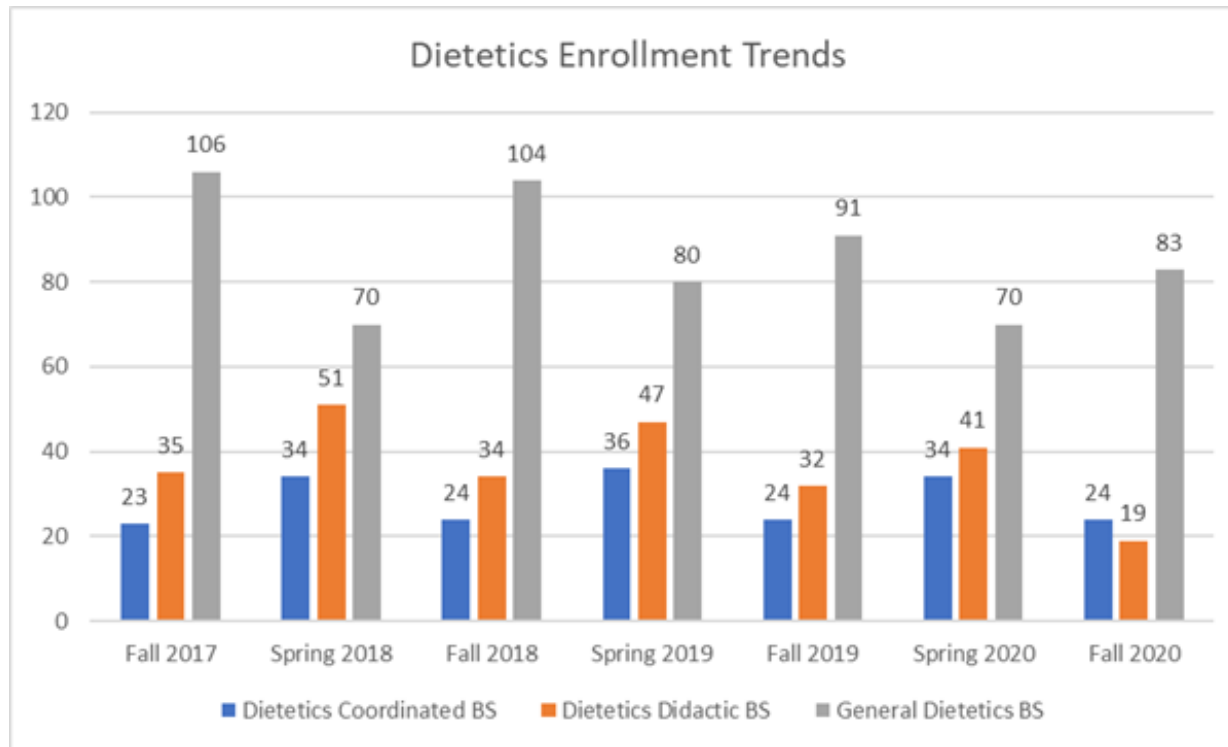
CPD Program Highlights and Statistics:

- 100% of our students complete the CPD Program within 3 years
- >95% of students are in dietetics-related jobs or graduate school within 1 year of program graduation
- Program remains in high demand with ability to fill all 12 internship slots every year

RD Registration Exam Statistics (5-Year Average = 2015 - 2019):

- Pass Rate for 2019 Examinees (First or Second Attempt) = 100%
- 5-Year Average Pass Rate on the RD Registration Exam (First Attempt) = 72%

Enrollment trends 2017-2020



Program Goals, Objectives, and Actual Outcomes

Academic Year	# of students in the cohort	Goal #1: Graduate students who are exam-ready and able to enter the dietetics work force or advanced study		Goal #2: Produce professionals who are independent, capable, and prepared to function in entry-level dietetics practice.			
		90% of graduates will pass the Registration Examination for Dietitians within 1 year of their first attempt.	90% of graduates will complete program requirements in less than three years	70% of students will be employed in dietetics or a related field within 1 year of program completion	30% of graduates will be enrolled in graduate schools within 5 years of program completion	70% of students will be rated as 'above average' on employer surveys	80% of graduates will report being 'well prepared' for entry level employment on 1-year alumni surveys
2015	12	100%	100%	100%	5%	100%	100%
2016	12	100%	100%	89%	N/A**	30%	86%
2017	12	80%	100%	89%	40%*	80%	63%
2018	12	83%	100%	77%	36%*	N/A**	70%
2019	12	100%	100%	75%	N/A*	N/A**	50%
2020*							

*Incomplete data. This cohort has not met the criteria for evaluation.

**Failed to collect adequate responses from surveys.

Program Changes Based on Assessment Data

The following issues have been identified that will influence the ongoing success of the program.

Issue #1: Partnership with MPH at USU beginning 2024

In August 2016, the new accreditation standards for a major shift in the dietetics program were released by the accrediting agency, ACEND. The standards require students to have a master's degree before sitting for the RD exam, beginning in 2024. The Coordinated Program in Dietetics at Utah State University has initiated efforts to meet these new standards with a plan to admit the first masters-level cohort in AY 2023. This corresponds with increased demand by alumni for a graduate-level education. However, there may be challenges with recruitment, marketing and enrollment.

Issue #2: Decline in RD exam scores

A change in the RD exam format resulted in declining rates for many programs, including USU. Last year, USU invested in two computer programs to help students prepare for the RD exam during the summer after graduation. Professors also reviewed the new exam content to make certain courses reflect current concepts used on the exam.

Issue #3: Job Preparedness

Recent employer and alumni surveys have shown a downward trend for student preparedness for their first job. The stakeholder's survey revealed this was largely in areas of "soft skills" including negotiation and communication. As the CPD expands its curriculum, attention is being given on how to recruit, train, and prepare students for the modern workforce.

Issue #4: Poor employer and alumni response rate to surveys

Over the past few years, there has been a significant decline in response to email surveys. We are actively working to develop new assessment techniques that will provide adequate stakeholder input. New assessment techniques could include improved use of social media, text messages, or focus groups.